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Repair and clean up after winter damage are May maintenance jobs.

MAY 1982/VOL. 21, NO. 5



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WT&T

# OUTLOOK

By Bruce F. Shank, Executive Editor

## Urban forestry may shift to arborist

Never has the tree care market been in such a volatile position. A potential cutback in urban forestry funding will place huge responsibility on the shoulders of commercial arborists in the 80's.

It is possible the full weight of regional tree emergencies, reforestation and maintenance of both public and private urban trees will fall on the commercial arborist within the next five years. The question is whether a market that has not experienced rapid growth in the past decade will be able to take on the load as quickly as it must.

Richard Pardo, director of programs for the American Forestry Association, warns the outlook for Forest Service state and private assistance programs is grim, with a budget cut of 25 percent proposed for 1983. In the March issue of *American Forests* Pardo writes, "Funding (in FY '83) for urban forestry and technology implementation will be eliminated, and planning assistance to states will be reduced by almost two-thirds."

Although the Forest Service is not the only source of government funding to tree programs, it has supplied much of the research we now use and was planning to push hard on urban forestry prior to the cuts.

All this comes at a time when research into low maintenance trees and tree health is starting to pay off. The solutions to urban stresses on trees are being found just at the time when the financial plug may be pulled. It therefore becomes the task of the commercial arborist to educate the public and implement this new technology.

The commercial arborist already has a portion of municipal tree work. Larger arborists have made this type of work top priority, along with right of way clearance. But the cities they work for are going by Forest Service recommendations to a great degree. The Agricultural Extension Service agent occasionally fills in where the Forest Service misses. But the Extension Service may also experience cutbacks equal to the Forest Service.

The landscape architect may find his advise needed more in the 80's by municipalities seeking to revitalize older neighborhoods where original plantings have faded by insect, disease, and construction related losses. But much of the advise required will be for jobs too small to warrant a landscape architect's fee.

Some large cities have the advantage of a city forester. Smaller cities in the suburbs will have the greatest need for the commercial arborist's help.

It would be wise for the arborist to get acquainted with landscape architects in their area who have done municipal plans before. LA's have regular contact with landscape contractors, but not arborists. The arborist must educate the architect to his superior capability regarding urban tree maintenance. Arborists who have shunned planting for the more attractive maintenance business, might consider limited planting to meet the needs of city tree programs.

Flexibility, service, and salesmanship will give the arborist markedly expanded potential in the 80's.

WTT

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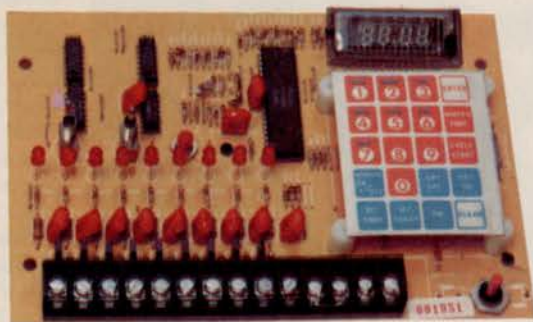
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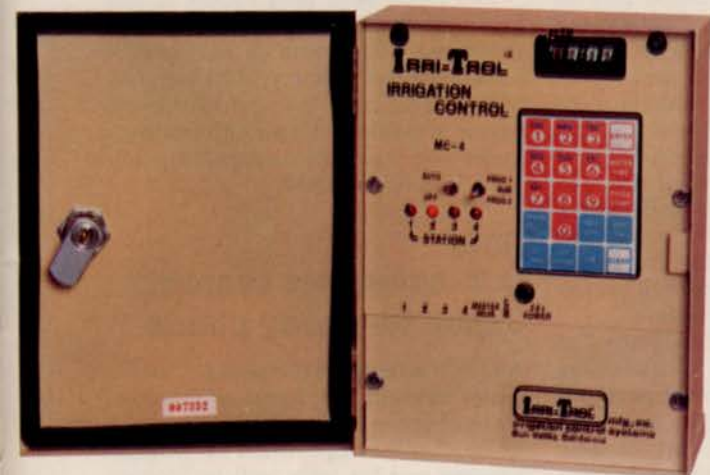
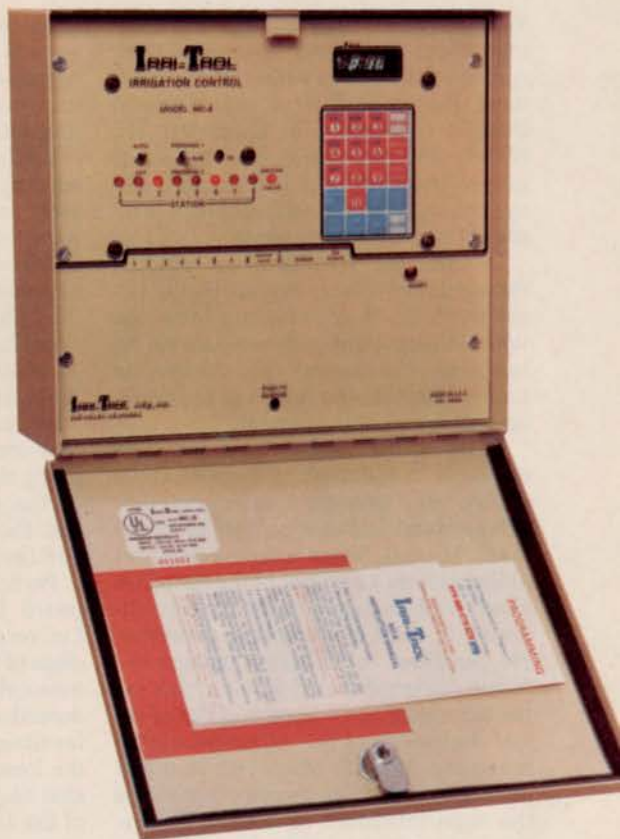
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# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## TURF

## Purdue hosts MRTA conference



Bill Lyons and Harry Wilcox met at MRTA Lyons' traditional conference cheese bar

Turf managers from Indiana and adjacent states took three days out of their spring schedules to gather at the Midwest Regional Turf Conference at Purdue University in Lafayette, IN. Nearly 450 association members and guests listened to a full program of speeches, traded information and caught up on industry news.

Dr. Marion Baumgardner opened the seminars with an update on the latest methods in monitoring land use with multispectral scanners located on satellites. He started the conference with a look into the future of land conservation and management.

Bringing the session back down to earth, Dr. A.J. Powell of the University of Kentucky gave the first in a number of anecdotal lectures on turf management. His talk began a theme that prevailed among a number of the speeches given: turf managers must have confidence in their training and expertise. He described the inherent tension between the uneducated golfer's high expectations for the course and the physical limitations of the experienced turf manager. Powell observed that the pressure exerted by clients often sways the superintendent to turn to expensive convenience products with a preventative purpose that is not always needed. Powell encouraged the ex-

perts to use their training and experience in recognizing the need for certain treatments rather than spending time and money on unnecessary products and activities.

Setting quality goals for greens according to the type player that uses it will prevent the superintendent or owner from creating a course that requires more nitrogen application and maintenance than is possible within the financial constraints of the players. Pointing this out, Dr. John Hall of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, said this limitation should be taken into account when balancing the level of nitrogen that can be afforded for golf greens, along with the species of grass, the age of the green, the mowing frequency and the length of the growing season and the source of the nitrogen.

Participants in the golf audience also heard Dr. Reed Funk, from Rutgers University, on the improved performance of fine and tall fescues and other new cultivars. Purdue's Dean Mosdell, described the trail of nitrogen from fertilizer to forms usable by plants, and the losses involved from leaching, erosion and crop removal. James Vaccaro of the Dow Chemical Co., gave a thorough outline of techniques for optimum protection when working with pesticides. Howard Kaerwer of Northrup-

King Co., discussed the logistics of seed production and promotion.

A concurrent session on lawn care covered the selection of sources of nitrogen for liquid lawn care with Richard Rathjens of the Davey Tree Co., and observations on nitrogen sources from Jim Mello of Nice 'N Green. Dr. Ray Freeborg of Purdue, discussed his research on preemergence herbicides and growth regulators. The lawn care seminars ended with a panel discussion with Jeff Lefton of Chemlawn, A.J. Powell, Dr. Daniel Potter of University of Kentucky and John Hall.

Separate sessions on athletic turf and public golf course management were offered on Tuesday. John Souter of Stirling, Scotland brought word of his success with a technique of soil warming using subterranean warm water pipes. Dr. Bill Daniel of Purdue, shared his research accomplishments in drainage and the Enka-Mat synthetic turf base.

The association paid tribute to Bill Lyons of Canal Fulton, OH, for the many years and ideas he has contributed to the turf industry, at its banquet. MRTA also took the opportunity to honor president Gene Johanningsmeier and welcome next year's president, Kim Mullendore.

## TREES

### U.S. scientists search Japan for hardy plants

An Ohio scientist is preparing to lead a group through the forest and coastal areas of Japan in an exhaustive search for hardier species of trees. Dr. Makoto Kawase and his team will be looking for varieties of woody trees and shrubs with potential for introduction in the U.S.

The exploration will take place on the island of Hokkaido, the site of similar more limited earlier expeditions.

*Continues on page 8*

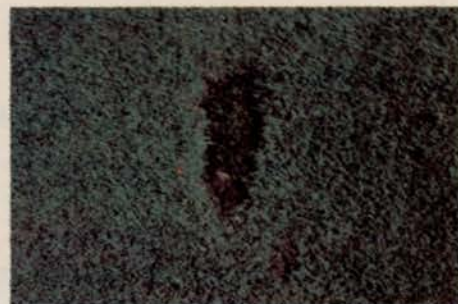


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Having grown up there, Dr. Kawase is familiar with the woody flora of the area.

In preparation for the project, Kawase has published a review of all the flora growing in the exploration areas. The list was reviewed by scientists and nurserymen all throughout the north central U.S. who selected the species they felt would be beneficial in this country. The team hopes to find species which have improved flower quality, better foliage and greater resistance to winter weather than the ones now being grown.

Joining Kawase on the trip, will be S.G. March, a supervisory horticulturist for the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington D.C. and Frederick G. Meyer of the National Arboretum's Herbarium.

#### INSECTS

### Greenbug overwintering confirmed by Niemczyk

Greenbug eggs located last November in Dayton and Cincinnati, OH, have

proven to be viable when placed at room temperature in March, according to turf entomologist Harry Niemczyk of the Ohio Agricultural Research and



Harry Niemczyk

Development Center, Wooster, OH.

Previously known to overwinter in Kentucky, Niemczyk and others speculated (WTT, June 80) that the eggs

overwintered or the adult migrated northward. Both eggs and turf plugs containing eggs were brought indoors by Niemczyk in March to test for viability. In both cases, the eggs hatched quickly. This confirms the speculation that the egg overwinters and does not migrate.

Large numbers of greenbug eggs (*Schizaphis graminum*) have been found on lawns in the Dayton and Cincinnati area. Further details on this finding will appear in June *Weeds Trees & Turf*.

#### NURSERY

### Computer supply info available

A computerized catalog system will soon be available to nursery suppliers and buyers alike to keep them informed of their own inventories as well as the availability and prices of current inventories in a region or a state. The L.I.S.T. System (Landscape Information Teleprompt Service) is offering a variety of reports providing industry members with comprehensive infor-

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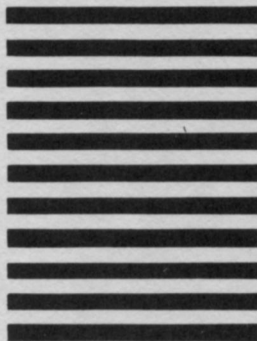
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