

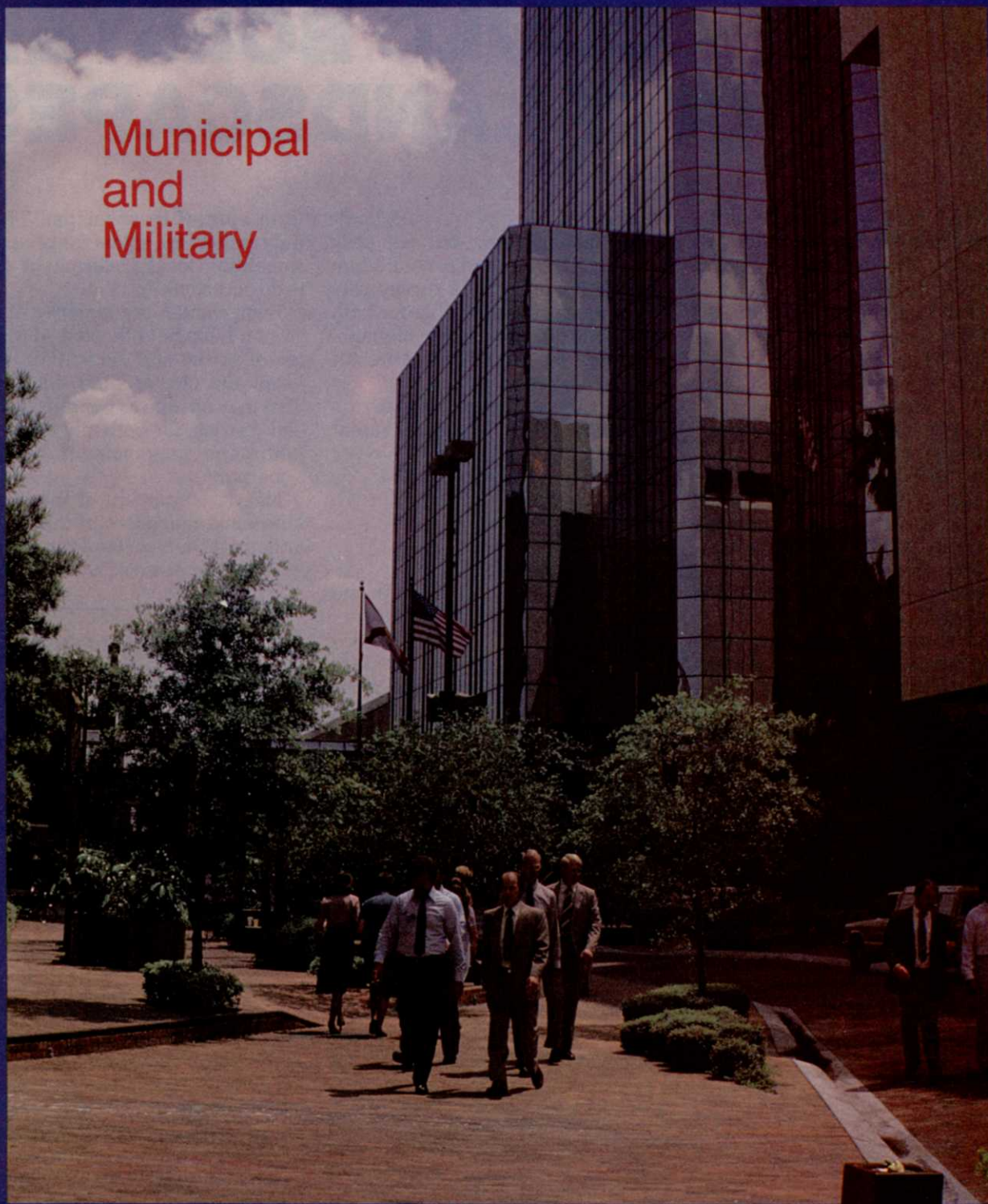
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# LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Municipal  
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## WEEDS TREES & TURF



# GROWTH OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS COULD BOLSTER CITY LANDSCAPES

City and park landscape maintenance often overlap according to a survey by *Weeds Trees & Turf* of its municipal landscape management circulation. Furthermore, the growth of special park districts may provide future strength to this field despite widespread budget tightening at the city level.

The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced a dramatic growth and in "special districts". In the last five years, the number of special districts has grown by 11 percent, according to the Census Bureau, but spending by special districts has increased to almost \$25 billion from \$9 billion.

The Census Bureau said these independent agencies, which often overlap other government districts, provide services for fire protection, sewage disposal, housing, health care, transportation, water, recreation and natural resource protection.

School districts are not part of the special agency category. The number of public school districts has decreased in the last five years. Results of the survey showed a

large overlap in city and park landscape management, but not park and school or city and school. More than 75 percent of the survey participants were responsible for both park and city landscape management and held the title of Director of Parks and Recreation.

The Census Bureau reports the following count of government agencies:

Cities/Municipalities—19,083

Counties—3,041

Townships—16,748

School—15,032

Special Districts—28,733

The only figure to increase in the past five years is the special district number.

The budget security of these special districts stems from the independence of their management from elections or political pressure. The voting public sees special agencies as more efficient providers of public services since they are often funded by more than one voting area. They see special agencies as reducing the number of services required from city or county government and relate the

term special to specialist. These impressions by voters make sense, something local government fails to do occasionally.

Even though the majority of the respondents held the title of director of parks and recreation, they listed the city as their employer. This may change as benefits of special districts for both city and park landscape management become apparent.

Nearly 50 percent of the public landscape managers in the survey anticipate tighter landscape budgets in the future. Less than 20

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To obtain major new funding the landscape department head must work closely with the voters, the council, and the mayor.

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percent expected budgets to decrease. More than half also felt the public would support increased spending on landscapes if they could prove it was important.

The average budget, not including salaries, for city and park landscape programs was \$85,956 for an average of 209 acres. That works out to be \$411 per acre. Eighty-six percent responded emergency funds were available if a piece of equipment was needed during the budget year.

The budgeting process for city operated programs begins with the department head of parks and recreation or public works. He sub-

*Continued on page 42*

**TABLE 1.** Responsibilities of Public Landscape Supervisors.

Responsibility	Percentage City Considering		Percentage Military Considering	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Roadside Mntce.	19	33	37	37
Bldg. Landscape	44	56	63	37
Bldg. Interior	33	23	37	25
Park Mntce.	93	7	13	—
School Mntce.	4	7	—	—
Tree Mntce.	41	30	25	13
Street Mntce.	19	4	37	—
Snow Removal	15	23	13	37
Golf Course	19	4	13	13
Airport	4	11	37	—
Cemetery	15	—	13	13



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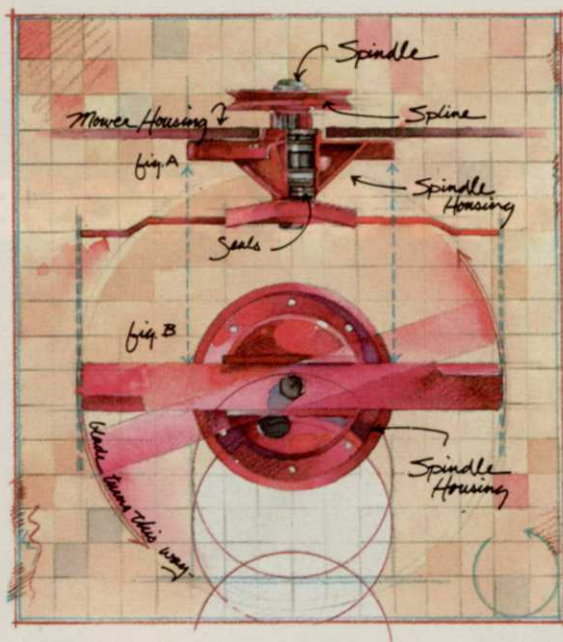
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rather than keys in the shaft and pulley. These machined grooves mesh like gear teeth all around, won't slip, and they wear much better and longer than key type systems.

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# CRABGRASS OR GOOSEGRASS?

# CONTROL BOTH

If you think you've seen late-germinating crabgrass in your turf, you may really have been looking at a goosegrass problem.

Either way, you can solve the problem with CHIPCO® RONSTAR® herbicide.

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CRABGRASS AND GOOSEGRASS.

Goosegrass is more common than you might think. It's easily mistaken for crabgrass, especially when it's mowed.

What's the difference? Check the color first. Goosegrass is a

darker green. And it always grows in tufts. Crabgrass doesn't.

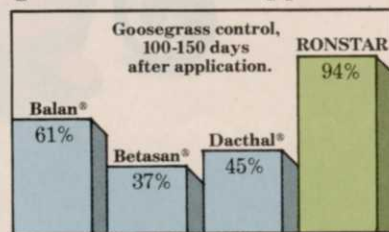
There's another important difference: goosegrass is much harder to control. Unless you use RONSTAR.

## CRABGRASS OR GOOSEGRASS... IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WITH RONSTAR G.

RONSTAR is the only herbicide you can count on for effective preemergent control of both crabgrass and goosegrass.

While other products will give you satisfactory performance on

crabgrass, they don't even come close to RONSTAR on goosegrass. Years of testing prove it:



Summary of 9 years of testing conducted by University Experiment Station and Rhône-Poulenc personnel.

So you have two choices. Use an ordinary crabgrass herbicide