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Monsanto

Circle No. 137 on Reader Inquiry Card



Latshaw is also a firm believer in soil testing. Working with a local soil company, Brookside Laboratories, once a year Latshaw gets a reading of his soil composition.

"It's really the only accurate way of understanding what the soil needs," he says. "If we need a trace element we usually go out and get that trace element. We have a very good local source of sulphate of potash. We buy Scotts' nitrogen. Off-season, I'm a firm believer in late fall and dormant feed programs usually with sulphur-coated urea and ammonium sulphate. I've found I can save money by treating specific problems. We're really getting by with low fertilizer rates.

When Latshaw started at Oakmont eight years ago, the soil was not properly balanced. The calcium/magnesium ratio was bad and there was a serious potassium deficiency. The ground was also low in manganese and boron. On the other hand, the levels of copper and zinc were excessive.

"We've made tremendous progress getting everything balanced," Latshaw says. "I've always believed the key to fertility is soil balance." Latshaw also has a problem with poa annua bentgrass near the fairways and found that overseeding them with perennial ryegrass

Latshaw had another challenge . . . that of preserving the original design of the course as much as possible.

has kept the problem in check.

"It also gives good contrast in color between the light green and the dark green," Latshaw said.

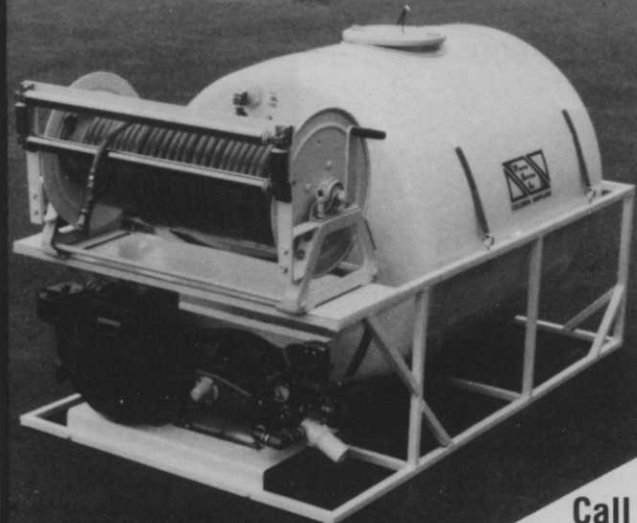
With all of the fairways recontoured and the videocables installed, Latshaw has only one more big project to complete. That is to edge all the bunkers and get the

sand at a uniform depth throughout.

Latshaw is one superintendent who uses a triplex mower. He feels the texture of the surface improves playability according to the golfers who use his course and far outweighs the disadvantages of time and expense.

"I've always cut large aprons in front of greens," Latshaw said. "I have a Toro 84 and started using it on a few of the fairways. The membership liked it so much they wanted it done on all the fairways. When you figure our fungicide program has gone way down and the people really like the playing surface, I think the cost is justified. The cost is one thing, but people come to a golf course to play, and if they don't like what they're playing on, they won't come. I think that out of necessity within the next few years, they'll come out with a five-gang mower with grasscatchers. There really is a need for it." **WTT**

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question of well, so what, what am I going to do with these men? Certainly, training and vacations can only last for so long. Many companies which employ technicians on a year-round basis shift from maintenance, training and vacations to sales. That is, the technicians solicit on the routes for which they are responsible either increased or continued use by existing customers, or developing programs from other customers who have been solicited in the past

An essential part of the technician's job performance during the off-season could rest on his ability to sell services in the areas he worked during the year.

but have not selected to use the turfgrass employer. Therefore, an essential part of the technician's job performance during the off-season could rest on his ability to

MULCHING from page 68

which are biodegradable and organic. In addition, it reduces soil moisture evaporation.

Tips for good turf

We use wood-fiber mulch for projects 7,000 square feet or larger. The reason we set a minimum is that we don't want to leave a partial load in the hydraulic mulch equipment. We've found that four bales of mulch gives us good coverage on 7,000 square feet. Then we reload if the job requires it. Shanklin recommends greasing the equipment daily, and he takes it in for routine maintenance twice a year.

Shanklin's assistant opens the mulch bags and hands them to him for loading. Shanklin then does the mixing. When it's time to spray, the driver returns to the cab of the truck while Shanklin does the hose application. The mulch's temporary green dye serves as a visual guide to even coverage.

Typical projects are probably

sell services in the areas in which he worked during the year.

A turfgrass employer who decides that he does not want to develop a pay system which would provide for year-round employment could supplement an employee's unemployment insurance. This supplement would limit the employer's ability to actually have the individual working during the off-season at various times, and there is an unreliable aspect to it—there is no assurance that the individual will not accept other employment after collecting the unemployment supplement from the employer. There are ways to avoid this, such as treating the unemployment supplement as a loan, which is extended to the employee after he signs a note to be payable upon his return to work.

Regardless of whether a turf employer structures his pay program for seasonal or year-round employment, he should oppose all unemployment compensation claims except those caused by layoffs. An

continued on page 86

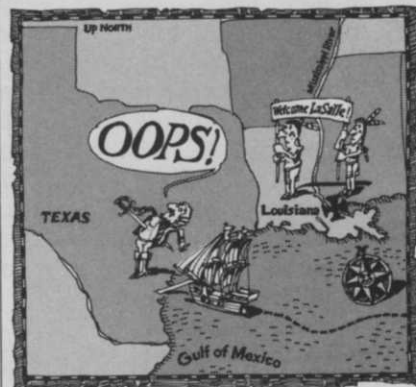
similar to those any park and recreation department would have. For example, Charlotte has 120 athletic fields. In mid-1981, we wanted to convert two baseball diamonds into a soccer field. We used Hydro Mulch fibers to develop grass on the skinned infields.

Late in the year we hydraulically mulched 18 acres of land acquired from the county. We created gently rolling hills for this multi-purpose athletic field, which would include two little league fields, one regulation baseball diamond and a soccer field. We sprayed in November in order to have grass for the spring season.

From August 15 to November 1 is our fall season, during which we seed the Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue, Creeping Red Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass. We use the same seeds in our spring season that runs from February 15 to April 15. Then until mid-June we use the warm season Bermuda grass.

Continued on page 86

René Robert Cavelier de La Salle led an expedition across the Atlantic in 1684 to colonize New Orleans. Unfortunately his campaign failed. He missed New Orleans and landed in Texas. His faulty sense of direction was not overlooked by his followers who eventually killed him.



The right campaign in the wrong place can kill you.

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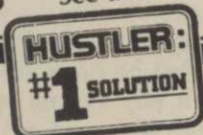
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To set up your FREE DEMONSTRATION of the HUSTLER 261 or other HUSTLER models, see your nearest HUSTLER distributor or call Toll Free 1-800-835-3260.

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tech with the traditional. This way, we can get away from reinventing the wheel and get that all-important leading edge."

Working in the Denver area, Fitzgerald says she and her associates incorporate and work with native plant material quite extensively and is very concerned with water and energy conservation.

"We found that the smaller plant materials seem to establish themselves better, anyway," she explains.

She does not oversee maintenance once a project is completed. Her husband Terry's firm, Synergy, is more in the land planning and detailed site design side of the business. He is in partnership with Jack Gilcrest. Synergy is also a member of the Continuum.

In her over 10 years in the

"The English have a very different set of ideas about gardens and landscapes."

business, Fitzgerald has found few problems in the following areas: varieties of plant materials produced, reliability of contractors doing the installation ("I guess I've been very fortunate," she says), the supply of future landscape architects, the quality of graduates, and the amount of renovation work being done in the field.

She also rates the following as highly significant trends in the industry: use of low-maintenance native plant material, drip irrigation, interior landscaping, greater involvement by the landscape architect in maintenance programming and the emergence of design-build firms.

Meanwhile, The Continuum continues to delve into some of these new trends.

"Is the Continuum ahead of its time?" "It needs to be given some time to prove itself," Fitzgerald says. "The really exciting thing about it is that I know I have the right people working with me. It's an interdisciplinary team effort."

WTT

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WT&T

EVENTS

The current issue of **WEEDS TREES & TURF** carries meeting dates beginning with the following month. To insure that your event is included, please forward it, 90 days in advance, to: **WEEDS TREES & TURF Events, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130.**

University of Florida Turfgrass Field Day, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. April 6. Contact Dr. Bruce Augustine, 3205 SW College Ave. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314 (305) 475-8990.

American Society of Golf Course Architects, Dallas, TX. Annual Meeting, April 9-14. Contact ASGCA, 221 North LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 372-7090.

Southeastern Turfgrass Conference, Tifton, GA. April 11-12. Contact Glen Burton, University of Georgia, Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, GA 31793. (912) 386-3353.

Arizona Turfgrass Conference, Tucson, AZ. May 5-6. Contact Dr.

William R. Kneebone, Dept. of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. 85721. (602) 626-5323.

Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture 50th Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA. May 10-14. Contact Mel Sease, Western Chapter, ISA, PO Box 7308, Riverside, CA 92513, (714) 780-8464.

Southern California Turfgrass Council and University of California Cooperative Extension Turf and Landscape Institute, Anaheim, CA. May 23-25. Contact SCTC, 1000 Concha St., Altadena, CA 91001.

Turf Landscape Meeting, University of California, Riverside, Anaheim, CA. May 24-25.

Annual Convention, Kentucky Cemetery Association, Louisville, KY. June 9-11. Contact Lewis C. Tingley, Resthaven Memorial Park, P.O. Box 18068 Louisville, KY 40218, (502) 491-5950.

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Circle No. 122 on Reader Inquiry Card

Conwed mulch promotes germination of these grasses by retaining moisture and shielding the seeds from temperature fluctuations.

The Future

Our mulch use will definitely expand in the coming years. Through a \$9.7 million bond issue passed in 1978, Charlotte has funding for new recreation areas. The money is earmarked for natural

preserves, district parks, neighborhood parks and special facilities. We just purchased, for example, almost 700 acres for a natural preserve. It will have hiking, camping, scenic trails, lakes and other features. Wood fiber mulch will help us develop grass in appropriate areas.

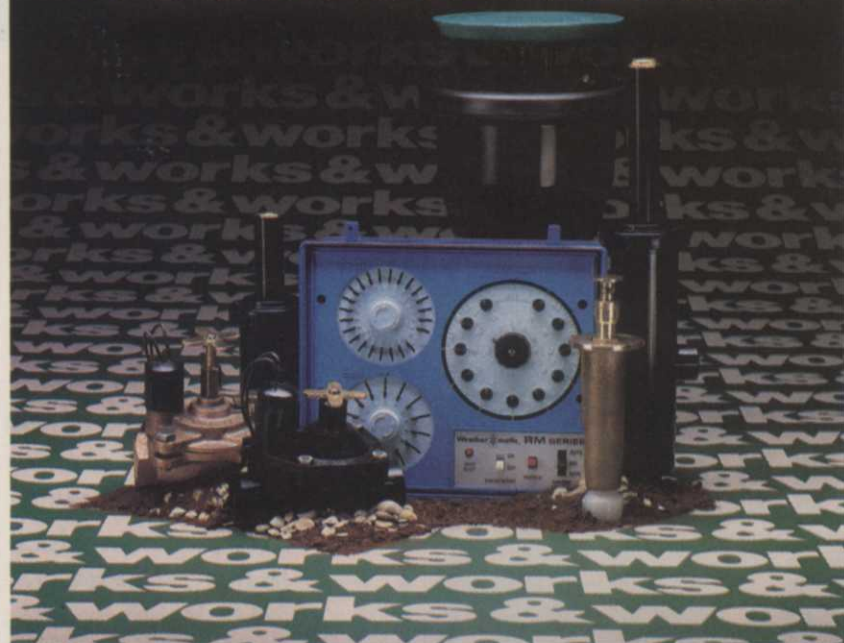
In short, the addition of hydraulic mulching to our landscape program has given us greater flexibility.

We know we have a desirable, labor-saving alternative to straw.

That's important in light of our expansion plans. We conducted a study to project community needs to 1990. The study recommended we more than double the number of athletic fields to 250 and increase other facilities as well.

We'll be working with creek banks, flood plain land, swells and other spots where erosion presents a problem. Wood-fiber mulch is a good choice in these cases, and I'd recommend it to other park supervisors facing similar situations. **WTT**

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Circle No. 159 on Reader Inquiry Card

LAYOFFS

 from page 83

individual generally is ineligible for unemployment compensation if his termination was caused by poor attendance, violation of company policy, disregard of a supervisor's request, poor work performance, or dishonest act, such as falsifying time records. Whenever possible, the employer should give a "final warning" prior to termination, so there is no doubt that the employee is informed of the consequences of his future conduct. If an employee is ineligible, the turf employer will save money by paying a lower state unemployment tax.

The very nature of the turfgrass industry requires creative approaches to minimizing the financial detriment of employee turnover due to layoffs. **WTT**

MOWERS

 from page 65

can trim closer and mow on a slight grade, some things big machines can't claim. The big riders cost anywhere from \$9,000 to \$12,000 while a walk-behind, self-propelled unit costs between \$2,200 and \$3,000. They are less expensive than tractors and are more serviceable. Our 40-inch mower fits between the wheel wells of compact pick-ups and the 48-inch will fit similarly on a standard-sized pickup."

Carl McCord is preparing to reveal his time-motion study results in the near future. At that time, the specific types of jobs and efficiency of various mowers will be known. It is a trend worth watching. **WTT**

PRODUCTS

Mower equipped with three blades

A mid-mount mower, equipped with three blades capable of cutting a 60-inch path, is offered by Kubota Tractor Corp. Designed for use with two- and four-wheel drive B-8200



tractor, the mower features one front and two rear anti-scalp rollers and a pantograph linkage mechanism with four suspension points to insure smooth carriage. Cutting height to insure smooth carriage. Cutting height is adjustable at half-inch increments from 1.5 to 4 inches.

Circle No. 170 on Reader Inquiry Card

Orthene cleared for Maryland use

Orthene Tree and Ornamental Spray has received a 24-C Special Local need registration in Maryland for control of Greenbug in turfgrass.

Orthene should be applied at a rate of one pound active ingredient per acre (1½ acre formulated) or ½ ounce pre 1,000 square feet, when greenbugs or their damage first appear. Application should be made with sufficient water to obtain good coverage (one to four gallons per 1,000 square feet). Turfgrass should not be mowed for at least 24 hours after application.

Circle No. 171 on Reader Inquiry Card

Nozzle combats noise pollution

Spraco, Inc., of Nashua, NH, a manufacturer of a full-range of industrial spray nozzles, has introduced a new line of whisper blast-off nozzles. The Spraco-Lechler Whisper Blast Blow-Off Nozzle is a multi-channel, flat jet nozzle, which has been specially designed to attenuate noise, obtain intensive precise blowing power and minimize cost by reducing air consumption and noise levels. The units come with

either ¼ inch NPT male thread or, alternatively, with steel extension tube and 5/16 inch OD hose nipple ready for clamping to any machine or machine tool.

A two-page flyer is available from Spraco giving detailed information.

Circle No. 172 on Reader Inquiry Card

New Solo brushcutter joins Multimot program

SOLO Incorporated introduces a new straight shaft brushcutter, Model 109. The design incorporates all features required for commercial applications. The brushcutter 109 is part of the new



SOLO Multimot Program, a line of outdoor power equipment powered by a single 1½-hp two-cycle engine manufactured by SOLO. No tools are needed to switch the engine to a number of different attachments. By activating a single lever, it is accomplished in seconds.

Standard features of the new brushcutter include a heavy duty straight steel drive shaft, bevel gear drive, AV handles, adjustable cushioned carrying strap and mowing head protection shield. A choice of heavy duty monofilament head, three-knife mowing blade and a circular saw blade are available. The brushcutter weighs only 10 pounds.

Circle No. 173 on Reader Inquiry Card

Ditch Witch offers utility backhoe

Ditch Witch Model A620 utility backhoe mounts to the front of Model 6510

Continued on page 88

On June 25, 1876, George Armstrong Custer ignored his scouts' warnings of many Indians gathered at Little Big Horn. So he rode out with 250 men to "surround" 6,000 Indians. This was a serious error.



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underground construction equipment. The unit digs to depths of 109 inches, has a 180 degree swing arc and reach of 154 inches. The rear of the vehicle can employ a tranching module, vibratory plow module or combination of both.

Circle No. 174 on Reader Inquiry Card

Toro introduces pop-up sprinkler head

Toro Irrigation has introduced the new Super 600C 2-inch pop-up sprin-

kler head, designed to meet the heavy demands of commercial irrigation systems.

One of the new head's advantages is a built-in check valve that checks up to 10 feet of elevation, putting a stop to low-head drainage problems.

Three new nozzle sets (3.0, 6.0 and 9.0 GPM) allow for compatible precipitation rates on part-circle and full-circle sprinklers. Maximum radius of 52 feet covers large turf areas and reduces the number of sprinkler heads required. Radius adjustment, up to 25

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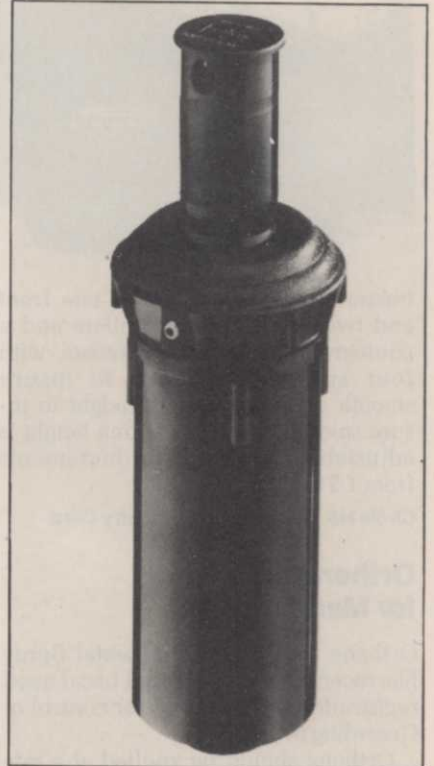


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percent reduction, and adjustable arc part-circles, permit design and installation flexibility.

The Super 600C — heavy-duty version of Toro's field-proven Super 600 sprinkler — operates effectively even in sandy and dirty water. It has a small set screw for its locking cap, providing even greater vandal-resistance. Its sealed-in gear drive assembly assures smooth, quiet operation.

Circle No. 175 on Reader Inquiry Card

Improves soil penetration

Sinak Co.'s Agridyne soil conditioner will enhance the abilities of fertilizers and herbicides by lowering the surface and sub-surface vicinal tension and neutralizing the interfacial tension of water to improve soil penetration. Agridyne is non-toxic, non-phytotoxic, non-caustic, non-flammable and biodegrades within three to six months

Continued on page 91



The Ditch Witch 350SX, a 35-HP-class lawn plow that's compact enough to go through a 36-inch gate.

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Find out more from the Ditch Witch dealer in your area. Or write The Charles Machine Works, Inc., P.O. Box 66, Perry, Oklahoma 73077.



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Ditch Witch

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thing you have ever seen or heard about. Research shows that reading is 95% *thinking* and only 5% eye movement. Yet most of today's speed reading programs spend their time teaching you rapid eye movement (5% of the problem) and ignore the most important part (95%) *thinking*. In brief, *Speed Learning* gives you what speed reading *can't*.

Imagine the new freedom you'll have when you learn how to dash through all types of reading material *at least* twice as fast as you do now, and with greater comprehension. Think of being able to get on top of the avalanche of newspapers, magazines and correspondence you have to read . . . finishing a stimulating book and retaining facts and details more clearly and with greater accuracy than ever before.

Listen-and-learn at your own pace

This is a practical, easy-to-learn program that will work for you — no matter how slow a reader you think you are now. The *Speed Learning Program* is scientifically planned to get you started quickly . . . to help you in spare minutes a day. It brings you a "teacher-on-cassettes" who guides you, instructs, encourages you, explaining material as you

read. Interesting items taken from *Time Magazine*, *Business Week*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Family Circle*, *N.Y. Times* and many others, make the program stimulating, easy and fun . . . and so much more effective.

Executives, students, professional people, men and women in all walks of life from 15 to 70 have benefited from this program. *Speed Learning* is a fully accredited course . . . costing only 1/5 the price of less effective speed reading classroom courses. Now you can examine the same, easy, practical and proven methods at home . . . in spare time . . . without risking a penny.

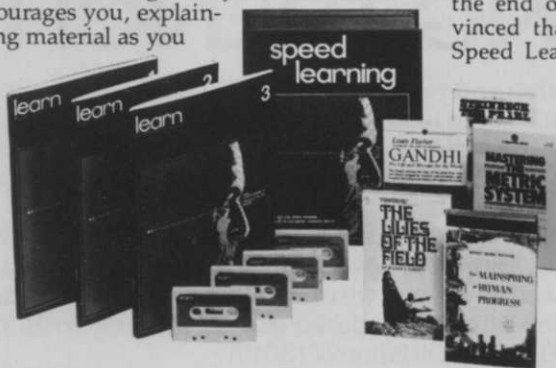
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