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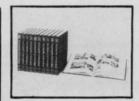
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Outside Contractors install new sod after raising the crown of one of the academy's intramural fields.



Plebes pass in front of Hospital Point, a 22-acre intramural field that was suffering from drought stress earlier this year. Cusimano overseeded that field with K-31 tall fescue.

does his inspection rounds. Virtually all new plantings are handled through outside contracts. The Contracts Division will have arranged for the work, and because of the complex management structure and independence bred into the system, he said communication problems are a constant consideration.

Cusimano's equipment is bought through the GSA. The Ford, Chevrolet and Chrysler vehicles are allocated by the transportation division, and other tools are repaired by the mechanic's division. But irrigation equipment is repaired by the plumbing division.

"The biggest part of my job is salesman and diplomat, trying to convince the other departments that my job needs to be done first," he said.

In addition to the hodgepodge of offices he deals with on equipment matters, Cusimano's crews maintain everything from the garden at the superintendent's ceremonial quarters to apartment complexes, single-family homes, greenhouses, football and soccer fields, areas surrounding radio transmission towers and the academy burial grounds.

Visiting heads of state are entertained at the superintendent's quarters, sometimes on a moment's notice. The landscape there always has to be in top condition. The basement of the stately building houses a flower room where staffers can cut and arrange table decorations within hours of receiving word that a for-

mal event will take place.

Officers, instructors and their families are housed in garden apartment complexes and single-family homes. There's the academy medical center and the cemetery where Annapolis graduates are entitled to be interred.

Then, of course, come the classrooms and laboratory buildings, including one area where Japanese pear trees were planted on

"I learned quickly you have the responsibility, but not the authority to get the job done on time."

the roof of an underground laboratory.

"That presents a unique management problem," Cusimano said of the Japanese Pears. No irrigation system was installed to service the dozens of trees located on a concrete mall, and a wind shear coming from the bay through a tunnel created by two buildings means that planting has to be continually monitored to prevent any long-term damage.

Every one of the 4,500 midshipmen at Annapolis is required to engage in one sport during their four years. Every day at about 3:30, "the thundering herd," as Cusimano calls them, invade the 60 acres of intramural and practice fields near the waterfront. Because of rigid time schedules built into a military establish-

ment, he has to adjust his maintenance schedules around the needs of the academic, athletic and military arms of the academy.

One Monday morning his staff overseeded the academy's parade grounds, the foreman said, and by Friday two practice sessions were held on the fledgling turf.

The "military lives by the clock—that's the tradition around here." When it comes to maintaining the athletic areas along the waterfront, soil characteristics present a special problem—those fields were built on top of land reclaimed from the Annapolis Harbor, "and it changes every ten feet - you might have some seabed, then construction fill that came from inland—it makes soil testing almost ludicrous," he commented.

This year Cusimano overseeded those athletic fields with a mix of 10 percent Cheri bluegrass and 90 percent Olympic tall fescue with good results. The nonathletic areas received a 30:30:30 mix of Pennant, Premier and Citation perennial ryegrasses with 10 percent Cheri.

Although he called the Annapolis area "the worst place in the world to grow grass—" it's located in the heart of the transition zone—Cusimano said he's pleased with the results of the overseeding and said the turf is in generally good shape throughout the academy.

Cusimano also instituted a full Par-Ex IBDU fertilizer program this year, but due to a month-long drought in July, he said it's going

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to be hard to judge the success of the program when he lays down fertilizer in late spring and mid-November.

To maintain the sprawling academy grounds efficiently with the staff of 70 full-time employees, Cusimano has five separate rating systems. Top priority are high-visibility areas, which are cut twice a week and policed daily. Number five areas, such as around the transmission tower complex and fuel storage tanks, receive occassional attention to minimize weeds and fire hazards.

The athletic areas are in a category by themselves and are maintained according to the needs of the various coaches and athletic department heads who use them. When it comes to chemical control of weeds, insects and fungi,

Cusimano said he and Wallace, "go by bloom" when they schedule their pest applications.

"You can never schedule by the calender here," Cusimano said. "You get 100 degree days in April and snow flurries in May.'

Wallace said he uses Roundup around the athletic areas, such as on the tartan racing tracks and under bleachers, as well as in all perennial areas throughout the 330-acre complex. He also applies it on the red brick walkways that wind through sections of the campus, as it doesn't stain the old brick as other non-selectives might.

To control white clover on the athletic fields, Wallace applies MCPP, and ornamental lawns are treated with non-volatile 2.4-D.

Dalapon is used for top burning on the waterfront areas, beneath bleachers and in combination with Simazine along fenceline. Orthene is the main insecticide used on the academy grounds, and Wallace said he applies Sevin for leaf chewers.

By combining post- and preemergents for fenceline control, Cusimano said his crews can treat those areas twice a year instead of four or five times as they did in the past.

Like many areas on the Eastern Seaboard, Annapolis is afflicted with Dutch Elm Disease. When an infestation is noted, Wallace's crews inject cups of Bidrin around the trunk." That shoots up to the leaves in a matter of hours," and quickly kills off that particular infestation, Cusimano said.

"It's a big problem, but we're holding the line" by using Arbotect 20S in a preventative program, Wallace commented.

Forty-five hundred cadets, their families, VIPs and almost-three million tourists visit Annapolis each year. There isn't any land bank for rotating use of the athletic fields, and new construction projects are always on the drawing board at the Naval Academy. By keeping on top of the myraid regulations, customers and departments at Annapolis, Cusimano keeps Annapolis both an institution and attraction.

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North Central Turfgrass Exposition, Arlington Park Hilton Hotel, Arlington Heights, IL. Nov. 1-3. Contact Dr. Thomas W. Fermanian, University of Illinois, 1060 Horticulture Field Lab, 1717 S. Orchard St., Urbana, IL, 61801. (217) 333-7847. 7th Annual Arizona Landscape Awards Program, Rio Rico Resort, Arizona. Nov. 5. Contact Dick Lambert, Arizona Landscape Contractors Association, P.O. Box 27312, Tempe, AZ 85282. (602) 968-8179.

1983 Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. Nov. 14-16. Contact Dr. Robert L. Green, 360 Ag Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078. (405) 624-5414.

Greenhouse & Landscape Maintenance Conference, Salt Lake City Tri-Arc Travelodge. Nov. 15-16. Contact Dr. Dallas L. Holmes, Utah State University, UMC 50A, Logan, UT. 84322.

9th Annual Professional Landscape Management School, Indiana State University, Evansville, Nov. 15-16. Contact Allen Bober, Extension Agent, Horticulture Room 202, City-County Building, Evansville, IN, 47708.

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Arbor Expo, Philadelphia Civic Center, Nov. 17-19. Contact Daryl Komar, 17 Washington St., Norwalk, CT 06854. (203) 852-0500.

1983 American Society of Landscape Architects' Education Exhibit, Indianapolis, IN. Nov. 19-21. Contact Pam Nesmith, ASLA, 1733 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (202) 466-7730.

Ohio Turfgrass Conference & Show, Cincinnati Convention & Exposition Center. Dec. 6-8. Contact John Street, OTF, 2021 Coffey Rd., Columbus, OH 43210. (614) 422-2601.

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