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WEEDS TREES & TURF

The Magazine of Landscape and Golf Course Management Since 1962

22 Trimmer Makers See Trend To Durability, Flexibility

Trimmer manufacturers focus on more durable gasoline-powered trimmers as homeowners trade up to professional-strength models. Options now include small cultivators and snowblowers. Professionals benefit from homeowner selection.



27 1984 Edition of the INSECT CONTROL GUIDE

Two new insecticides should receive turf labels this spring while research on turf resistance to insects has already resulted in one new perennial ryegrass. A report on the spread of the imported red fire ant in the South and other recent developments are included.

66 New Column Clears Up Special Plant Needs

Dr. Michael Dirr, plant identification specialist and book author, provides tips to often-confused plant problems.

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 News/Trends
- 8 Green Industry News
- 10 Golf Update
- 15 Landscape Update
- 16 Government Update
- 20 Landscape Log
- 66 Plant Tips
- 68 Problem Solvers
- 70 Jobtalk
- 72 Products
- 90 Events
- 92 Classifieds
- 94 Advertiser Index
- 96 Outlook

64 Earl Crane, Still Selling Turf Equipment at 78

Earl Crane sold his first mower during the 30's, bought and ran a golf course in the 40's, and now sells more than seven lines of turf equipment from his home in Tiffin, Ohio. Crane has witnessed the development of the turf aerifier since its creation and keeps tinkering to refine it.



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Circle No. 136 on Reader Inquiry Card

by **Bruce F. Shank**, executive editor

How tough is your course?

Superintendents may be able to compare the difficulty of their course to others if USGA's 'Slope' system works out in trial states.

Albert Mulberry, executive director of the Northern Ohio Golf Association told 200 superintendents during a regional USGA Conference, "The purpose of the slope system is to provide visiting golfers with a method of equalizing their handicaps with home course golfers."

A team of four officials must rate the course using a complicated procedure intended to gauge the difficulty of a course by the difference in scores between scratch golfers and bogey golfers. The average course would have a slope of 113. Scores below 113 are easier than average and scores higher indicate difficulty.

James Farrell, USGA manager of the Mid-continent region, said, "If the system works out, we may be in a position to take the program national by 1986."

New mowers drop pounds

Mower manufacturers were given an opportunity to discuss new product changes during the Canadian Turfgrass Conference in Toronto in March. Overall, the changes represented a shift toward lighter fairway mowers, away from wheel-driven gangs, and longer-life engines.

David Leg of Ransomes stressed light-weight mowing and hydraulics with Ransomes products. Leg said light-weight fairway mowers are gaining in use as fairways are contoured and reduced in size. "Some 18-hole courses now devote only 20 acres to fairways," Leg pointed out. At 2.5 acres per hour, a triplex can cut all fairways in one day.

Henry Larsen from Jacobsen announced changes in the five-gang, 11-ft. cut HF-5, making it lighter, adding a 33-hp Volkswagen diesel engine, and offering baskets for clippings. Jacobsen also offers 18-to 22-hp Kubota diesel engines on its Turf Cat riding rotary. Two new products mentioned by Larsen were walk-behind rotaries and the Motomop, a motorized roller squeegee capable of removing 3,000 gallons/hour of water from greens, tennis courts or other areas.

Toro's Roy Eldridge had the most to say with 14 new products for 1984, including seven 21-inch trim mowers, three with a new two-cycle engine made by Suzuki. Toro introduced two large walk-behind rotaries this year with a sulky to be available soon.

Gordon Mitchell of Canada's Brouwer Turf Equipment Ltd. showed a three-gang mower for low-budget golf courses. Powered either by tractor PTO or a Honda engine, the pull-behind gang is also available with verticutter reels. Tractors with as little as 17-hp at the PTO can operate the gangs. Mitchell also showed Brouwer's 76-inch triplex mower which is belt-driven and powered by a Robin engine.

Cushman/Ryan's Dan Hedglin described improvements to the Front-Line 72-in. riding rotary. Now available with diesel engine, the Front Line now offers a series of engine protection devices, including an air-induction system, overheat warning system, a systems check button, and a remote oil fill tube. The Front Line options include a grass collection system and a snow blower.

STAFF

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OFFICES

ATLANTA
3091 Maple Drive
Maple Center One Building
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 233-1817

CLEVELAND
7500 Old Oak Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44130
Editorial: (216) 243-8100

CHICAGO
111 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 938-2344

SEATTLE
1333 N.W. Norcross
Seattle, WA 98177
(206) 363-2864

DULUTH
120 West Second Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 727-8511

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Dick Gore
Atlanta (404) 233-1817

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LEGISLATION

New York law stuns Long Islanders

A major topic of discussion at the recent annual plant and turfgrass conference of the Nassau/Suffolk Landscape Gardeners Association was a law just passed by the New York State Legislature concerning pesticide applications.

Cynthia Harmon, chief of New York's Bureau of Pesticide Management told almost 2,000 attending the conference, "More applicators (of restricted use pesticides) will have to be certified." The law is still open to public hearings and comment so final details are unknown. The new law states all applicators of restricted use pesticides must be certified, not just supervisors.

The law immediately requires pre-notification of property occupants, although adjacent land owner requirements are not finalized. Notification must include all information on the label, including warnings.

Harmon said penalties have been increased to \$5,000 for the first violation and \$10,000 for each subsequent violation.

Pesticide talk was heard throughout the day's conference from Long Islanders feeling a backlash from the local alarm over chlordane contamination found last year. The DEC's office was inundated with 15,000 calls at the time. One landscaper in the audience told Harmon that DEC is understaffed and unable to handle calls from applicators.

The DEC could not answer a question where one could legally wash application equipment, another concern of Long Island applicators with so much emphasis on ground water contamination there. The DEC recommended the industry pool its resources with the community and hire a waste hauler for a designated pickup of waste water.



Dr. Henry Indyk tells Long Islanders at the recent plant and turfgrass conference not to overlook simple turf management practices such as liming, proper verticutting, and introduction of fine-textured ryegrasses.

CONTESTS

Supers pay bills with Weeds winnings

Three superintendents left the Golf Course Superintendents Show in Las Vegas richer this year. They are the winners of the Third Annual Golf Show Sweepstakes.

The first place, \$1,000 prize went to Pat Brinkman, superintendent of Amarillo Country Club, Amarillo, TX. "When I filled out the entry card at the Bunton booth, I never dreamed I would win. It came as a complete surprise!"

Tim Fuller, of DuBois Country Club, DuBois, PA, left Las Vegas \$500 richer after filling out his entry at the Aquatrols booth.

Least, but not last, was William Ward, superintendent of Morris Park Country Club, South Bend, IN, who took home \$250. Bill, who entered at the Otterbine booth, called the prize and the show exciting. "It was quite a surprise and very appreciated to be a winner in the Sweepstakes held in Las Vegas. My thanks for promoting this event and adding to the excitement of the Conference."



First place winner Pat Brinkman took \$1,000 home from the GCSAA Show after entering the Sweepstakes at the Bunton booth.

"The pleasure is ours," responds Publisher Dick Gore. "Three years ago we decided to support the GCSAA Show with a Show Daily and a sweepstakes for the superintendent. This year was our first year as the recognized publication of the GCSAA Show. The golf superintendent seems to know an opportunity when he sees one. So far, thousands of superintendents have filled out entry forms, and nine have won. Everyone wins in our opinion."

TURF MANAGEMENT

Beard says future depends on efficiency

Dr. James Beard left his warm lab at Texas A&M in March and travelled through a blizzard to speak at the Canadian Turfgrass Conference in Toronto. His message to the predominantly golf course superintendents group was start getting prepared for changes in turf management.

Higher prices for petroleum products and equipment will force a much closer look at their use in the future, Beard said. Staff and equipment movement will need to be better scheduled for cost efficiency. Growth regulator use will increase as new products enter the market. Integrated pest management and biological controls will work their way into maintenance programming.

"What up to now has been an art will also become a science," Beard claimed. The amount of knowledge necessary to consider all aspects of efficient turf management will increase greatly.

A second prime consideration for the future is water use according to Beard. Smaller, lower-pressure irrigation heads will be used to cut down on pumping costs. Records will have to

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UPDATE

Rossi tapped by golf car group

Don A. Rossi, executive director emeritus of the National Golf Foundation, was named executive director of the National Golf Car Manufacturers Association, Inc.

The formation of the new association was announced at the recent PGA Merchandise Show. George H. Inman, president and chairman of the board of Club Car was named president, and Fred Sommers was appointed general council.

NGF's first school a success

Attendees from 22 states and Canada were at the first Golf Management School sponsored by the National Golf Foundation and Oglebay, a destination resort in a 1,400-acre municipal park in Wheeling, WV. All registrants were, in some way, involved in the management of public golf facilities. The first year of the two year program drew 78 registrants. The second year of the program is scheduled to begin the week of Jan. 13, 1985.

Subject matter ranged from the philosophy of public golf to promotion, merchandising and accounting procedures.

Hurdzan to stress nature of golf

Dr. Michael J. Hurdzan, the new president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, wants the nature and art of golf course architecture to be recognized and to encourage more children to play.

Hurdzan is a partner in the golf course architectural firm of Kidwell and Hurdzan, Inc., Columbus, OH. The firm has designed more than 80 new courses, mainly in the Midwest.

"During my term I have three main goals I'd like to implement," Hurdzan told WT&T. "They include establishing golf course architecture as an artform. Secondly, I'd like to establish a close alliance with national wildlife associations, especially the Audubon Society, to attract useful wildlife to golf courses, such as bluebirds, which help in insect and weed control. Thirdly, we'd like to keep trying to encourage growth of the game of golf and encourage the development of courses for children. Right now, the average age for learning to play golf in the U.S. is 25. If children were encouraged and had a convenient, inexpensive place to learn the game, that figure could be dropped measurably. The Society would like to work with allied golf associations to make this happen."

The Society currently has 88 members, which represents 75 percent of the active golf course architects in the country and Canada.

Other officers elected are John Watson, Lachute, Quebec, Canada, vice president; Kenneth K. Killian, Palatine, IL, secretary; and Roger G. Rulewich, Montclair, NJ, treasurer.



Dr. Richard Skogley addresses delegates of the Canadian Turfgrass Conference on the pros and cons of sand topdressing.

be maintained to help superintendents justify their use of water on the course. "History has shown when water supplies get short, turf generally receives a low priority," he said.

Rhode Island's Dr. Richard Skogley echoed Beard's remarks saying, "There is too much how-to today, and not enough why." Speaking on changes in turfgrass management, Skogley cautioned the Canadian superintendents that sand topdressing has its drawbacks and suggested soil topdressing instead. "Sand topdressing is better than not topdressing at all," he said. "It provides an improved putting surface. Once you start sand topdressing, you can't stop without causing layering and water problems. Sand requires more water and fertilizer.

With sand, you have to topdress monthly. You only have to topdress twice per year with soil. Also, we've seen reduced disease with soil topdressing compared to sand."

DISEASES

Canada's Burpee offers disease tips

More emphasis should be put on the turfgrass environment, Dr. Lee Burpee of the University of Guelph told superintendents at the Canadian Turfgrass Conference.

Burpee provided some tips to discourage disease. "If you won't to control disease, reduce the period of leaf wetness," Burpee said. He also recommended watching the pH of the soil and thatch since grass under stress is

continued on page 16