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WEEDS TREES & TURF

The Magazine of Landscape and Golf Course Management Since 1962

20 Seed Report Says Buy Now

WT&T's annual look at the seed harvest shows some shortages apparent before spring. A detailed look at what to buy and when.



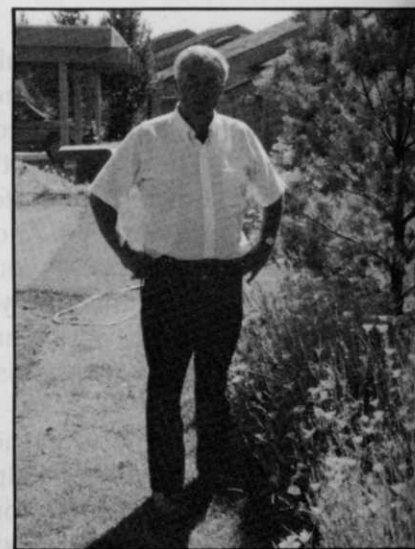
26 Charbonneau—Small Contractor Pulls Out All Stops For Luxury Condos

Steve Bizon takes pride in his work. One look at the care that goes into the landscaping at Charbonneau proves it. He expects the best for his clients—and himself.



30 Sun River Is Condo Mecca

Sunriver, Oregon, is a little piece of heaven. With its multitude of recreational activities, condo starts are booming. Meet two men who care for two of Sunriver's most prestigious condo developments.



22 Communication Is Condo Care Key

Communication. Sounds simple enough. In the condominium maintenance field, though, it's not as easy as it sounds. Condo boards and red tape can provide the biggest stumbling blocks to successful communication and working relationships.

34 FERTILIZER GUIDE

This popular WT&T guide has been expanded this year. Richard Rathjens and Roger Funk outline fertilization requirements for turf, trees, containerized plants and interior foliage. A guide you'll want to keep.

Cover photo by Larry Kassell.

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28 One Man Show

It's not easy caring for the landscaping of a whole condo complex by yourself. But for one New England landscaping manager, the task is a lot easier with a little organization.

Robert L. Edgell, Chairman; Richard Moeller, President; Lars Fladmark, Executive Vice President; Arland Hirman, Treasurer; Thomas Greney, Senior Vice President; Ezra Pincus, Senior Vice President; Pat O'Rourke, Group Vice President; Joe Bilderbach, Vice President; James Gherna, Vice President; George Glenn, Vice President; Harry Ramaley, Vice President.

WEEDS TREES & TURF (ISSN 0043-1753) is published monthly by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publications. Corporate and Editorial offices: 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130. Advertising Offices: 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44130, 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601 and 3091 Maple Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. Accounting, Advertising Production and Circulation offices: 1 East First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802. Subscription rates: \$20 per year in the United States; \$25 per year in Canada. All other countries: \$50 per year. Single copies (pre-paid only): \$2 in the U.S.; elsewhere \$4.50; add \$3.00 for shipping and handling per order. Second class postage paid at Duluth, Minnesota 55806 and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1984 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Microfilm copies of articles are available through University Microfilm, International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

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Nothing Runs Like a Deere®

by Bruce F. Shank, executive editor

Ford joins Deere in mower market

Ford Tractor told its dealers this fall it is entering the commercial mower market, starting delivery in January 1985 of a small line of walk-behind rotary mowers. Ford is the second major agricultural equipment manufacturer to enter the commercial mower market, following Deere's lead this year.

Deere and Ford have the advantage of considerably larger dealer networks than current turf equipment companies. Not all Ford or Deere dealers will carry the commercial mower lines, but the manufacturers predict serious participation by at least 200 to 500 dealers each, compared to less than 60 each for Toro, Jacobsen, and Ransomes.

Another trend involved is the private label manufacturing of walk-behind units by Bunton and Gilson for Deere and Ford respectively. The mowers are made to specifications set by Deere and Ford, but similarities with Bunton and Gilson's Sensation line are obvious. Deere makes its commercial riding mowers in its own plant in Horicon, WI.

Ford Manager of Equipment Marketing Plans Fran Engelhardt said Ford's new commercial line is a natural progression of its large lawn and garden tractors and its industrial tractor and flail mower lines. Ford's commercial mowers meet all consumer safety standards and feature simplified cutting height adjustment, floating deck which stays parallel to the surface, heavy duty bearings with xert fittings on key parts, and Briggs and Stratton IC engines.

Field days alter recommendations

Some turf maintenance customs are being challenged by the latest research findings displayed at turf field days this fall. Although it is important to remember these findings are specific to certain regions, they upset some standard practices in the industry.

Turf-type tall fescues outperformed red fescue and so-called shade tolerant Kentucky bluegrasses in a study shown during the Ohio State Turfgrass Research Field Day in Columbus in September. In addition to Olympic and Falcon turf-type tall fescues performing well in shade, Sabre *Poa trivialis* and Bristol and Touchdown Kentucky bluegrasses looked good. The surprise poor-looking grasses were Pennlawn red fescue and Glade and Baron Kentucky bluegrasses.

Turf fungicides and preemergent herbicides yet to be released by Ciba Geigy, O.M. Scott, Dow, and Du Pont will compete well with current products on the market. Growth regulators coming from Monsanto and Elanco looked very good on the Ohio State plots.

The treatment of Fusarium blight syndrome is being rethought. Research is supporting findings by Cornell Pathologist Richard Smiley that two or three pathogens are responsible for symptoms associated with Fusarium blight. Detweiler and Vargas at Michigan State University are advising, in addition to proper site preparation and mid-day irrigation of disease-prone areas, preventative fungicide treatments with Bayleton or Chipco 26019 or preventative and curative treatments with Tersan 1991, Fungo 50, or Cleary 3336.

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STEPS takes leap to calm pesticide furor

STEPS is off and running.

The Society to Educate Pesticide Safety, a group of six Ohio-based lawn care, pest control, tree care and chemical company professionals, is trying to nip in the bud the pesticide hysteria caused by what one member terms "environrads"—radical environmentalists.

The group is confronting the issue of public pesticide safety head-on in the hopes that clarifying issues and educating the public on the safe use of pesticides will drive away alleged scare tactics and anti-pesticide information being disseminated by certain special interest groups and "misinformed individuals."

"We are trying to get the truth out on what they (PCOs and LCOs) are really using and that this industry is already regulated enough," said George Gossett, an account manager with Dow Chemical and a member of the STEPS executive committee. He, along with Bob Holt of Davey Tree, Nate Robinson of Leisure Lawn, Ray Gibson of Ohio City Communications and the Professional Lawn Care Association of America and Lauren Lan-



STEPS members meet to discuss strategy.

phar of Forest City Tree Protection, hope to induce a groundswell of support in the state of Ohio to light the fire under other PCOs and LCOs so that individuals in other states will start similar groups.

STEPS' first order of business is educating the media on some of the misconception about chemicals.

Recently, the group hosted Dr. Carl C. Smith, professor of environmental health and pharmacology at the University of Cincinnati and a toxicologist at the Kettering Institute; Dr. George Fischer, head of the entomology department at the University of New Hampshire; and Dr. Wendell Mullison, a retired chemical researcher who holds a number of 2,4-D process and formulation patents. He is currently a private consultant in the areas of agricultural pesticides with a specialty in herbicides.

The three scientists visited a number of Cleveland newspapers and radio stations last month dispelling myths about chemicals and their effects on humans and other animals.

STEPS, since its inception in August, has already attended many local city council meetings trying to answer citizens' questions and concerns about lawn care company spraying. Some northeast Ohio communities have entertained legislation trying to limit spraying.

"Sometimes they're willing to listen, other times we have a hard time even getting on the (council) agenda," Gossett told WT&T.

Lanphear, who is an arborist, says the lawn care industry should not be left fighting the battle alone.

"This problem, while this year may be targeted at lawn care companies, is an industry-wide problem. If lawn care gets regulated, it's only a matter of time before the other industries using pesticides are targeted for similar restrictions."

He emphasized the importance of other states addressing the problem before it gets to the panic stage and "stressing the benefits and safety of proper pesticide use."

TURF

Warren's axes Wisc. sod production

Warren's turf nursery will no longer grow sod at its Sullivan, WI, nursery.

"The decision to redeploy the significant assets in use in Wisconsin to other areas of the country is a corporate management decision aimed at maximizing return on investment of our stockholders," said General Manager Mike Holmes.

He said the Sullivan, WI, location is ideal for producing sod, but is well over 100 miles to the primary market of Chicago that it serves.

"This extra delivery cost put us at a significant cost disadvantage as compared to several good competitors in the very price-competitive Chicago market."

Holmes said even though seedings have stopped, a good supply of bluegrass sod should be available through July-August 1985.

Warren's plans to continue marketing its proprietary line of turfgrass seed through its dealer/distributor network in Wisconsin and Illinois.



Award Winner

WEEDS TREES & TURF Executive Editor Bruce Shank accepts a plaque from American Society of Business Press Editors' Vice President Bob Boggs at the recent ASBPE National Meeting in Boston. Shank accepted the award for the August, 1983 cover of WT&T which was a graphic representation of insect resistant turfgrass. The cover first won in the local Cleveland chapter and went on to compete nationally in Boston. ASBPE is an organization for professionals in the business and trade press fields.

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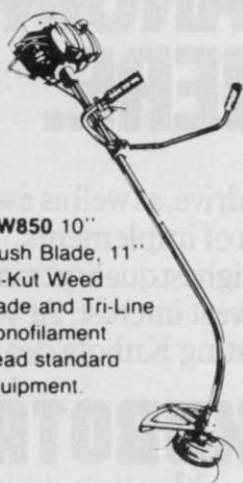
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ACQUISITION

Seats Inc. buys Columbia Car Corp.

Columbia Car Corporation, producer of electric and gas golf cars, has been acquired by Seats, Incorporated, and will now be known as Columbia Par-Car Corp.

The newly-created corporation will operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Seats, Incorporated, Reedsburg, WI.

W.R. Sauey, chairman of Seats, Incorporated, said, "We will continue in the tradition of manufacturing quality and efficient golf cars under the Columbia name. We have an enthusiastic group of operating and managerial personnel, along with an effective dealer organization. Our plan is to provide strong support to our current dealers so vital to this industry. Special emphasis will be placed on establishing a dealer network throughout the United States that supports the sales and service capabilities now in place."

Seats, Inc. will inject Columbia with capital and manufacturing and marketing skills. Said Sauey,

"It is our initial plan to restructure the operating and marketing functions into a lean and effective group that is the history of 37 years in the manufacturing of varied industrial and consumer products."

Seats Incorporated is a manufacturer of heavy duty seating for trucking, off-highway and recreational vehicles.

CHEMICALS

Diquat cleared of EDB hazard charges

After a three month study, three Florida state departments and two independent laboratories have determined that ethylene dibromide (EDB) levels in Ortho Diquat Herbicide H/A used in non-potable waters do not pose a significant environmental danger or human health hazard.

As a result, the Florida Department of Natural Resources has rescinded its March 1 requests to discontinue use of all Diquat products and to suspend future issuing of permits for using Diquat.

Beginning in March, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Environmental Regulation began to monitor field test sites and Diquat containers for hazardous EDB levels.

An analysis of samples taken from