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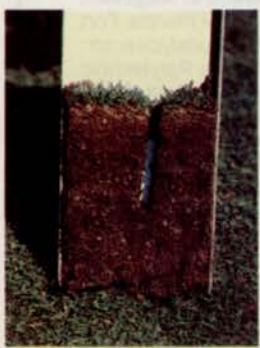
By the Editorial Advisory Board, March 1984

May work keys on summer protection

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LANDSCAPE LOG

by the Editorial Advisory Board, *Weeds Trees & Turf* magazine

May work keys on summer protection

Seven experts willingly share their knowledge. Please write the magazine if there are specific areas of landscape management you would like to see addressed on a monthly basis.

Mid-Atlantic landscape managers begin preparing for summer heat stress in May. John Hall of VPI suggests raising mower cutting height beginning in May for cool-season grasses. He recommends aerification and verticutting for both cool- and warm-season grasses in May, followed by fertilization and application of postemergence herbicides for crabgrass where preemergence applications did not provide control. May is a good time to begin sprigging and sodding repairs to bermudagrass turf according to Hall.

Areas with a history of grub, cutworm, armyworm, billbug, or sod webworm should be sprayed in May. A second application of fungicides for leaf spot control may be needed.

Great Plains landscape managers should initiate fertilization of warm-season grasses and cool-season grasses which received a late-season fertilization the previous year. Broadleaf weed control should switch to postemergence herbicides no later than mid-May, says Bob Shearman of the University of Nebraska. Fungicide applications should be made for leaf spot, melting out, and stripe smut. Adult bluegrass billbugs may be controlled in May with insecticides.

Shearman recommends insecticide applications for scale crawlers on affected ornamentals in May, in addition to control of cankerworms, tent caterpillars, borers, and aphids.

Ornamental disease control should begin for black spot on roses and rust and scab of crabapples. Peonies should be sprayed with Bordeaux mix after flowers emerge.

Fertilize roses and spring flowering plants in May and prune them after they finish blooming.

Trees needing attention in May are pines for Diplodia tip blight and pine needle blight, junipers for Phomopsis blight, birch for bronze birch borer, and honeylocusts for insects.

Northeast landscape managers should concentrate on soil conditions in early May, says Martin Petrovic at Cornell. Dethatching, coring, pH control, light fertilization, and deep watering are important now.

In the northernmost portions of the Northeast pre-emergence herbicides are still being applied. In most areas, however, control has switched over to postemergence broadleaf herbicides.

Disease or insect prone areas should be watched closely for symptoms and damage. Leaf spot, dollar spot, stripe smut, and summer patch (hot weather Fusarium blight) are all possible in May. White grubs, chinch bugs, sod webworms, bluegrass billbugs, and hyperodes weevil are all problems at this time and may require treatment.

Deep watering and fertilization of trees and

shrubs are important in May says Petrovic. Narrow-leaved evergreens can be pruned in May.

Insects to control are aphids, birch leaf miner, dogwood borer, forest tent caterpillar, gypsy moth, and lilac borer. Diseases of trees and shrubs to control include fire blight, anthracnose, leaf blotch, and leaf spot.

In preparation for June work, order fungicides for pythium and brown patch of turf.

North Central landscape managers should have plans for annual beds finished and plants ordered for installation in May, says Doug Chapman of Dow Gardens. Transplanting of trees and shrubs should be limited to container and balled-and-burlapped plants.

If cool and wet conditions exist, apply sprays for apple scab and Phomopsis twig blight. Deciduous shrubs can be pruned immediately after flowering. Spray vulnerable stages of chewing and sucking insects.

Midwest landscape managers should follow tips for the Great Plains. Harry Niemczyk, Ohio State University turf entomologist, suggests attention to grub prevention and mite damage to turf. He says preventative treatment for chinchbugs and billbugs should be down by May 10.

Florida landscape managers have experienced a record dry winter says Bruce Augustin, extension turf and water specialist at the University of Florida. Water restrictions may be possible if rains don't occur before May.

Augustin suggests cutting heights for St. Augustine and bahiagrass be raised to 3 inches. Bermudagrass greens should not be cut lower than $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch warns Augustin. Verticutting and aerification are recommended for thatchy turf since recovery is fastest in warm temperatures.

Turf areas should receive $\frac{3}{4}$ -1-inch of water twice per week in May. Fertilization should be withheld until the rainy season begins in mid-June. Herbicides should be applied very cautiously if drought continues.

Chinchbugs are especially troublesome in May says Augustin. He recommends cautious use of organophosphate insecticides due to resistance problems.

Pruning of trees and shrubs to improve appearance and reduce wind resistance is appropriate in May.

WT&T

Editorial Advisory Board members are: **Bruce J. Augustin**, extension turf and water specialist, University of Florida, Fort Lauderdale, FL; **Douglas Chapman**, horticulturist/director, Dow Gardens, Midland, MI; **Jack Hall**, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA; **Kent Kurtz**, professor of horticulture, California Polytechnic Institute, Pomona, CA; **Harry Niemczyk**, professor of entomology, Ohio State University, Wooster, OH; **Martin Petrovic**, assistant professor of turfgrass science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; **Robert Shearman**, associate professor of turf, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

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Turf regulator eases mall landscape tasks

Carol Zech, horticultural supervisor for Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, MI, found herself with a vexing landscape problem—too much lush grass.

Zech and her crew (four full-time and three part-time employees) were spending too much time mowing.

Says Zech, "Last spring, because of heavy fertilization the previous year and steady rains, grass growth was nothing less than astounding. We did so much mowing there was little time left to edge, prune, mulch, and spray."

The logical way she is solving it demonstrates the value of a clearly defined program using a new product, Monsanto's turf regulator, Limit.

Her problem is probably not unique. Saavy merchants are beginning to realize the value of oases of green in the vast concrete expanses of shopping mall parking lots.

Trees, grass, shrubbery and flowers add beauty (creating a positive initial reaction with incoming customers) while directing traffic, reducing noise, and absorbing vehicle fumes.

But more landscaping means more work for people like Zech at the 1.2 million sq. ft. Twelve Oaks Mall with its extensive multi-level parking area which is dotted with landscaped traffic islands. Compounding the problem, several of the maintained grassy areas have a 35 to 40 degree grade. "I grit my teeth every time the crew mows them. The less I have to do to those areas, the better," she says.

Last May, Zech and a staff member applied 20 gallons of Limit, a chemical designed to slow the growth of cool-season grasses, from a trailer-mounted sprayer to the quarter acre traffic islands and the top and bottom of an inclined turf area. The turf is a mix of Kentucky bluegrass hybrids. "Before using Limit, I was very worried about the toxicity of growth regulators," she admits.

A few days after she applied the Limit, the only discoloration she noticed was a slight blue-gray tinge. This was offset by other favorable results.

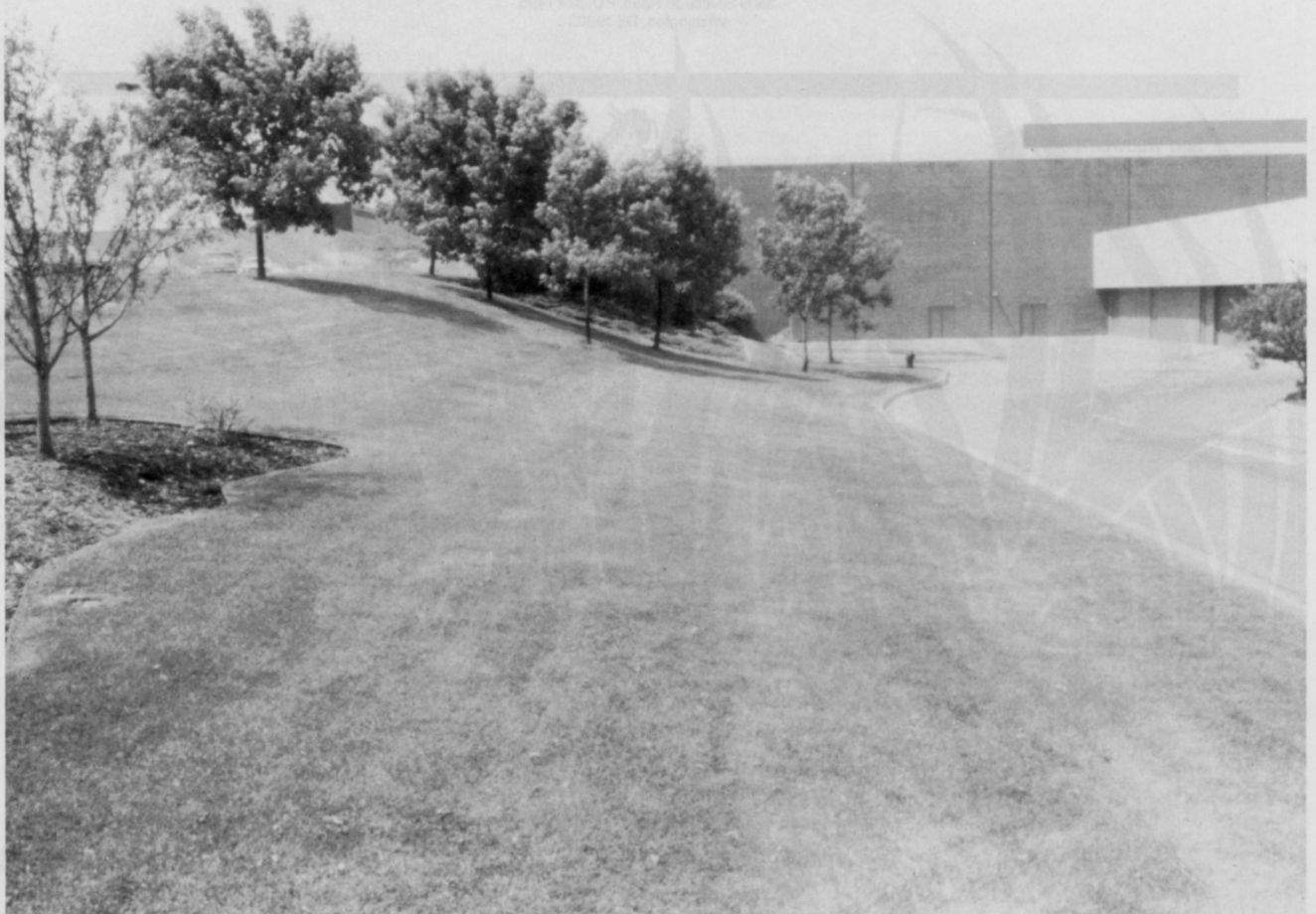
"During the six-week period follow-

ing the application of Limit, turf growth was slowed noticeably," she says. "Ordinarily, heavy spring growth would force us to mow every six days. However, after we applied Limit, we found ourselves trimming every other week. The grass was thinner and the clippings drastically reduced. My crew thought it was great." Equally welcome, the top and bottom of the graded grassy area Zech sprayed required only one trim mowing in a six-week period. This year she plans to spray the turf regulator on other heavy growth inclined areas in addition to the traffic islands.

Zech is also responsible for refuse removal around the mall and has been concerned with the safety hazards of mowing grass that hides bottles and cans. "If we can reduce the number of mowings, there is less chance one of my crew will accidentally run over a bottle or can and injure himself or someone else, not to mention the damage done to machinery."

Above all, reducing mowings this spring will allow Zech to devote more time to other jobs.

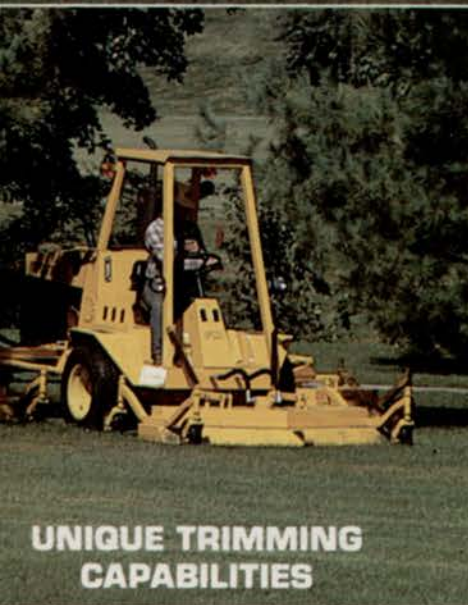
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Public opinion, worker attitudes and increasing governmental regulation are forging a new path for government managers. The challenge isn't going unanswered.

The Government Dilemma: Agronomics vs. Budgets

by Maureen Hrehocik, managing editor

A whole laundry list of concerns is on the minds of government landscape managers across the country.

Frozen budgets, battling the overall economy, pesticide regulation and responsible use of chemicals, a rapidly changing industry, public and employee attitudes, professionalism and education of government landscape managers and their employees, and lack of water top the list according to a WEEDS TREES & TURF survey.

Doing more with less was the overall concern of most managers who responded.

One city landscape manager seemed to sum up the sentiments of many. "We have to consistently produce the quality product, (athletic fields, landscaping, mowing, park maintenance) which the general public and taxpayer have come to expect with increasingly dwindling budgets and crews."

And most know there are no easy answers.

Says another, "We have to be able to sell ourselves to those people in the government who control the budget and make decisions where the money goes. I think landscape management will have an even more difficult time being recognized by the government with all areas that are being cut back (from) federal support."

A profile

Most respondents to the survey were in managerial positions with an aver-

age of 11 years in the industry. Most were involved in city landscape management with state employees following a close second.

They supervise an average land-

government managers in particular. However, our respondents, on the average, managed 889 acres (a high of 10,000 acres, a low of 3). An average of 34 acres of that is devoted to athletic fields. (A few respondents noted volunteer help played somewhat of a role in the maintenance of athletic fields, but the majority were done by city and state crews as part of the regular maintenance schedule).

Intensive care

Respondents were asked to rank by importance certain maintenance areas. Athletic field maintenance, turf and tree management (tie) and indoor building maintenance ranked as "Very Important"; roadside maintenance and tree management (tie), military installations, and turf management ranked in the top three as "Important"; and airports, cemeteries and school maintenance ranked in the top three as "Not Important". (See Table 1)

Plant and landscape installation and tree trimming are the jobs that get contracted out the most.

Tree spraying, paving and asphaltting, capital improvements and large tree fertilization and removal were also jobs most government landscape managers contracted out.

The budget

Survey results show January, March and February are the months in which most budget planning is done.

About half of the respondents pre-

TABLE 1
Importance of Duties Performed

	Very Important	Important	Not Important
Roadside Maintenance	23%	43%	44%
Athletic Fields	64%	14%	22%
Buildings (Outdoor Maint.)	40%	30%	30%
Buildings (Indoor Maint.)	54%	23%	23%
Park Maintenance	48%	23%	29%
School Maintenance	34%	08%	65.29%
Turf Management	51%	39%	10%
Tree Management	51%	43%	6%
Street Maintenance	21%	34%	45%
Snow Removal	39%	.13%	60.87%
Golf Course(s)	.8%	8%	84%
Military Installation	0	41%	59%
Airport	3%	9%	88%
Cemetery	19%	11%	70%

scape crew of 11 (a high of 50, low of 1). Over the past two years the landscape crew size has pretty much stayed the same, although 20 percent said their crew had decreased (one by as much as 2/3) and only a few reported increases.

With the static crew size comes an increase in total acreage to be maintained. Results here varied greatly because of the scope of some state



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LIMIT can save valuable time.

LIMIT can be used in numerous ways to cut back on valuable labor hours...on broad expanses of low-traffic turf such as golf course roughs, campuses or institutional grounds and industrial parks as well as smaller, hard-to-mow areas where obstacles such as trees, shrubs or monuments are present.

Regardless of the turf, reduced growth rate reduces the urgency to mow and frees-up labor to take care of the multitude of jobs required to maintain your grounds.

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To apply LIMIT, you need no special skills or training. (Just follow standard procedures and precautions as directed by the label.) Application can be overlapped without quality loss or uneven growth... which makes it easy to treat landscaped or irregular-shaped areas where overlapping would be impossible to avoid.

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LIMIT goes to work as it is taken up by the plant's roots and moves upward in the plant to the growing points where it slows down the growth. No longer do you have to treat your turf with one eye on the clouds and an ear to the weather report. Moderate rainfall or sprinkling will actually enhance its performance. In fact, turf managers have applied LIMIT in moderate rain and capitalized on wet spring weather to reduce turf growth later on.

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LIMIT turf regulator can indeed cut labor hours from mowing, thereby cutting costs at the same time. And it allows turf managers to use their time more wisely towards other projects that are more timely and require greater care. But the best thing about LIMIT is that it works... and it works consistently. It's been proven in trial after trial.

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dict their budgets will stay the same in 1986, with 1/4 predicting an increase. Again, the 1985 budget amounts were scattered across the board; from a high of \$8 million to a low of \$1,500. About 1/4 of that budget goes for roadside vegetation management and about 14 percent is earmarked for tree maintenance.

Funding comes from a variety of

The 1985 budget amounts were scattered across the board; from a high of \$8 million to a low of \$1,500. About 1/4 of that budget goes for roadside vegetation management.

sources, but in a majority of cases from part of the city budget. In other cases, user fees, state agencies, special taxes, cemetery lot sales and interments, and gasoline taxes provide the funding.

Chemicals, equipment

A concern for proper chemical and pesticide use was apparent from many of the respondents. Says one, "We have to stop using as many and as much herbicides and insecticides and start finding safer and public supported alternatives."

But another laments, "I was asked not to buy or apply fertilizer for the '85-'86 fiscal year. We bought none in '84-'85 and our supply is almost gone. Our best turf areas are starting to look like our worst."

Fertilizers top the list as the chemical used the most as a regular part of most landscape maintenance programs. (In another WEEDS TREES & TURF survey of a larger reader base conducted by a national readership research firm, projections for a total expenditures in 1985 for dry-applied turf fertilizer will be \$34,200,000; for liquid-applied, \$5,340,000.) Herbicides for turf weed control are second, herbicides for total vegetation control are third. (Projected 1985 expenditures for pre-emergence her-

What is your primary source of information for new seed varieties, chemicals and equipment?

- 1 Trade Magazines
- 2 Local Distributors
- 3 Fellow Superintendents and Managers
- 4 (A combination of the above 3)

What types of jobs do you contract out?

- Plant and landscape installation
- Tree trimming
- Tree spraying
- Paving

bicides are \$7,210,000; for post-emergents, \$9,840,000.) Turf insecticides, tree insecticides, wetting agents, fungicides and growth regulators round out the list. (Projections for 1985 expenditures in these areas are: turf insecticides, \$3,710,000; tree insecticides, \$5,580,000; wetting agents, \$616,000; fungicides, \$3,970,000; and growth regulators, \$1,500,000).

A majority of respondents recommend, specify and purchase seed, chemicals and equipment. In only a few cases were the recommendation and specification responsibility left to someone else.

In 86 percent of the cases, equipment is purchased under bid. A little more than half the respondents purchased their chemicals under bid. A handful made seed purchases under bid.

Chain saws are the most common piece of equipment owned by the respondents (91 percent), small push mowers and large riding mowers are the second most important pieces of machinery owned (87 percent) and dump trucks are owned by the depart-

ments of 78 percent of the respondents.

Other equipment includes: chemical spreaders (74 percent); tree or turf sprayers (70 percent); turf aerifiers or corers (60 percent); large walk-behind mowers (49 percent); wood chippers (38 percent); and trenchers (30 percent).

Challenges ahead

It's not only the nuts and bolts of budgets, equipment maintenance, chemical purchases, and work schedules that are vying for the where-with-all of government landscape managers. They also have to be molders of public opinion.

One southeastern landscape manager said, "One of our most important tasks is getting people to understand quality landscapes take time and money."

Another concurs. "We have to educate the public about the long-term costs of landscape maintenance; specifically that landscapes are dynamic living systems which need constant care at a consistent level, plus periodic upgrade if the landscape is to be kept in top condition."

Government landscape managers have also set goals and challenges among their own ranks, acknowledging their own responsibility to their profession. Says one, "We have to keep ourselves aware of improved products suitable to be used around

One of our most important tasks is getting people to understand quality landscapes take time and money."

the public and wildlife, ie. protect the delicate balance of nature in the water, marsh and birdlife."

And closer to home, many of the managers responding said improved employee relations and work attitudes were a high priority.

"We have to educate our younger people coming into the field better to give us a better image in the eyes of the public," responds one manager. "We as an industry have to take pride in our work and pride in our profession. It starts with us." **WT&T**

A private organization joins hands with the City of New York to breath new life into Manhattan's green jewel.

Central Park...One of a Kind

by Ron Hall, assistant editor

Park maintenance problems! How about 14 million visitors a year? Or Miss Piggy doing \$1,700 damage to the plant life during the filming of her celebrated Manhattan movie a while back?

Central Park has problems that are either uniquely large, or just unique.

Solutions to these problems are equally unusual, including the unlikely marriage and cooperation of a public and a private agency. The public NY Parks Department and the private four-year-old Central Park Conservancy have joined forces in the restoration of New York's 840-acre sanctuary. Central Park is being returned to what the park's improbable creator Fredrick Law Olmsted (he had tried his hand at farming and publishing, both unsuccessfully, prior to gaining fame) envisioned some 127 years ago in his now-famous "Greenward" plan which resulted in the first public park in the country.

Olmsted wrote that he felt New Yorkers, even then with the city just 370,000 strong, needed "a sense of enlarged freedom," a place "to recreate the mind from urban oppression through the eye."

A place apart and away from the hustle of the city. That's what Olmsted sought; that's what he accomplished.

That's what was almost lost.

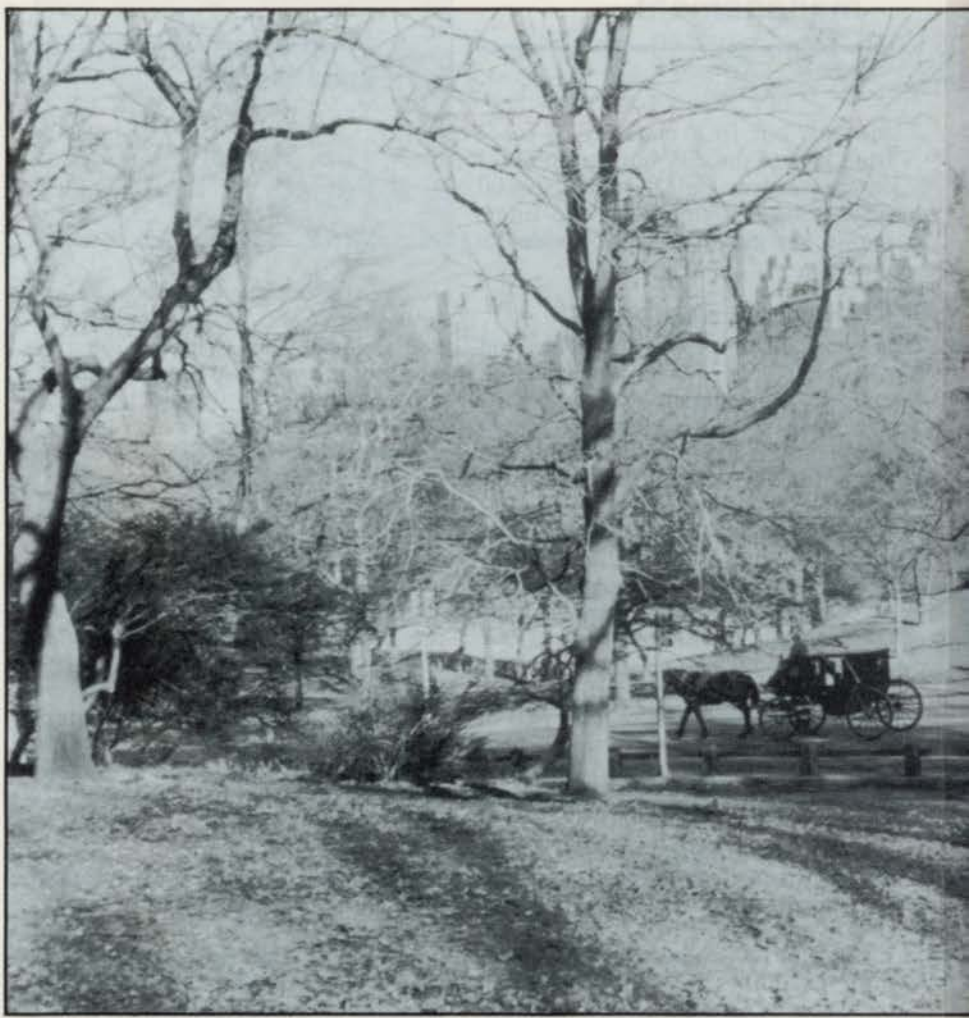
Stricter management

It's coming together nicely now, thanks to a rejuvenated NY Parks Department, the Conservancy (which convinced prestigious foundations to support the Park like other NY treasures) and young minds like Director of Horticulture Frank Serpe and his deputy John Hart, who this frigid winter day are mulling the liberties Miss Piggy (more accurately, her film crew) took with Central Park's turf and shrubs.

"We're the ones that need the say over something like that," Serpe snaps as he eases the blue van up a snow-covered path in the Park. "It's up to us to say what we're going to allow to be done in the Park. And how it's going to be done."

Serpe's stand reflects a tough new

management and maintenance philosophy in Central Park, based in part on economics. In four years the Conservancy has pumped more than \$6 million in private funds to help the Park recapture its 19th century charm. In 1984 the City spent \$6.6 million, the Conservancy added \$1.2 mil



The unmistakable skyline of Manhattan's green jewel.