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WHEN YOU'RE SERIOUS
ABOUT GRUBS.**



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WEEDS TREES & TURF

The Magazine of Landscape and Golf Course Management Since 1962



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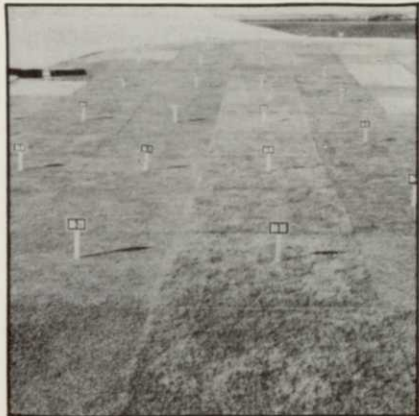


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Cover Photo by Charlie Coppins, Charlie Company, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio.

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 455 East Paces, Ferry Road, Suite 324, 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 © 1985 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.

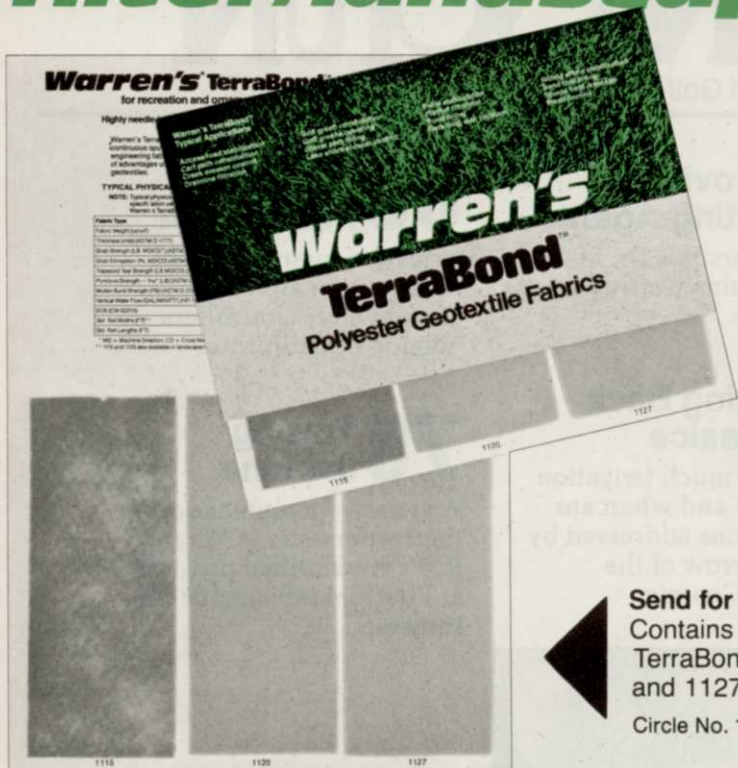
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WEEDS TREES & TURF, P.O. Box 6198, Duluth, Minnesota 55806-9898.

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Liability insurance rates jump

If you apply pesticides and haven't received a liability insurance bill recently, be prepared for a shock. Negative publicity about pesticides and falling interest rates are causing insurance companies to increase premiums, in some cases doubling or tripling them.

Large corporations, such as ChemLawn and Orkin, have developed self-insurance programs. Small companies, on the other hand, find it virtually impossible to develop sufficient reserves in case of a serious mistake and lawsuit.

Some pesticide applicators are opting for higher deductibles to moderate liability insurance premium increases. Others aren't worried as much about higher premiums as they are about availability of coverage in the future. A structural pest control operator said he could get by if insurance premiums increased from one percent of sales to five percent, but without insurance he would have to close his doors.

Smaller applicators should explore group plan options. Then, perhaps, they could develop self-insurance reserves like the big firms.

Reentry period for granulars eyed

Post-treatment reentry period differences between liquid and granular pesticides could cause a shift to liquids, Stanley Sweir, turf entomologist for the University of New Hampshire said in that state's Turf Talk newsletter.

Sweir said the Environmental Protection Agency is looking closely at liquid and granular formulations of Ciba Geigy's Triumph for reentry period differences. The agency, according to Sweir, is considering a 14-day reentry period for the granular and 'until dry' for the liquid applied formulation.

Delays longer than a few minutes or hours are impractical for commercial applicators. If EPA persists in sticking granulars with reentry periods, Sweir questions whether any new granular formulation will ever be approved for turf.

Baby boom to create a golf boom

As baby boomers reach the 35 to 54 year age group, they will swell the lines at first tees across the U.S., predicts Joe Beditz, National Golf Foundation Director of Research.

Beditz is predicting a 75 percent increase in middle-aged golfers by 2000.

"Our statistics tell us the greatest potential market is with the relatively young adult age group," says NGF President David Huebner. "If the percentage of players in that group could be increased over the next five years, it could generate a substantial multiplier effect as golfers move into the older age categories." NGF is planning promotions to increase the number of golfers to 21.2 million by 2000.



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Drought beleaguers Delaware River Basin

Drought conditions in New Jersey, and portions of Pennsylvania, and New York are expected to continue through the summer and into the fall.

Hardest hit is the Delaware River basin where 15 million people live.

George Klenk, an official with the New Jersey Bureau of Water Resources, tells WEEDS TREES & TURF, "the long range forecast doesn't make us optimistic that the situation will improve significantly in the near future."

New Jersey, suffering a 35 percent drop in capacity of its reservoirs and going into its peak water usage period, declared a water emergency in mid-April, an action followed days later by 16 counties in east Pennsylvania and portions of southwest New York.

"It could very easily be the worst drought we've ever experienced in

eastern Pennsylvania," says Dave Masek of that state's department of environmental resources. Lawn watering, other than newly seeded or sodded lawns, is forbidden in the stricken counties, while the owners of private gardens or landscaped areas are allowed to water by handheld hose with automatic shutoff valves or bucket only from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. As of press time, commercial nurseries were exempt from the regulations in Pennsylvania.

Conditions in New Jersey resulted in the closure of 2 million acres of public and private woodlands in hopes of heading off what is feared will be the worst forest fire season since 1963, and a 12-agency task force recommended residents limit themselves to 50 gallons of water each day.

As conditions in New Jersey worsened by late spring, the irrigation of golf course fairways was forbidden and tees and greens were allowed water only from 3 a.m. to 5 a.m. on odd numbered days. Nurserymen were asked to water their stock by handheld hoses for an hour on even numbered days. Lawn irrigation, other than on newly installed sod, was curtailed.

In New York, Mayor Edward I. Koch called on residents to take quicker showers and flush toilets less often.

Similar restrictions were imposed in southeast Florida earlier this spring, and this at a time when local governmental bodies in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan begged for relief from the opposite problem, too much water from Lake Erie which was at a historically high level.

EDUCATION

Shade tips help turfgrass

Shade is a problem for the development of healthy grass, Keith Karnok, Agronomy Department, University of Georgia, told attendees at the recent Southeastern Turfgrass Conference.

Karnok says turf managers can make their jobs easier if they understand why. A Pennsylvania study indicates as much as 20 percent of all turfgrass is maintained under some shade.

Karnok says shade has three immediate effects on turf: 1. It reduces light intensity and removes "quality" light; 2. It restricts wind movement, resulting in a higher relative humidity and a better environment for diseases; 3. It puts turfgrass in competition with trees for water and nutrients.

Good management coupled with the planting of the right types of turfgrass can offset these handicaps somewhat, he explains.

St. Augustine, centipedegrass and zoysiagrass are some of the best warm-season grasses for shade conditions, while tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass top the cool-season shade list.

Karnok recommends infrequent but deep irrigation, higher mowing heights ("you want as much leaf surface as you can get"), and the avoidance of too much nitrogen which he claims stimulates leaf growth without



Keith Karnok

a corresponding strengthening of the root system.

By selectively pruning limbs of nearby trees, sun flecking is increased helping the turf. And by removing underbrush air circulates more freely which reduces the chances of turf disease.

CHEMICALS

Pesticide and fertilizer sales at \$3.3 billion

Manufacturers' sales of pesticides to commercial users jumped from \$1.2 to \$1.9 billion since 1981, reports the research and marketing firm of Charles H. Kline & Co., Fairfield, NJ.

Reasons? Kline points to the rapid

growth of the chemical lawn care industry (turf and grounds accounted for 53 percent of the consumption), increasing numbers of pest control operators, and the growing popularity of slow-release fertilizers.

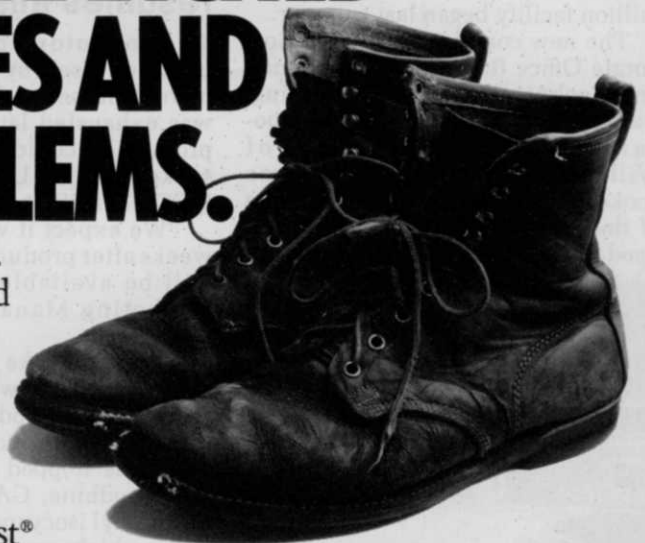
"Some leading manufacturers are placing greater emphasis in developing new products for professional use as opportunities in agricultural applications mature," Kline & Co. reports. "Many of the same products used on crops find rapid acceptance here, provided manufacturers are aware of the market needs."

Overall, about 125 companies offer some 350 different formulations for professional end uses. Pesticides account for 60 percent of commercial dollar sales in 1984, fertilizers the balance of 40 percent, the report states.

The consumer market for pesticides, fertilizers, potting soils, and soil conditioners was pegged at \$1.4 million. Insecticides, spurred by the growth of household products, accounted for about 38 percent of sales and was the largest category. Fertilizers, previously the leader, ranked second with 36 percent total sales.

Kline & Co. says the consumer industry will grow at "a relatively moderate rate" but it won't be until 1989 that consumer sales of pesticides and fertilizers reach the \$1.9 billion figure already reached by sales for professional end uses. Together, consumer and commercial sales of pesticides approached \$3.3 billion in '84.

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GROWTH

Davey Tree builds new headquarters

About 160 administrative and technical service employees of the Davey Tree Expert Co. are moving to new corporate headquarters on a 54.5-acre site near Kent, OH. Work on the \$4.5 million facility began last summer.

The new complex includes a Corporate Office Building and a Human and Technical Resources Building. Design of the buildings is contemporary with a suggestion of Williamsburg, says a Davey Tree spokesman. The "naturalistic" setting of the 22 acres that are being developed is the responsibility of the land-



scape architectural firm S.W.A. Group, Houston, TX.

Davey's offices had been spread across upper floors of several connecting buildings in downtown Kent, OH.

INDUSTRY

Temik production resumes this month

The inventory of Temik 10g, a pesticide used by large-scale ornamental nurseries for insect control, was exhausted late this spring, but production could resume in July, a spokesman for Union Carbide tells WEEDS TREES & TURF.

"We expect it will be about four weeks after production begins that it will be available to consumers," Marketing Manager Larry Baird reports.

Temik 10g, like the more concentrated Temik 15g which is used in agriculture, was produced from methyl isocyanate. Production by the company was stopped early this year at the Woodbine, GA, plant following the methyl isocyanate leak in Bhopal, India, which resulted in an estimated 2,000 deaths.

Baird says Union Carbide does not

anticipate a price increase when Temik becomes available again.

GOVERNMENT

Long Island village 'regulates' landscapers

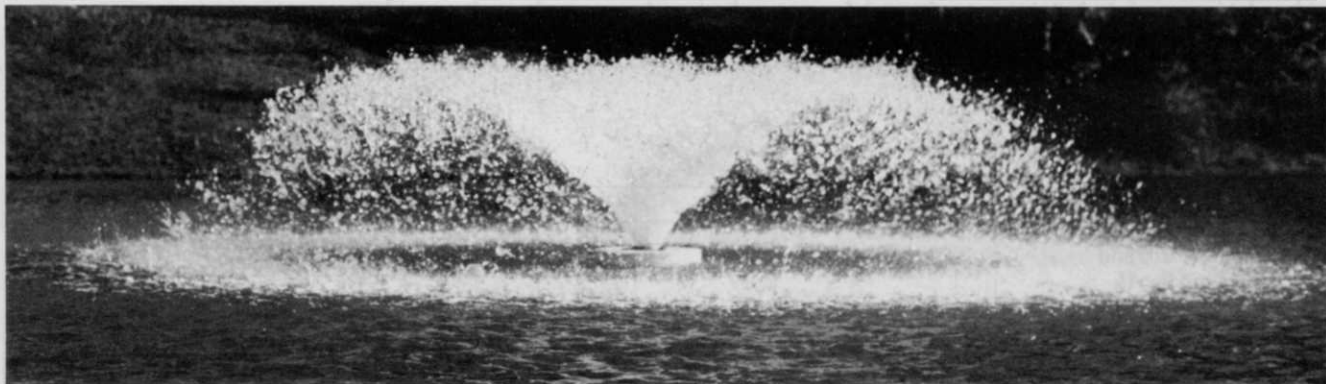
Old Westbury on Long Island, NY, despite opposition from landscape and tree care representatives, recently passed legislation regulating the Green Industry in that village.

Included in the ordinance is a provision calling for the pre-notification at least 72 hours in advance of all property owners within 300 feet of the spraying of pesticides.

"If they make it stick it'll set precedents for other communities," says Don Lehman of Lehman Tree, Upper Brookville, NY, who termed the legislation "devastating and totally unrealistic."

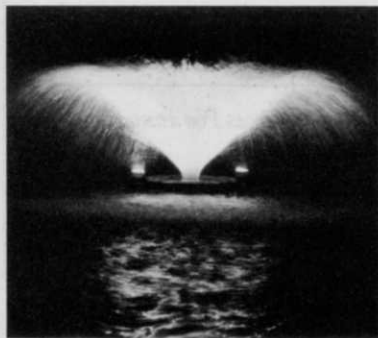
Jon Hickey, in nearby Hicksville, NY, and another member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists, Inc., tells WEEDS TREES & TURF he feels the ordinance "is not enforceable."

The new law licenses grounds companies that work in the village. As part of the procedure each contract



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