



About the only bug you have to worry about with DURSBAN.

So, if you've been having trouble controlling a certain squatty German bug with rubber legs, don't call us.

But, for just about any other bug problem, DURSBAN* insecticide is the answer.

It's labeled for all the major insects you'll be battling this year: chinch bugs, cutworms, armyworms, grubs, sod webworms, chiggers, clover mites, turfgrass weevil, earwigs and more.

No other insecticide fights them longer, either. While other brands quit after four or six weeks, DURSBAN keeps going strong up to eight weeks. And that could mean up to six fewer applications per year on year 'round courses.

But, even though it lasts longer, DURSBAN insecticide costs less than

**DURSBAN
is labeled
for all
the major
insects
and gives you
extra weeks
of
protection.**

most other brands. In fact, you can do a 1000 sq. ft. area for as little as 46¢. Which is probably why many courses are using DURSBAN on tees, fairways and around the clubhouse as well as on their greens.

DURSBAN is also gentle on desirable grasses, ornamentals and the environment.

Choose DURSBAN insecticide in 2E and concentrated 4E liquid formulations. Plus, 50W wettable powder.

DURSBAN. There's hardly a bug it won't get.

Available from your Dow distributor. Be sure to read and follow all label directions and precautions. DURSBAN...for whatever's bugging you. The Dow Chemical Company, 9001 Building, Midland, MI 48640.



Bug-free greens mean more accurate putting.



*Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company

Circle No. 114 on Reader Inquiry Card

5201

WEEDS TREES & TURF

The Magazine of Landscape and Golf Course Management Since 1962



24 Thatch: Friend or Foe?

Members of the WT&T Editorial Advisory Board take a look at the problems—and benefits—of thatch.

30 A Practical Quick-Fix

Dr. Norman Hummel of Cornell University says overseeding can help cure athletic field scars and help promote healthy turf.



36 Public Sports Turf Dilemma

Our exclusive survey shows the sports turf market is on the verge of exploding into a mega-buck, high interest segment of the Green Industry. The question remains of who will shepherd this "coming of age" of sports turf?



48 Soccer Showcase in Michigan

Ann Arbor's Fuller Park wasn't safe for soccer. Enter Gary Fichter who believes the impetus for good fields must come from the users.

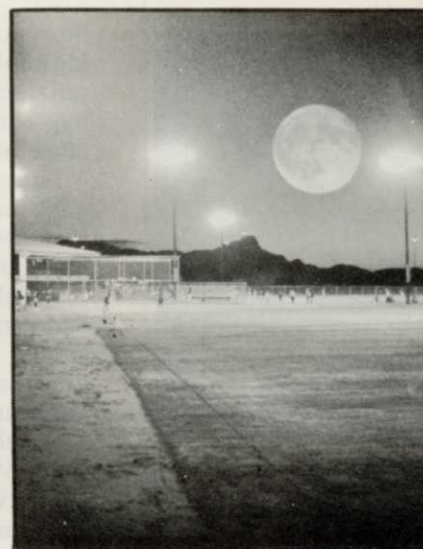
DEPARTMENTS

- 6 Trends
- 8 Green Industry News
- 14 Government Update
- 18 In-The-Middle
- 20 Landscape Log
- 74 Events
- 75 Ad Index
- 76 Outlook



42 Pro Baseball at RFK?

Move over Redskins ... Groundskeeper Tony Burnett is more than ready for the return of pro baseball to Washington D.C.'s RFK stadium.



58 "Pay for Play" in Tucson

The profit approach concept to softball is new with Tucson's Sports Park leading the way.

Cover photo by Charlie Coppins, Charlie Company, Cleveland, OH.

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 © 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.

HB A HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVIH PUBLICATION



STOP GRUBS FROM THE FIRST BITE TO THE LAST GASP.

Grubs are a hardy breed. They're tough to prevent and even tougher to get rid of once they start chowing down on the roots of your turf.

One thing that puts them off their feed is *OFTANOL 5% Granular insecticide.

Another is new OFTANOL 2 Insecticide. It's a liquid formulation of OFTANOL, containing two pounds of active ingredient per gallon.

The nifty thing about OFTANOL, liquid or granular, is that it stops grub damage fast, even before it kills. After an application of OFTANOL, grubs stop feeding and the damage stops. Use it as a preventive, in the spring, or as a curative anytime grubs are a problem.

Grubs, one serious problem with two serious solutions. OFTANOL. Always read the label before use.



**OFTANOL.
WHEN YOU'RE SERIOUS
ABOUT GRUBS.**



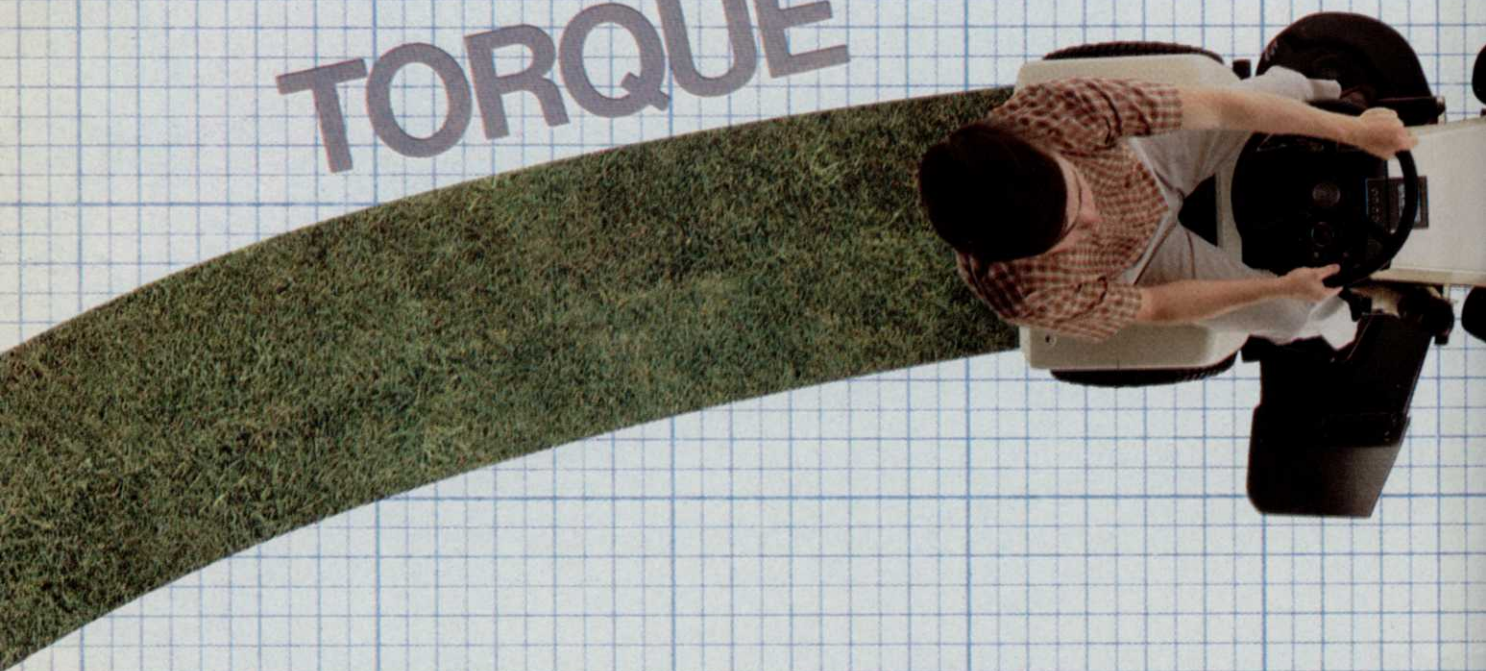
Mobay Chemical Corporation
Specialty Products Group
Box 4913, Kansas City, Mo. 64120

OFTANOL is a Reg. TM of the Parent Company of Farbenfabriken Bayer GmbH, Leverkusen.

Circle No. 135 on Reader Inquiry Card

JUNE 1985/WEEDS TREES & TURF 3

TORQUE



POWER C

200

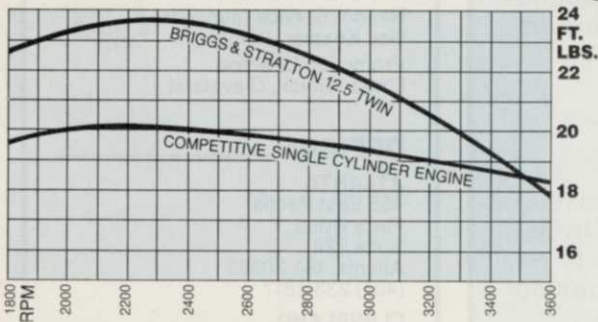
100

300

UNBEATABLE IN THE CURVES.

OUR NEW 12½ TWIN.

If a power curve is your measure of an engine, you don't have to look any further than the new Briggs & Stratton 12½ hp twin. It's unquestionably the super power of its size category.



When it comes to torque as well as smooth, quiet operation, it simply has no competition. In fact, there's really only one area of comparison. Price. You get all this extra at very little extra cost.

BIG POWER FOR TODAY'S BIGGER DEMANDS.

You get nearly 40% more displacement than with competitive engines.

It means greater torque and important back-up power. The kind you need for today's larger rotary blades, debris handling

systems and hydraulic drives.

It's the perfect engine for riding mowers, tractors and wide-area commercial mowing equipment.

A MORE COMFORTABLE RIDE.

A twin is naturally smoother running — the counter-acting forces of opposed pistons create less vibration. That means longer equipment life. And, of course, more comfort for your customers.

LONGER LASTING, QUIETER.

This I/C® (Industrial/Commercial) engine is loaded with long-life features. You get rugged cast iron bores. Cobalite® exhaust valves and seats. Valve rotators.

Replaceable DU bearings. A choice of super-quiet mufflers. A heavy-duty dual element air cleaner — so good it even exceeds automotive standards for efficiency.

And we top it off with a long-life warranty — our 2+5 extended warranty even covers commercial users.

The new Briggs & Stratton 12½ hp twin. All the power you need today. And then some. See your Briggs & Stratton representative for details.



BRIGGS & STRATTON

The power in power equipment.

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

Chemical lawn care exceeds mechanical for first time

Lawn Care Industry magazine has revealed gross revenues for chemical lawn care exceeded those for mowing/maintenance for the first time in the seven-year history of the magazine's State of the Industry Report.

The survey questionnaire, mailed to 1,500 lawn care companies, places 1984 chemical lawn care gross revenue at \$1.5 billion, compared to \$1.3 billion for mowing maintenance. Chemical lawn care grew at an amazing 40 percent pace while mowing/maintenance grew at only 11 percent, which isn't bad compared to most other service industries. Combined, the overall lawn care industry grew 26.6 percent in 1984.

The survey also revealed a large increase in tree care equipment purchases by lawn care companies as they expand into tree and shrub care. Increases in spray tank and irrigation supplies purchases indicates trends toward liquid application and irrigation installation.

Open shops grow in California

William Burke, executive director of the San Diego Association of General Contractors, told the California Landscape & Irrigation Council recently 'open shops' are causing unions to re-think demands. Open shops employ both union and nonunion tradesmen.

Burke's group is now developing medical and other benefit programs for open shops. Such programs further weaken union strongholds in California. Unions, after winning major wage and benefit increases in 1983, have had to accept concessions in following years. LA landscape contractors refused to grant union demands last year causing a strike.

Burke warned the group of Los Angeles area landscape contractors that open shops that pay excessively low wages will only strengthen unions.

Garden centers join discounters

Garden centers are fighting falling consumer pesticide sales by aligning themselves with discount chains. A recent survey by Charles Kline & Co. showed discount stores have captured the largest share of the \$1.4 billion consumer pesticide and fertilizer market, 31 percent compared to 23 percent for garden centers and 21 percent for supermarkets and grocery stores.

In certain markets, lawn and garden centers have entered into agreements with discounters such as Gold Circle to recapture shares of the market. Garden center chains, like Petitti Brothers in northern Ohio, connect their yards to discount stores. Consumers shopping at the discount store are attracted by the plant material displays. Consumers benefit from trained sales people and better quality plant material without having to make an extra trip to a remote nursery.

STAFF

Executive Editor
Bruce F. Shank, Cleveland
Managing Editor
Maureen Hrehocik, Cleveland
Assistant Editor
Ron Hall, Cleveland
Publisher
Dick Gore, Atlanta
Senior Vice President
Tom Greney, Chicago
Group Publisher
Robert Earley, Cleveland
Production Manager
Anne MacLean, Duluth
Production Supervisor
Marilyn MacDonald, Duluth
Graphic Design
Beth Travis-Betts, Duluth
Circulation Supervisor
Laurie Miller, Duluth
Directory Coordinator
Sheryl Albertson, Duluth
Reader Service Manager
Gail Kessler, Duluth
Promotion Director
Linda Winick, Cleveland

OFFICES

ATLANTA
455 East Paces
Ferry Road
Suite 324
Atlanta, GA 30305
(404) 233-1817

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

CHICAGO
11 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) 723-9200

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Dick Gore
Atlanta (404) 233-1817

Ron Kempner
Atlanta (404) 233-1817

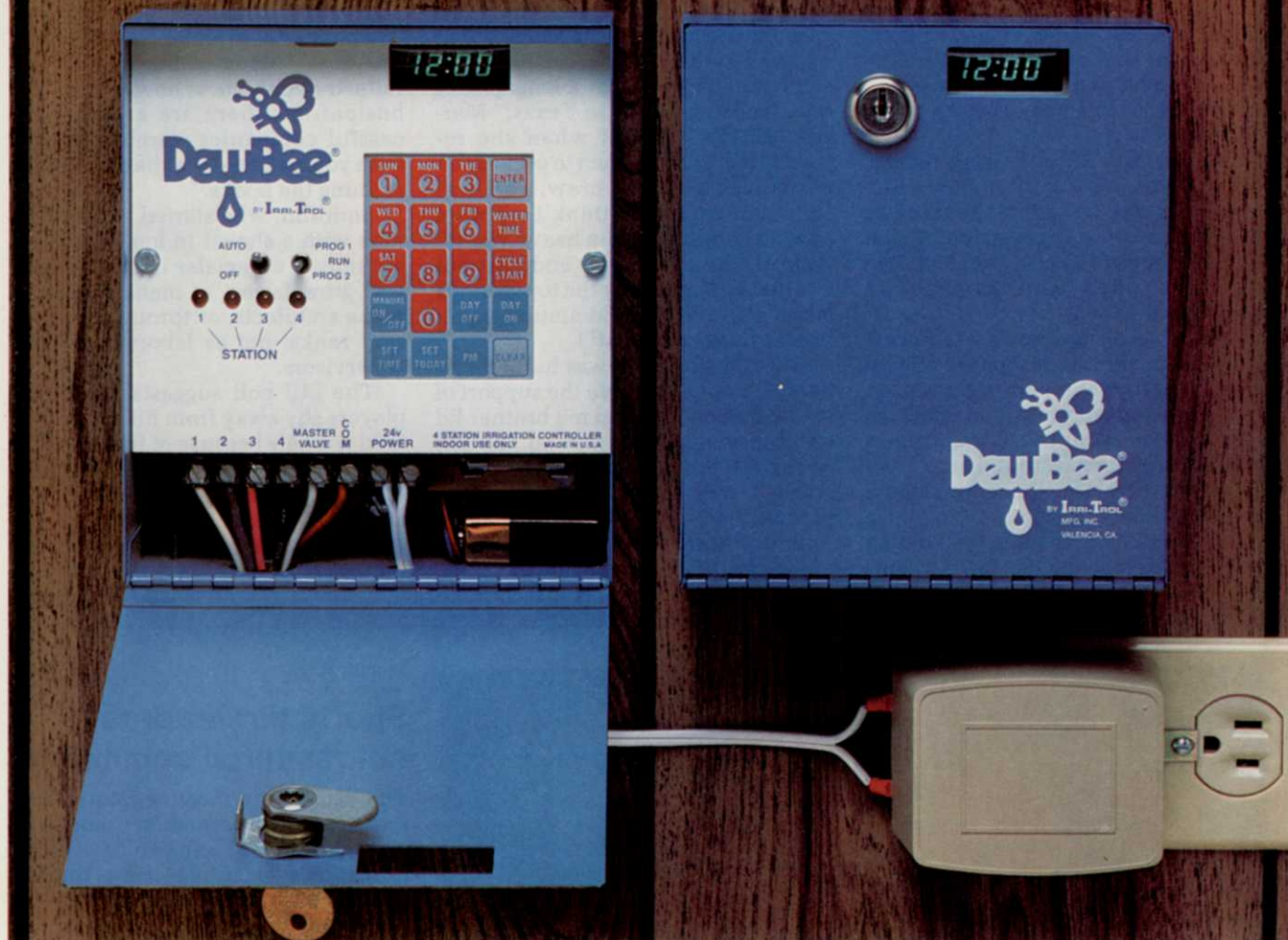
Joe Kosempa
Cleveland (216) 243-8100

Robert Mierow
Seattle (206) 363-2864

(HBJ) HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH PUBLICATIONS

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

Solid State ...Solid Value



4,6 & 7 Station Automatic Sprinkler Controllers

These versatile, digital controllers are designed to satisfy most residential irrigation needs. And, best of all, the DewBee® performs with the proven reliability of a powerful microcomputer. Simple to program and competitively priced, the DewBee® features:

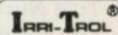
- Watering time that may be set from one minute, to 9 hours and 59 minutes (DewBee® 4, 6), plus, one minute to 59 minutes (DewBee® 6, 7) • 8 programmable irrigation cycles per day • True dual programming • Bright digital display • Lightning protection
- Individual lights showing the watering station
- Split-second accuracy • 9 volt battery to keep program in memory during temporary power failure • Automatically-activated safety back-up program (ASBP)

THE AFFORDABLE
RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER CONTROLLER



BY IRRITROL®
MFG. INC.

Circle No. 120 on Reader Inquiry Card



27940 Beale Court, Valencia, California 91355 • (805) 257-2333 • Telex: 662600 IRTROL MFG VALE • FAX: (805) 257-1063

SURVEY

Women's landscaping role grows...slowly

Melissa Merritt's confidence in her groundskeeping abilities is solid. She's doubtful however, employers look at her in the same light.

When Dana Smithlin talks shop at a conference trade show she usually finds herself in the company of men. As a partner in Foothill Grounds, Tucson, AZ, she just doesn't find many other female business owners in the Green Industry.

Their story, if not typical, reflects some of the trends, often contradictory, uncovered by a recent survey by *Lawn Care Industry* magazine. A total of 2,000 questionnaires were mailed to lawn care and landscape companies.

Women are finding career opportunities in the landscape and lawn care industries the poll suggests, but the Green Industry is still male dominated. The acceptance of women workers (or more accurately the level of their involvement) has been steady. Steadily slow.

Of the 277 companies responding to the LCI survey, 168 (61 percent) "feel" landscape companies are hiring

more women. But of the 139 companies that added additional employees the last five years, only 64 (about 26 percent) added women to their payrolls. And only 20 percent of the women in the landscape and lawn care industries work "in the field" as opposed to the office.

"I didn't have any problems getting on a landscape crew in Texas," Merritt tells *WT&T*. But when she returned to her hometown to get a job on a stadium grounds crew, she was turned down flat. "I think they were afraid I couldn't do the heavy work." Instead, she applied for and beat out 62 other applicants for the top grounds job at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, MO.

Says Smithlin, "it was hard, really hard. Obviously, I have the support of my husband Peter and my brother Ed (the other equal partners in Foothill Grounds), but for the longest time I guess I was kind of like a silent partner."

Smithlin says clients often tried to bypass her involvement in the company. "They'd say, 'Nope, let me

speak to Peter.' That first couple of years I'd get very angry when this happened."

But with more than 40 employees, Smithlin let it be known she takes an active role in the company's affairs. "Someone has to make the decisions," she says. "Many of the men in this industry don't know how to run their businesses. There are a lot of successful companies—probably more than you realize—that have a woman running the books."

Smithlin, who started in the business with a shovel in her hand, says the impact of females in the industry will grow fastest as managers, landscape architects, or through the nursery ranks; not as laborers or crew supervisors.

The LCI poll suggests many employers shy away from hiring women field workers because of the heavy labor of moving railroad ties or swinging a 16 lb. sledge; a point Merritt isn't ready to concede.

"I can operate trucks and tractors," Merritt responds. "Lots of times I've
continued on page 66



Participants at the Sports Turf Summit include: (center to right), Dr. Fred Grau, Musser International Turfgrass Foundation; John Macik, sports medicine coordinator for the National Football League Players Association; Dr. William Daniel, professor emeritus, Purdue University; Dr. Kent Kurtz, executive secretary, Sports Turf Managers' Association; Allan Shulder, executive director, Professional Grounds Management Society; Tim Bowyer, president Southern Turf Nurseries; Michael Latino, eastern sales manager, Ransomes Equipment Co.; Eliot Roberts, director, The Lawn Institute; and Jack Murray, research agronomist, USDA

TURFGRASS

Sports turf leaders set research committee

The decision to create a Sports Turf Research and Information Committee was unanimous after two days of information sharing by 14 sports turf figures from across the country.

"A great amount of good information on sports turf field management exists," Eliot Roberts of the Musser Foundation told the group. "We need to get it in the right hands." The Musser Foundation is a non-profit turf research foundation.

Dr. Henry Indyk, professor of soils and crops, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NY, urged the group to stress the liability of poor sports fields to schools and parks. "No one seems to take poor fields seriously until some child gets injured," Indyk stated.

"A good sports field has a positive impact on a football, soccer, or baseball team," Tim Bowyer, president of Southern Turf Nurseries, Tifton, GA, said. "We install more than 100 new fields each year and team records improve in nearly every case. We know this, but reaching the right people to
continued on page 16