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Circle No. 133 on Reader Inquiry Card 92 WEEDS TREES & TURF/MARCH 1985

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One groundskeeper said, "You know how it feels to load up your 12-gauge and go hunting for quail? That's how I feel with my Gordon spreader when it's loaded with Dyclomec, and I go after fence rows and ornamental beds."

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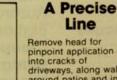
Tilt deflector head down to release granules; tilt it back to stop the flow. Adjust swath width by increasing or decreasing the distance from the ground. Adjust granule output by changing the orifice disks which are provided.



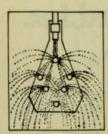
To apply Dyclomec along fences, roadways, ditchbanks, up to shrubs, and inside larger tree wells, point deflector toward target and adjust height from ground. THE SPRED-RITE G FILLED WITH 5 POUNDS OF DYCLOMEC, A REG. \$24.50 VALUE

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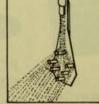


pinpoint application into cracks of driveways, along walks, around patios and in tightly circumscribed spaces. Control width by adjusting the size of the orifice.



Scattered Swath

For applying Dyclomec over any broad area: in nurseries, orchards, graveled areas, around buildings. Hold spreader head parallel with the ground.



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See how Dyclomec turns problem areas into beauty spots ...

The grass along the fence in the photo at left was killed with a fast-acting systemic post-emergent herbicide. Obviously, no professional groundskeeper could abide this ugly mess, so the dead vegetation has to be removed with expensive hand labor. The systemic product is recommended for lawn renovation so, naturally, vegetation will grow back as

new seeds germinate, resulting in an endless cycle of retreatment, ugly dead vegetation and more hand labor. Clean up a fence line with Dyclomec and vegetation will never again be a problem, because an annual pre-emergent application of Dyclomec will form a vapor barrier and keep the area absolutely clean

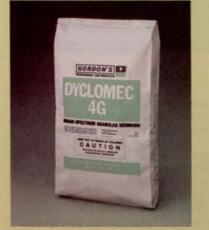


Dyclomec's pre- and post-emergent action controls vegetation in mulch, in rose and ornamental beds, in flagstone or gravel walkways. Dyclomec's vapor barrier gives all-season weed control with maximum safety to desirable plants



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SEA WORLD

A major showplace in Orlando beckons visitors with spectacular vegetation given the undivided attention of Martin Schwerthoffer and his crew of 30.

The biggest challenge for Martin Schwerthoffer at Sea World in Orlando, FL, is meeting the public's expectations.

With an estimated three million people treking through the marine life park each year, the director of landscaping and his 30-person crew labor diligently to make sure Sea World looks good 365 days a year.

Making the turf green and the flowers look as bright in February as

by Barbara Betts

they do in July is not always an easy job. Schwerthoffer and his crew have to work around limitations imposed by the sheer volume of people as well as the conditions of weather and soil. They try to meet the demand to be new and different.

Differences

Whether it means constructing a massive poinsettia tree and protecting it from sudden and unexpected frost or watering an eight-foot hanging basket of impatiens, Schwerthoffer is always "trying to get something different.

"I think people expect unique things from us," he maintains.

His crew is constantly changing the 36 annual beds scattered throughout the park.

"We change so there's a continuous run of color; so it's always different. If a bed looks bad, you pull it," he says.

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To meet these demands, the park's horticulturist raises some 30,000 annuals each year.

Demands on the park's greenhouse and nursery facilities continues to grow, not only to provide for the constantly changing color, but to provide for the demand for landscaping materials created by new Sea World projects. Crew member Jasper McLemore supervised the growth of more than 30,000 junipers in the last two years. The shrubs were recently installed around the new Shamu Stadium. Thirty different varieties of trees were

"I think people expect unique things from us."

also added for that project.

The greenhouse and nursery operation has grown in Schwerthoffer's eight years at Sea World. When he came, the park had one greenhouse. Now there are five.

The biggest reason for the increased nursery operation? Savings. Schwerthoffer estimates that about \$100,000 was saved by growing the trees and junipers to size.

The people

The crowds visiting Sea World are a major constraint for landscaping. The park is open year-round. It is important, the landscaping director says, to keep the grass green.

"People, especially from the North, come down here and expect to see green grass-no matter what the time of year.'

Schwerthoffer savs there are 38 acres of bahia grass and six of bermudagrass overseeded with ryegrass at the park. In the winter, except for the palm trees, the overseeded bermudagrass is the only green thing in the park.

The grass used to be kept green by painting it with a colorant. The color, Schwerthoffer says, was never very satisfactory. And it was costly to put down and maintain.

The overseeding program started two years ago with a search for the right ryegrass. Most ryegrasses, Schwerthoffer explains, were too thick. Then he started buying Lesco's CBS Blend ryegrass and is very satisfied with the results.

"It's turned out beautiful. The beauty of it is that it's a finer texture than we've used before. You can't tell it from the bermuda. We start overseeding in November. We get germination in a short period of time and have no browning or anything. It just goes right to town. There's less cost involved and it always looks good," Schwerthoffer says.

The bermudagrass-ryegrass acreage has to stand up to tough foot traffic, too. On one spacious green section near the Rain Forest, Schwerthoffer estimates more than 200 band concerts are held each year. And the rvegrass stays green.

Specialized needs

And how many landscape managers have to worry about keeping a tropical rain forest warm in the winter? At Sea World, the Rain Forest is kept temperate, despite freezing temperatures, by 200 gas heaters. The heaters, placed every eight feet in the one acre tropical patch, keep the temperature up when necessary, about 20 degrees above that in the rest of the park.

The specialized needs of the Sea World landscape, guite predictably, extend to the significant part animals play in the natural beauty of the park.

The crowds visiting Sea World are a maior constraint for landscaping.

Not only can a visitor see Shamu, sea lions and exotic fish, but can mingle with the 5,000 rabbits, innumerable ducks and deer who wander freely about Sea World in Orlando. While visitors love the natural feeling. Schwerthoffer admits the animals place limits on his ability to cope with common landscaping problems.

Challenge continues

For Schwerthoffer and his crew at Sea World, the challenges continue. Not only do they intend to fertilize early this fall to avoid having flush new growth killed in a winter frost, and use a fertilizer with minors to cope with a soil system that ties up the iron, they will continue to realize the demands of their constituency. The crew will overseed more this year to make more green grass this winter. And they will continue extensive plantings at the nursery to prepare for their next new project-a luxury hotel across the street from the marine life park.

Satisfaction for Schwerthoffer and his Sea World crew will continue to be the delighted faces of families enjoying the green grass and beautiful vegetation. WT&T

Barbara Betts is editor of Lesco News.

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Circle No. 246 on Reader Inquiry Card

Landscape Fabrics

Turf managers rediscover old uses and invent new ones for various types of fabrics.

by Ron Hall, assistant editor

Turf managers are rediscovering a neglected old friend, the landscape blanket. This old acquaintance, redesigned in today's fabrics, has started to generate new interest.

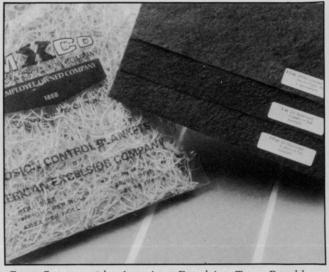
Tobacco farmers learned years ago that putting a cotton cover over seedbeds allowed planting as early as February. In more recent years tobacco growers have gone from cotton to Reemay, a spunbonded polyester produced by DuPont.

Golf course superintendents in the north are learning that turf covers reduce desiccation and winter kill on greens. Stadium managers are discovering fabrics will protect turf in

previously hopeless situations, while still others are betting they can germinate grass seed faster under them. Research is also being conducted to see if grass can be favorably grown through fabrics, or on top of them.

Where this will lead is unclear. What is clear, however, is that a handful of companies feel the science of growing and protecting turfgrass is ready for a variety of different covers. Concerns such as DuPont, Phillips 66, Amoco, and Warren Turf are testing the waters.

"These products have been out for a while, but all of a sudden everyone is saying, 'look what I've found'," says Tom Blunk, a former golf course superintendent. Blunk, a representative of Blunk's Wholesale Supply near Chicago, handles the



GreenSaver mat by American Excelsior, Terra Bond by Warrens, and Duon from Phillips 66 are examples of the large variety of turf and grounds covers now available.

Phillips 66 product Duon. Blunk is right. Ground covers aren't new. American Excelsior has

Tobacco farmers learned years ago putting a cotton cover over seedbeds allowed planting much earlier in the year.

been producing grounds blankets made of excelsior (Aspen wood fibers) for years for use on slopes, median strips, and other areas where a quick vegetative cover is needed.

What's new is the ways covers are being used. And some of the fabrics themselves.

American Excelsior is almost 100 years old, but it's GreenSaver blankets with excelsior sandwiched between plastic mesh just started finding favor as a golf course greens cover in recent years. Oakmont Country Club, site of the 1983 U.S. Open, has used Excelsior's GreenSaver blankets with heartening results.

Covers of various materials have been used for erosion control and for separating sand and soil in golf

course sand traps for years. The use of these same types of covers, with engineering improvements, may be ready to blossom in the turf industry. The spark is coming from far-thinking turf managers seeking solutions to specific problems.

Victory or disaster

Curiously, Michael Jackson, the superstar of the popular music set, gave it an unknowing boost during his "Victory" concert tour last summer and fall. The tons of scaffolding and equipment and the thousands of fans at the tour stops overwhelmed the natural turf in many of the top sports stadiums in the nation. The pop music triumph was a turfgrass mega-disaster.

But Cleveland field boss Dave Frey