

## Upside-down harrow saves time, money

Using a Fuerst harrow upside down may sound ridiculous, but one golf course superintendent is doing just that...and saving time and money in the process.

Bruce Jackman, superintendent of the Clarkston Golf and Country Club in Clarkston, Wash., uses the harrow smooth-side down to break up aerifier plugs. The process takes him less than half the time he used to spend pushing the cores off the greens by hand.

Jackman, whose greens are almost completely sand-based, cautions that the technique may not work on other types of greens. "I sure recommend it for greens like mine," Jackman says. "I don't know how it would be for soft ones or clay, but for sand greens it's super."

Jackman starts by making sure his greens aren't too wet, just wet enough

that his Ryan aerifier will go to a three-inch depth with the spike. Then he lets the greens dry for 10 or 15 minutes.

The key step is to drag the harrow, smooth-side down, on the back of a golf cart. On Jackman's greens, each measuring 4,000 to 5,000 sq. ft., it takes about 10 minutes to break up the cores.

Next, Jackman explains, he uses a blower to blow away the debris. He follows this with a Lelly containing sand and a sand ring in it to spread the sand. Again, he uses the harrow and brushes to drag the sand into the holes.

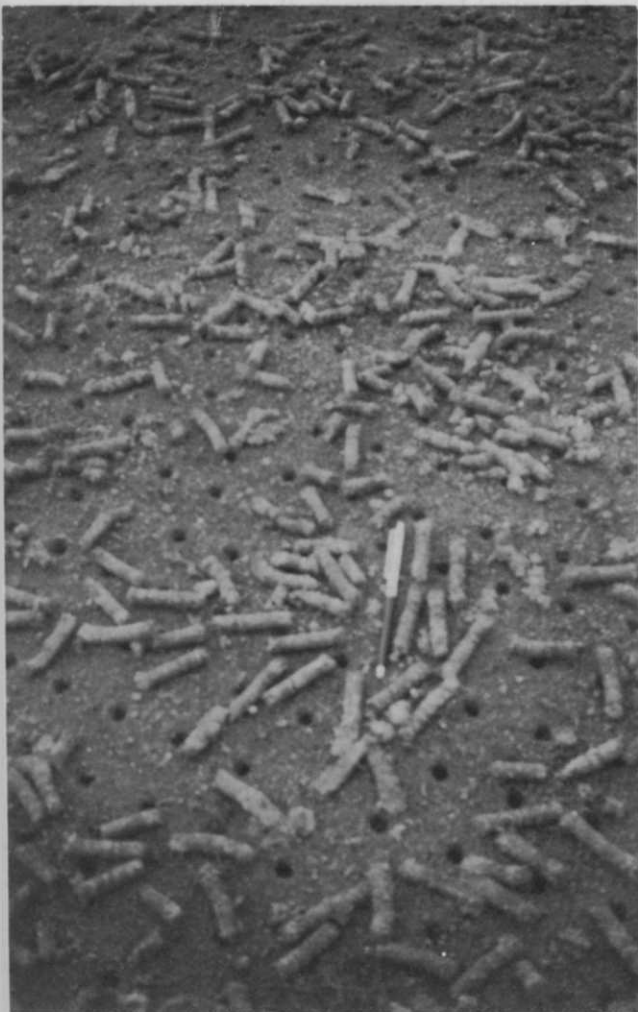
"The little bit of sand the harrow doesn't get into the holes, the brushes do," Jackman says. "Within an hour or an hour and a half, I'm ready to turn the water on, and the people can play

golf on them, and they'd never know they've been aerated."

Jackman estimates he saves about three man-hours per green or about 54 hours for the entire process. "We used to set aside a full week to do the 18 holes. Now, I can start Monday morning, and, if I have good weather, I'm done Tuesday night."

Jackman says it's important to remember what type of aerifier one uses. His Ryan leaves lips, so to cap them, he must drag the harrow in the opposite direction of the aerifier. With some aerifier models, the harrow can actually be pulled directly behind the aerifiers.

Jackman says his process works not only on greens, but fairways and pathways as well. "They may think I'm nuts, but I do it, and it's cheaper and it does a good job."



Aerifier plugs before dragging with an upside down Fuerst harrow.



Aerifier plugs after dragging.

# PROBLEM SOLVERS

by Balakrishna Rao, Ph.D

## Removing annual grassy weeds

**Problem:** Is there any product or practice which will: 1) remove weedy grasses from a blue/ryegrass lawn once they have germinated; and 2) remove bermudagrass at any time from blue/ryegrass lawns (poa annua and crabgrass excepted)? (California)

**Solution:** If you are referring to annual grassy weeds, post-emergent products like DSMA, MSMA, or Daconate-6 can be used to manage weedy grasses after they have germinated. It is best to apply these products when seedlings are very young and are at the 2-3 leaf stage of development.

Other groups of grassy weeds in lawns include perennial plants like coarse or tall fescues and quackgrass. There is no herbicide to remove these on a selective basis. Non-selective herbicides such as Roundup can be used to manage them. These non-selective herbicides will kill any green vegetation which is contacted. Therefore, be careful in areas where it will be used. After the treatment, wait for 7-10 days and prepare the soil for seeding and seed the area with desirable grass mixtures.

Although it is not impossible, it is difficult to remove bermudagrass at any time from blue/ryegrass lawns. The best practice is to use Roundup and then seed the area with desirable turfgrass mixtures. Reports indicate that bermudagrass is a difficult grass to kill with one application of Roundup.

Therefore, repeat applications will be necessary until all the bermudagrass is killed. If the plants are already producing seeds, bagging them along with the clippings while mowing will help minimize the infestation in the future. Maintain good cultural practices to favor the establishment of desirable turfgrass which would gradually minimize bermudagrass infestation later on.

## Managing snow mold

**Problem:** A number of our clients' lawns had snow mold disease problems in past years. What is the best way to manage these problems? (New York)

**Solution:** Success in snow mold disease management depends upon proper diagnosis of the causal agents and following good management guidelines. Since we do not have a good broad-spectrum fungicide to manage all snow mold diseases, proper identification is very important when considering a fungicide treatment.

Several different fungal agents can cause turf diseases at low temperatures. Among these are pink snow mold (*Fusarium patch*) caused by *Fusarium nivale* and gray snow mold caused by *Typhula* spp., which are the two most common and important snow mold diseases active during the winter months.

Pink snow mold is characterized by reddish-brown spots with pinkish colored margins. Pinkish mycelial growth may be present at the border of patches in early morning.

Gray snow mold has gray to black mycelium with hardened yellow-brown fungal bodies (sclerotia) embedded in the leaf and crown of infected plants.

Often snow mold problems can be managed successfully by following good cultural practices. Avoid producing lush growth by fertilizing in the fall. Continue mowing until turfgrass top growth stops. Manage the thatch problem if present.

Since the snow molds usually kill only the turfgrass leaves, rake and break up infected and matted leaves to encourage new tiller growth from the crown. This should be done before grass greenup in spring and prior to application of pre-emergent crabgrass herbicides.

Lawns with a history of snow mold disease severity can be treated with fungicides. General fungicide recommendations include one application before the first snow cover, the second application during mid-winter and the third application after the snow melts in the spring. Among these three applications, the one which is made in the fall before the snow cover is more beneficial and practical.

Chemical treatments in the spring—after the damage has been done—may not be very effective.

## Avoiding tree wounds

**Problem:** In the past we have tried iron-container drilled holes. Is there something we can apply on tree foliage or treat through the soil for iron chlorosis without wounding the trees? (Michigan)

**Solution:** Several companies market chelated forms of iron that are recommended for either foliar or soil application. Contact a horticultural supply service for products available in your area.

Based on our experience, soil applications of iron work best as preventative treatments for shade trees. We have not had consistent results with soil applications of chelated iron at recommended rates after chlorosis symptoms have developed. The leaves of some tree species do not respond to foliar treatments of iron. Therefore, we would suggest you try it on a small scale, perhaps spraying one branch.



Balakrishna Rao is Director of Lawn Care Technical Resources for The Davey Tree Co., Kent, Ohio.

Questions should be mailed to Problem Solver, Weeds Trees & Turf, 7500 Old Oak Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44130. Please allow 2-3 months for an answer to appear in the magazine.



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# PRODUCTS

## Dylox gets new EPA registration

The EPA has approved a new registered label for Dylox 80% Soluble Powder Insecticide. Dylox, a product of Mobay Chemical Corp., is made ex-



clusively for turf and ornamental uses.

Dylox can be applied as a foliar and soil treatment for control of pests infesting flowers, shrubs, trees, lawns, and turf. It provides fast kill on various leaf, soil and surface insects, including cutworms, sod webworms and white grubs. It won't kill off beneficial insect populations.

Circle No. 190 on Reader Inquiry Card

## Weather-matic introduces high pop-up heads

Weather-matic's high-pop sprinklers eliminate the need for unattractive metal risers that tilt, discolor, and adversely affect landscape beauty and maintenance, according to the manufacturer.

The 30 series offers pop-up heights from 12-inches for shrubs and flower beds to two and a half inches for lawns



30 Series Lawn and Shrub Sprinklers

and low ground cover. The sprinklers are designed for use with Weather-matic 300 series brass nozzles of specified adapters for adding specialty

nozzles or extension risers.

Each sprinkler has a retractable stainless steel spring and a unique polyurethane wiper seal. An exclusive cover design virtually eliminates retraction problems. The combination seating and wiper seal prevent sand and dirt from entering.

The bayonet twist cover allows easy parts removal from the top. A plastic strainer located under the nozzle prevents clogging and makes cleaning easy.

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## Excel unveils new 60-inch rotary mower

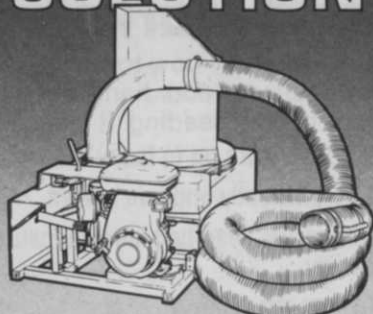
Excel Industries has designed a maneuverable new 60-inch rotary mower. The 18-hp Hustler 262 features an out-front, 60-inch, three-way deck, which allows clippings to be discharged to the side, rear, mulch or a combination of side/rear for heavy mowing conditions.

The mower has dual hydrostatic drive for true zero-degree turning radius maneuverability and long system life. A hydraulic pump powers the two drive wheels, which are independently controlled by twin steering levers. This exclusive direct drive



EXCEL HUSTLER 262

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system eliminates the need for high maintenance.

Attachments for the 262 include a 16-bushel Bac-Vac grass vacuum, a 60-inch dozer blade and coulter-type edger. The 262 can be used commercially or for estates, contract applications, and farms.

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### Jake expands reel mowers with new triplex model

Jacobsen has designed a lightweight triplex mower for precise grooming of formal and semi-formal turf.

The TF-60 features five hydraulically-powered blade reels which cut a 62-inch swath at heights from 1/4 to 3/4 inch.

The TF-60 can be used on golf course collars, tees, and fairways where a close height is required.

The hydraulic traction drive allows for varying cutting frequency to match both height and type of turf. Reels are reversible to permit back-



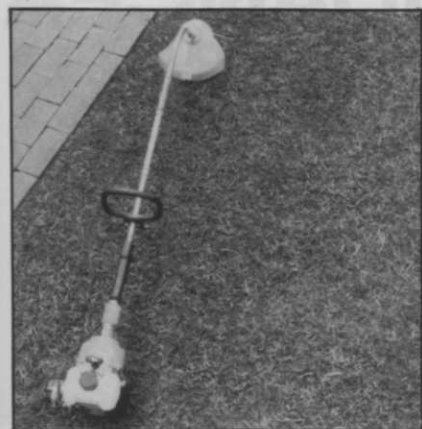
lapping in place.

The triplex has an eight gallon fuel tank. The interchangeable grass catchers are standard.

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### Stihl trimmer smallest in line

The Stihl FS-51 AVE trimmer takes care of those small, but important jobs.



At 11 pounds, two ounces, the trimmer is the smallest on the Stihl product line. Its lightweight design makes it perfect for lawn edging, cutting around trees and bushes, and along walls and fences.

The trimmer utilizes an electronic ignition system for easy starting. Other features include an adjustable loop handle and centrifugal clutch.

Accessories available for the FS-51 are nylon line heads, auto-cut line head and rotocut blades.

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### EDITORIAL INFORMATION EIS SERVICES

If you are interested in obtaining any available or additional editorial research or reference materials published in this or previous issues, direct inquiries to Kathleen Maciuszko at (216) 826-2839, ext. 839.



## This Head Could Put You To Sleep

The cool, calm hours of the evening and early morning are ideal for irrigation. But the noise of an old-fashioned impact sprinkler is about as conducive to a good night's sleep as a couple of cats on the roof.

The resulting customer complaints about noise have been a tough problem to solve. Until now.

Hunter's silent-running sprinklers are designed for quiet operation at any hour of the day or night. They're gear-driven for a soft, even, rain-like application of water.

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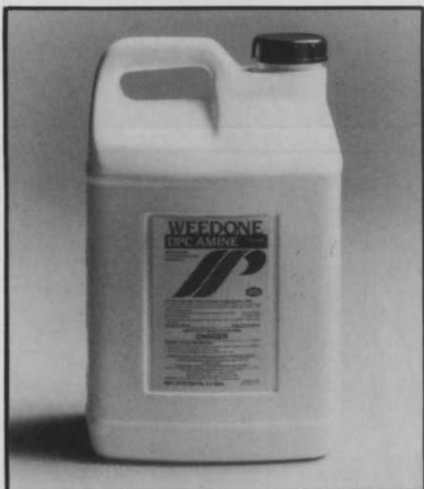
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## Union Carbide develops Weedone amine herbicide

Union Carbide Agricultural Products Co. has developed an amine formulation of broadleaf weed herbicide for turf management professionals.

Weedone brand DPC Amine herbicide can be used in routine spray applications. It is a non-volatile amine salt formulation.

Weedone contains the weed-kill-



ing power of 2,4-D and dichlorprop. It kills most weeds, including oxalis, spurge, ground ivy, and violets, but won't injure adjacent vegetation or

leave a lasting residue in the soil.

The herbicide can be used on residential lawns, golf courses, athletic fields, and parks.

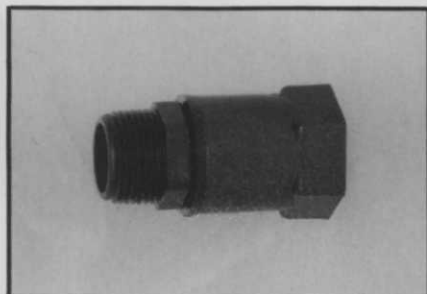
Weedone can be applied at any time of the year. Tank mixtures with fertilizers are possible for economical "weed and feed" treatments.

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## Stop head thieves with King Head-Lok

It's easy to steal valuable sprinkler heads. Thieves know it but now you can prevent theft with the Head-Lok, developed by King Bros. Industries.

Head-Lok is a PVC fitting which is placed between the riser and sprinkler head below ground. When someone tries to remove the head, a



swiveling action prevents the removal without extensive digging.

Head-Lok is available in 1/2-inch, 3/4-inch, and one-inch sizes.

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## Rear mount tiller allows close planting

The Roto-Hoe Co. has designed a new power unit/rear mount tiller that allows for planting rows closer together. The tiller is 16 1/2-inches wide, making it easier to plant rows close together.



The model 910 is available with a 4 or 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. It also has five forward speeds, ranging from .35 mph to 1.75 mph.

Roto-Hoe manufactures the tiller's

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### Greensmower available for field tests

Lesco is offering its new greensmower for field tests. The company has scheduled the Greensmower for full release this year.

The Greensmower has hydraulic power steering for easier maneuvering with no cables. It also features independent reel controls for multiple mowing patterns and reversible hydraulics to allow backlapping of individual units while the operator remains on the machine.

The Greensmower has an 18 horsepower, twin-cylinder Kohler Magnum engine and is designed for easy servicing. For example, it isn't necessary to remove the valve blank to access the valve spools. Also, the pump removes easily through use of "flex" coupling. The Greensmower has jacking pads for easy frame repairs.



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### Aluminum edging is alternative to steel

Permaloc is marketing 3/8-inch and 3/16-inch aluminum edging. The edg-



ing can be used as a landscape border for plantings and sand-set brick pavers.

The aluminum edging won't rust like steel edging. It resists most salts and fertilizers, which cause rusting.

The edging saves on labor costs since it is easier to install than steel. The aluminum is designed to stay in the ground. Because it is three times lighter than steel, it is less costly to ship and easier to handle during installation.

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### COMING:

#### Next month in WEEDS TREES & TURF

Part II of "Landscaping at the Nations Top 10 Companies," plus a survey of the roadside vegetation control market.

Mails May 22nd

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