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BY PROFESSIONALS

LAWNCARE

# Service calls running you into the ground?

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TURFLON D herbicide. It could be just what you need, if service calls are running you into the ground. Talk to your distributor today.



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# WEEDS TREES & TURF

The Magazine of Landscape and Golf Course Management Since 1962



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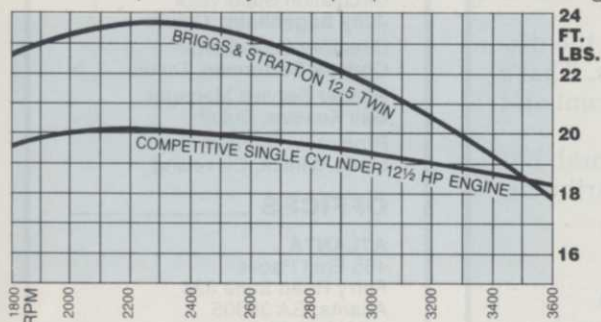
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If a power curve is your measure of an engine, you don't have to look any further than the new Briggs & Stratton 12½ hp twin. It's unquestionably the super power of its size category.



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

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The power in power equipment.



Jerry Roche



Ken Kuhajda



Ron Hall

## A fair price and a fair profit

■ In travels around the country our editors have heard turf managers say things like, "My distributor buys a new Cadillac every time I walk out his door after a purchase. His prices are killing me!"

We've also heard distributors say, "These turf managers beat me to within an inch of my life on price, and then they want service on top of it. I can't afford to do business at these prices."

The truth probably lies closer to the second statement, judging by a recent survey.

For every dollar of turf chemicals or equipment sold, the distributor walks away with only 2.2 cents—before taxes. That's tight. The survey also noted that gross profit is 26.8 percent and operating expense is 24.9 percent.

What's the moral of the story? Perhaps there is no moral, but one thing is for sure: if you expect service from your distributor, you have to expect him to make a fair profit on his sales.

## Compromise needed for peace on FIFRA

■ According to a recent story in the *New York Times*, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)—stalled for 13 years—could be renewed soon as the chemical industry and environmental groups reach a "rare peace."

The agreement did not stipulate how underground water supplies are to be protected, but it provides for an EPA review of health and safety studies submitted to this point, and possible new restrictions. "It also calls," the *Times* story said, "for regulation of pesticide ingredients not now subject to review."

This sort of compromise is long overdue. To serve the best interests of all parties involved, both sides must continue to give inches while not trying to take miles.

## Sports turf's brave new world

■ Who will be the first to grow turfgrass inside a domed stadium?

George Toma, chief groundsman for the Kansas City Chiefs, thinks quality turfgrass can be grown on portable pallets, then used as needed for a quality sports turf surface. New Jersey turfgrass expert Henry Indyk feels advances in lighting technology will allow turfgrass to be grown indoors. He says he will be around to see it. Dr. Kent Kurtz, turfgrass professor at Cal-Poly Pomona, maintains that "in the next five to ten years, domed stadiums are going to have natural grass growing in them." In Germany Dr. Max Losch designs, builds, and installs retractable roofs for sports halls. These facilities make money, England's SPORTS INDUSTRY reports.

Pieces to an intriguing puzzle. Who will be bold enough to profitably tie them together? Domed stadiums don't look too far away in Chicago and Cleveland.

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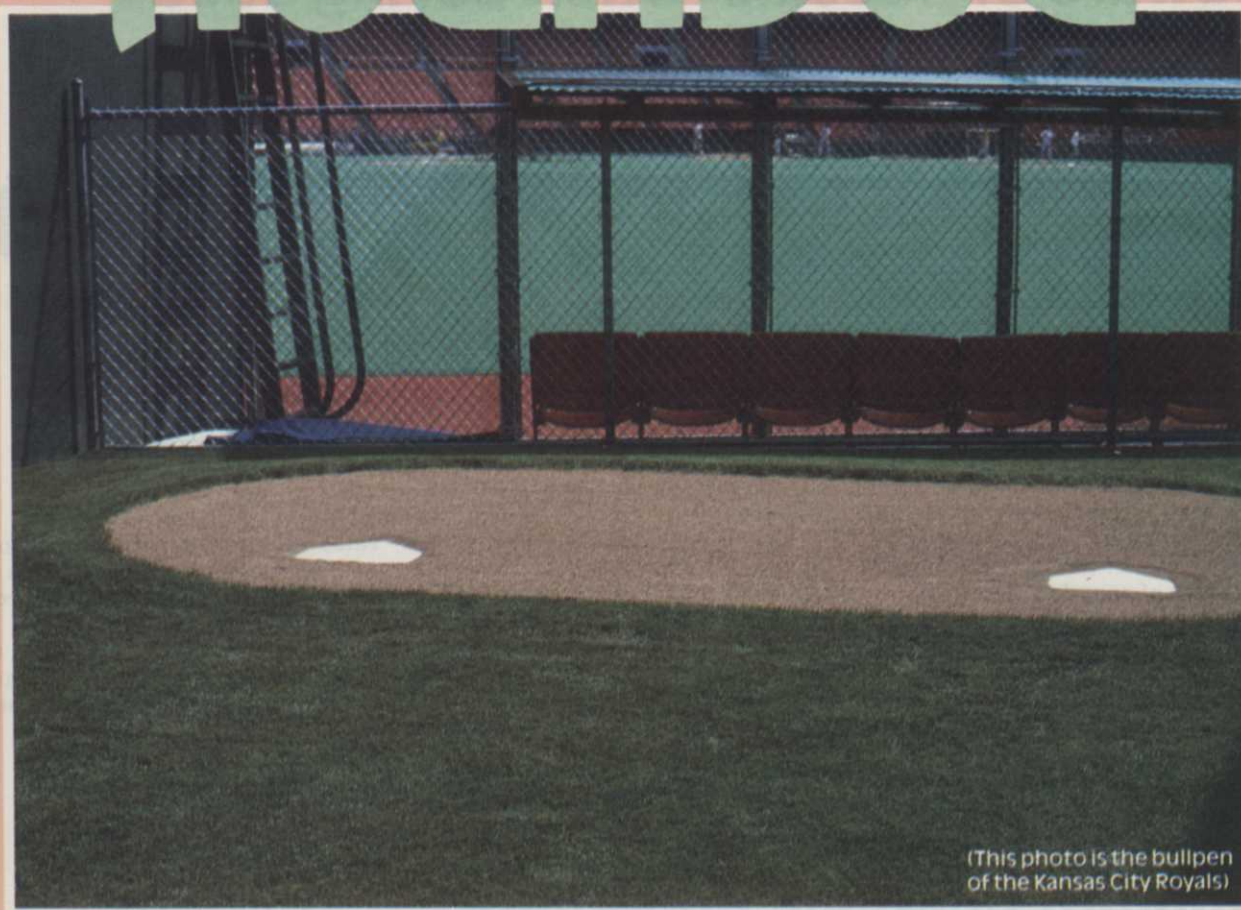
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# HOUNDDOG



(This photo is the bullpen of the Kansas City Royals)

## Is At Home In The Bullpen Of The Kansas City Royals

That's because the highly respected groundskeeper of the Royals, George Toma, knew that Hounddog turf-type tall fescue would give him handsome, tough, tenacious, low maintenance turf.

When it comes to grass Toma has the credentials. He's a special consultant to the National Football League and prepares the playing surface for the Super Bowl as well as for the champion Royals and the Kansas City Chiefs.

He'll tell you that Hounddog is one of the leaders in the new generation of turf-type tall fescues which have earned a solid reputation for low maintenance qualities whether cut at 1½ or as high as three inches.

A prime choice for the upper South as well as the transition zone and Northern regions, Hounddog holds its quality even during the heat and humidity of summer.

Hounddog is very drought tolerant because it has the legendary deep root system of all tall

fescues. Because it is a low maintenance variety it requires minimum fertilization.

Moderately low growing and leafy, Hounddog approaches modern Kentucky bluegrasses in appearance and is generally considered the darkest green of the turf-type tall fescues.



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## SEED

### Beware of 'rascals' when buying seed

"There isn't such a thing as a bargain in seed," says the president of a turf seed testing firm in Marysville, Ohio.

Dale Kern, of Seed Technology, Inc., warned participants in December's New Jersey Turfgrass Expo, "you get what you pay for."



**Dale Kern**

These warnings prefaced comments concerning the labeling of turf seed. That process, Kern explained, often involves the testing (under optimum germination conditions) of as little

as one teaspoon's worth of seed per lot. The size of the lot could involve hundreds of pounds of seed.

There could be a wide variance in the quality and quantity of seed within a shipment of seed, he explained.

For instance, a pound of bluegrass

seed could contain as many as 1,100,000 or as few as 800,000 seed. The same is true of other species. And, even though the germination rate, as displayed on the label, could be the same for different bags of the same variety, the resulting seedlings might be as different in vigor as "pro football players and 85-year-old men."

Says Kern, even though some companies exceed the law ensuring the quality of their product, "there are some rascals in the industry."

Kern told the turfgrass professionals they will obtain better results with lower seeding rates of high quality seed than by higher



rates of inferior seed. He recommended commercial seed users insist on a 25-gram "all weed, all crop" check.

"They should say, 'I want to see everything that's in there.' There isn't a bargain basement in the seed industry," Kern said.

## SURVEY

### Lawn care operators would donate to public education

More than three-quarters of all lawn care operators would financially support a program to respond to public concerns about the use of chemicals, according to a survey conducted by Infometrics Research.

Of 120 total respondents, 91 said they would finance such a program.

As shown in the chart, most LCOs feel the chemical companies have responsibility for financing such programs; even though many also feel distributors, LCOs, and the Professional Lawn Care Association of

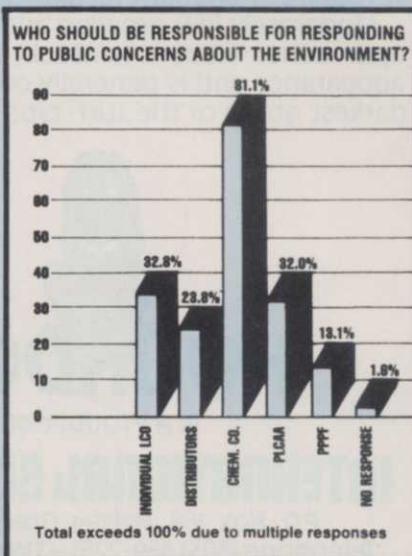
America have a responsibility.

In conjunction with these findings, 91.1 percent said they would distribute additional consumer literature, and 87.8 percent felt such literature should be designed to minimize the fear of chemicals.

A 94.3 percent majority felt that LCOs should unite nationwide to address chemical trespass legislation.

Asked if sign-posting on treated properties should become a voluntary but standard practice, 66.9 percent said "no."

A 74 percent majority felt all lawn care technicians should be certified.



## PESTICIDES

### Posting law passed in Maryland county

Homeowners and "green industry" workmen must post signs prior to applying pesticides in Prince George's County, just outside Washington, D.C.

Late last year the county council, by a 7-2 vote, passed the posting law.

The measure requires anyone (excluding farmers) who applies to pesticides to post a sign visible from the street. Failure to comply will result in a \$50 fine.

The council acted in spite of a ruling by Maryland Attorney General Stephen H. Sachs that local governments may not regulate the sale and use of pesticides. Those functions, he reported, are regulated by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

The law didn't generate undue enthusiasm from the county health department, where officials say enforcement may cost over \$100,000 a year.

Mike Tidd, owner of a Lawn Doctor franchise in nearby Glenn Dale, was one of just a few to openly speak against the issue prior to the vote.

"We didn't have an alliance in there fighting and punching," Tidd tells WEEDS TREES & TURF. "It's emotional stuff and the county council bought it hook, line and sinker."

## Davey Tree donates truck and sprayer

Davey Tree, based in Kent, Ohio, has always had good luck hiring those who graduated from Hocking Technical College's tree care and timber harvesting program.

To show its appreciation, Davey recently donated a sprayer and truck to the Nelsonville, Ohio,-based technical school.

"Hocking has always turned out a high-quality trainee to the industry," says Davey area manager George Gaumer.

"We want to support their arboriculture program so they turn out an even higher-quality graduate," Gaumer tells WEEDS TREES & TURF.

Gaumer says the truck and sprayer will allow Hocking Tech to teach practical approaches to pest management and tree nutrition.

Hugh Morton, Hocking Tech director for forest industries training, tells WT&T that the truck is undergoing natural gas conversion and will run on either natural gas or gasoline.

Hocking Tech has its own natural gas wells in the rolling hills of southeastern Ohio.

The two-year, publicly-funded college offers 30 different areas of study to its 4,000 students. Almost a quarter of the students are in the natural resources department.

An associate degree of technical studies in tree care and timber harvesting includes an intensive 11-week program in tree care.



Hocking Technical College reps Hugh Morton (right), director of the Institute for Forest Industries Training, and arboriculture instructor Nelson Pierson (center) accept a truck and sprayer from Davey Tree vice-president/general manager/commercial services Don Shope.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE

# Georgia firm will haul small waste quantities

Got some hazardous waste you want to get rid of?

You may want to call St. Joseph Motor Lines of Atlanta.

St. Joseph will haul any amount of hazardous waste to an EPA-approved disposal site, in accordance to recently-enacted RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) amendments regulating the Small Quantity Generator.



Eastwood

Eastwood, manager of St. Joseph's hazardous waste division.

"We're trying to dispel the fear that complying (with the RCRA amendments) will cost so much that the small quantity generator will be out of business," she says.

Under new EPA/RCRA rules, anyone generating more than 220 lbs. of hazardous waste per month must dis-

pose of the waste at an EPA-approved disposal site. The redefinition affects many lawn and landscape businesses.

St. Joseph charges by the 55-gallon drum. It prepares the proper manifests and label, and disposes drums.

"There's not a whole lot of choice out there," says Eastwood. Common carriers do not accept shipments of

hazardous waste and hazardous waste private carriers generally accept only by the truckload.

"This will become the accepted practice for the small quantity generator," she says.

For information, call Eastwood at (404) 452-1744 or write 5724 New Peachtree Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341.

## SPORTS TURF

# Dr. Kurtz applauds turf's 'new breed' in Ohio Turfgrass Show Speech

"We have a new breed of person coming along," says Dr. Kent Kurtz of the sports turf segment of the green industry. "It's no longer 'five yards and a cloud of dust'...but we may still be as much as 70 years behind the golf course superintendents."

Kurtz, speaking at the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation conference, further noted that "the sports turf industry has never recovered from the 'wonder carpet.'" He did say, however, that some new developments

could help athletic field managers narrow the gap. Specifically:

- geotextiles, which affect better drainage and warm frozen turf;
- pre-germination tactics for quicker growth;
- turf colorants for dormant turf;
- improved turfseed varieties; and
- sod anchoring for new sod.

"The athletic segment of the industry is just starting to blossom," claims Kurtz, who is executive director of the Sports Turf Managers Association.

**T**O PYTHIUM THIS LOOKS LIKE THE



**There's one unwanted guest that can eat away at the healthiest turf and cause widespread damage overnight. Pythium.**

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Pythium, and downey mildew (yellow tuft) as well. First, Subdue stops disease on contact. Then it acts systemically, penetrating the turf for a long lasting, residual defense. In fact, just one or two fluid ounces per 1,000 square feet lasts up