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Blazon® is a liquid which readily goes into solution. In hand held and backpack sprayers, add 1/2 to 1 ounce per gallon. For broadcast spraying, the application rate will vary from 16 to 32 ounces per acre, according to the height, color and density of the target foliage.

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Circle No. 171 on Reader Inquiry Card non-crop vegetation. Not intended for application to edible crops.

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**Dave Kipton, chief groundsman for London's Queens Club, with the lawn tennis courts he's cared for the past 20 years.**

tional competitors, usually the week before Wimbledon.

### Court tips

Here's how Kimpton prepares these turf courts:

- Each spring he scarifies, passing sharp blades over the courts five or six times. Spikes are criss-crossed an additional six or eight times, the final pass with one-inch spikes for overseeding.

- An application of chlordane kills the earthworms. Worm castings play havoc with a bouncing tennis ball.

- Fungicides are usually needed several times each summer. "I just tend to keep an eye on things," says Kimpton. "If I see something down there, I have to tweak it."

- Fertilizer in a light peat base is applied twice annually, in the spring and the fall. The fall feeding is heavier with phosphorus and potassium, the spring application with nitrogen.

- Sand topdressing at least twice each season helps smooth out the wrinkles.

- Soil pH is checked at least once every two seasons.

Kimpton's job is to maintain the health of the turf while providing the hardest, smoothest surface possible. Ransomes reel mowers keep the turf at  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch.

Says Kimpton, "it's getting to the stage where I'm beginning to need a head groundsman to do some of my work." And part of that reason, of course, is the attention his courts get from world caliber players.

Says Kimpton: "The professionals play here four or five weeks each year, and the wear they create is more se-

vere in that short period of time than the members the rest of the season."

And the banned McEnroe, a three-time champion at the Queen's Club?

It seems unpleasant words were spoken when he disputed court time on one of the all-weather courts.

"I guess it's bit snobbish," Kimpton says with a hint of a smile in his blue eyes.

—Ron Hall

## SOUTER OF STIRLING

Scotsman John Souter's international reputation grows as the rescuer of sports playing surfaces. Providing proper drainage is his starting point.

John Souter, stonefaced in thought, sits in the gloom of Glasgow's Ibrox Stadium, in the director's box. The people to know fill these sheltered, midfield seats high above play. These are the people who gather at halftime in a cozy paneled room to trade pleasantries over coffee and tasty bite-sized pastries.

Souter earned his station in this group.

This 40ish Scot—always, it seems, dressed for business—makes a com-

fortable living giving his sport-loving countrymen with what they want. And what they want is grass that can take the pounding of cleated athletes during Scotland's damp North Sea winter. That's the season for rugby and soccer here, played in huge concrete stadiums brimming with rabid fans. Deep-seated rivalries lure busloads of excited spectators, dressed in club colors and chanting club songs, miles from home.

In contrast, the enigmatic Souter.

Business is business in his world, no shenanigans. His employees don't drink and drive. They, like Souter, dress well; they pick their words with care. And fun is fun. Souter's light-hearted presentation honoring Dr. Bill Daniel slid into a round of song at the Midwest Turf Conference last March. His wit, sharp but not unkind, is often aimed inward.

### Rain falls

Today soaked Ibrox pulsates as the hometown Rangers match up with the visiting soccer team from Dundee. A weeklong rain that barely slackens prior to gametime has Souter, in a natty camel overcoat, his straight blonde hair pasted over a balding pate, surveying the shredded grass in the goal mouths.

Earlier this week this same Ibrox field drank in three inches of rain while the Rangers battled a Spanish team in what one local sports writer described "as the worst conditions I've seen in 25 years of covering the game." The scars of that contest, just three days later, are not evident.

That the game is played at all speaks well for the dogged inbred persistence of the turfgrass (mostly perennial ryegrass). And for Souter's work. Ibrox is just one of many fields installed or



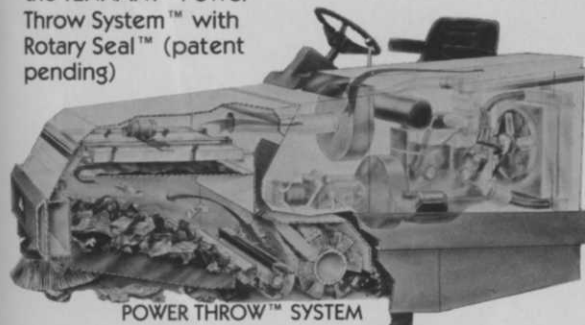
**John Souter, left, and Eddie Connaughton review drawings for a new Scottish golf course.**



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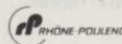
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## ENGLAND



**Soccer is big business in the UK. This Glasgow field, Ibrox Stadium, gets Souter's attention.**

renovated by Souter since 1967.

Souter's reputation, fueled by an understanding of proper drainage, expands in spite of a tiny (by U.S. standards) support team of just five trusted field foremen. "Each of my boys can take care of a big job," says Souter. These men personally oversee maintenance on many of the of the 18 major fields in the UK which he has renovated.

### Rows of sand

Drainage is the cornerstone, and one of the tools he uses is the so-called Morton Sand Slitter, devised by Irishman Alec Morton. This machine, looking like a pregnant cyclone spreader, lays 3,000 yards of sand slits (50mm wide, 100-300mm deep) daily. There are reportedly only two in the world, Morton's and Souter's.

The success of this sand-slitting technique is going international.

In 1984 Souter jetted to Malta in the sunny Mediterranean to rescue a four-year-old, clay mud pit known as the National Stadium at Ta'Qali, one stop on the prestigious FIFA (soccer's international ruling body) circuit. Just four years old, the Ta'Qali stadium had been described as "notorious" by writers.

Souter recommended working 1,600 tons of medium/fine sand (125-500 microns) four inches into the regraded and recrowned field. Periphery and lateral drains, as well as sideline manholes, were installed along with irrigation.

His maintenance program (the Malta grounds staff came to Scotland for training) includes spiking three times weekly plus frequent sand top dressing. Late in 1985 the field received additional sand slits. The success of this

work garnered Souter contracts for seven additional soccer pitches. Work began on four of these last fall.

### Other directions

But while sports field renovation spotlights Souter's work, his firm, Souter of Stirling, grows in other directions including the design and renovation of golf courses, and the sale of turf machinery and products.

The newest member of his staff, Eddie Connaughton, an ambitious young Irishman with a Purdue University turfgrass background, took to the road as Souter's salesman this past summer. Ever-smiling Connaughton, a scratch golfer who played for Ireland before earning his Purdue letter jacket (which he still wears with some pride), works out of Souter's headquarters in a low-slung block building in Stirling, dominated—as many Scottish cities are—by a brooding castle. A staff of 20 works here about 40 minutes from Edinburgh.

Souter, however, professes little concern for getting bigger.

"I'm not looking to get much larger for the quality aspect of our work," he says. "After that I think you get into buck shifting."

Here on the outskirts of industrial Glasgow the young athletes, hair still damp from the showers, file out of now-silent Ibrox into the rain. No celebrations here, the hometown Rangers lost.

Souter is in the basement examining huge conduits which snake into and under the stadium's turfgrass surface and will keep it from freezing in the months ahead.

—Ron Hall



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But recently it has taken on a new role: helping lease space at new office complexes and industrial parks.

In the past, the star at a new development was the bright new building. The trees came later. Developers landscaped only minimally, planting small trees, hoping that in 20 years the trees would be bigger and fuller, thus hiding the aging building.

Today, that's not the case. "Trends in commercial landscaping have changed dramatically in the last 10 to 15 years," says Walter Flowers, president of Moon/Rickert Nurseries in Yardley, Pa.

"Until recently, the main consideration for landscaping was the zoning requirement, what you had to do to get site plan approval. Today, to put it in a nutshell, developers are spending more money on larger specimens to create an instant effect earlier in the construction of a project," he says.

### An established look

Flowers says developers want potential tenants to "feel" that a new building has been there for a while.

"Going in up front with landscaping creates that impression. Then leasing agents don't have to rely only on renderings showing



**Above and below left, the landscaping is showcased at The Prudential's Freedom Business Center in Valley Forge, Pa.**





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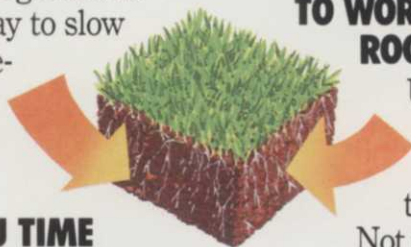
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projected landscaping. It's an immediate amenity. And if the site is aesthetically pleasing, it's much easier to sell the package," he says.

Flowers cited Prudential's Freedom Business Center in Valley Forge, Pa., as an example of the new trends.

Long before the steel went up, the site was graded, topsoil was spread, grass was planted, and the parking lot, signage, and marketing trailer were landscaped.

"When a potential tenant came to the site, he saw attractive landscaping from the highway to the parking lot to the marketing center and back again," says Flowers.

"Hopefully his impression was that if Prudential is taking care of the outside, they probably will take care of the inside as well," he adds.

Ken Koldziej, Rickert vice-president of sales, says competition has caused the landscaping change. "The better developers are spending money because they're trying to attract better tenants in return," he says.

"Some clients are spending \$1.50 a square foot just for landscaping alone. Some will spend more than that on small projects," says Koldziej.

"Suppose you had \$10 million in buildings. Even with a 10 percent interest rate, that's \$85,000 a month it costs to have empty square footage sitting there. So if landscaping helps to rent the space, it's worth the investment," he says.

### An expected amenity?

But there's a flip side to the investment issue. Some say quality landscaping is becoming such an expected amenity that it's difficult to know if you're getting a return.

"As far as working out the dollars and cents, it's very hard to pinpoint," said Kim Sermersheim, investment manager for The Prudential Realty Group and project manager for Freedom Business Center.

"You look at landscaping from a cost point of view but you also look at what the landscaping contributes to the quality of the site.

"As we come into work along the highways, we're bombarded with various forms of visual pollution," Sermersheim continues. "Road signs, parking lots, and electrical and mechanical equipment, for example, all detract from an attractive and comfortable office complex."

Sermersheim adds that landscaping can transform these unsightly areas and create a natural and pleasing environment.

Sermersheim has no qualms about calling Freedom Business Center "extensively landscaped."

"Most times it refers to quantity, not quality. When we use the term, it refers to both. The Prudential philosophy is to create quality work environments that people will appreciate on conscious and subconscious levels. That's where you get returns on your investments: by tenant satisfaction, lease longevity, and a positive image as a developer who cares," he says.

At Freedom Business Center, situated on 24 acres, the landscaping was purposely blended with the existing campus.

"The design goal was to introduce four new buildings to a site bordered by well-landscaped properties and Valley Forge National Park," says Koldziej.

"Prudential added 400 trees to the site and accented it by adding berming and mounding, which gives the site curves and angles and makes it appear softer visually and physically. Now the site gently rolls right into the park," he says.

### A softer look

Koldziej notes several techniques that give a site texture and color to make the buildings appear to be more than steel and concrete.

Among them:

- Small, round trees or shrubs at corners to soften visual lines,
- Winding paths from the parking lots to the buildings to create a relaxing mood,
- A variety of trees to give visual relief.

Flowers tells an interesting story of how a different tree didn't work.

"We had a client who spent \$150,000 to landscape a fairly small site. We put some trees in the entrance that were outstanding specimens but had strange, twisting shapes.

"The chairman of the board had us remove them and put in evergreens. His rationale was that crooked trees projected a crooked image. Evergreens, on the other hand, were straight and trim, corporate and structured.

"That's how far it's gone. Even CEOs are concerned with how landscaping projects an image," says Flowers. **WT&T**

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## SUNBELT SYNDROMES

Landscape manager's guide to diseases  
cool and warm-season trees and ornamentals

by Donald J. Blasingame, extension plant pathologist, Mississippi State University

**T**he southern U.S. is blessed with an ideal environment for the growth of most ornamentals plants. Unfortunately, the same environment is also ideal for the development of a number of disease agents, especially fungi.

In a short article it is impossible to list all ornamentals grown in this region and the diseases that attack

them. Rather, we will list nine of the more common ornamentals grown in the sunbelt and the major disease problems they face.

### Azaleas

**Azalea Petal Blight:** This disease is largely confined to azaleas grown in the southern coastal states from Maryland to Texas. Indian and

Kurume azaleas are especially susceptible.

The disease first appears as small, water-soaked spots on the petal. These spots sometimes give the flower a freckled appearance.

Under favorable conditions the spots enlarge rapidly and cause the flower to become limp and eventually collapse. The entire flower appears to "melt down" and tends to cling to the foliage rather than fall to the ground as spent healthy flowers.

Petal blight often affects the blooms of entire plants within a matter of a few hours, progressing so rapidly that it destroys the beauty of the plant overnight.

The fungus lives from season to season on infected blossoms in the mulch. Therefore, to control flower blight, one must remove all the old mulch from around the plants and replace with new mulch before the plants begin to bloom. Drench the soil with Terraclor in early January using one cup of 75 percent WP in enough water to wet 100 sq. ft.

When the blossoms begin to open, apply either Thylate, Bayleton, or Zyban as a blossom spray. Additional applications may be needed during the blooming period.

**Twig Die-Back:** Several fungi are associated with this disease complex.

These fungi normally enter the plant through either bud or leaf scars. The die-back organism may kill a few inches of the twigs or, if untreated, consume the entire plant.

To control die-back one must prune and destroy all infected branches. Remember that the normal pruning period for these plants is just after blooming. Since the infection period is just after the bloom season, one must continue his spray program for petal blight beyond the blooming period.

**Leaf Gall:** Leaf and flower gall is a common disease on azaleas and camellias in the south. The fungus may infect the developing leaves, stems, and flowers—causing severe distortion, swelling, and thickening of the plant parts.

As the galls form, the infected parts may become white or light green. The



Above, azaleas afflicted with petal blight. Petal blight sometimes affects the blooms of entire plants within a few hours. Below, entomosporium leaf spot of photinia. Once established, the disease is difficult to control.