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## LANDSCAPE PROFILE

he'll need to repeat the application, but he plans to carefully monitor caterpillar populations this spring.

The second problem was not so easy to diagnose or control. With the help of Penn State Extension Service, Sowers discovered that *Diplodia* tip blight was responsible for the death of 24 Austrian and red pines, and the decline of 122 other conifers on the heavily wooded course. This spring, Sowers plans to follow Penn State's recommendation to make three applications of benomyl to halt the disease.

### Disease control

In addition to carefully managed fertility and water management programs, Sowers feels that a regular turf disease prevention and treatment program is essential to maintaining the turf quality at Sunnybrook.

"Bentgrass is more prone to diseases than most species," Sowers says, "so a good fungicide is a necessity. Dollar spot is my biggest disease problem, and it was particularly bad this past July because of the high temperatures.

"Our board of directors approved the purchase of Chipco 26019, based on a photograph I had taken of one fairway where I had tried the product," he says. "One of my crew accidentally missed a strip down the middle of a fairway while he was spraying. The contrast between the untreated area infested with dollar spot and the lush treated grass down the sides convinced the board."

In 1985, Sowers' first fungicide application was on June 10. He treated greens and tees every 14 to 21 days and fairways every 21 to 28 for the remainder of the season.

"With the cost factors, such as labor and equipment that you face today, you can't afford to apply a fungicide every seven days," says Sowers.

Sowers believes that getting out on the course and playing golf, as he does regularly, has helped him learn to manage his course better. "Many superintendents look at the course from a maintenance point of view rather than from the player's point of view," he explains. Bob Sowers has managed to combine the best of both worlds at Sunnybrook. **WT&T**

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by Harold Vaubel

## Super finds 'Instant Spring' with grass paint

During winter days, many of us begin to dream of an "instant spring" which would bring to life a seemingly eternal barren landscape.

Some superintendents are no longer dreaming. Some are now experiencing "instant spring."

Instant Spring can't manipulate the date of the vernal equinox, bring warm weather sooner, or shift the polar ice caps around so northern climates bask in equatorial sunshine. The Instant Spring product, however—it's a grass paint of sorts—can at least turn things greener sooner.

Some major U.S. golf courses, particularly in the West where people keep a sharp eye on water use, have adopted the earlier-than-seasonal green.

The use of Instant Spring makes sense for reasons of conservation and economics as well as wintertime aesthetics. It lessens the need for intensive wintertime irrigation.

For over 10 years, I have watched this "Greening of the Sun Belt" phe-

nomenon as I managed or helped manage courses in the Southwest, beginning my career as an assistant golf course superintendent at the Good-year Golf and Country Club in Litchfield Park, Ariz.

I held the same position at the Tucson National Golf Club, then moved up to superintendent positions at the Albuquerque Country Club in New Mexico and the Desert Forest Golf Club in Carefree, Ariz. I am currently superintendent at TPC Starpass in Tucson.

During the years I've had the chance to peruse the "greening by man" effort and it's certainly worthwhile in aesthetic terms.

Even regions where water is plentiful and applied liberally still experience brown, dry grass during midwinter. Use of Instant Spring makes sense in most places if the goal is to keep things looking at least a little greener than Mother Nature herself would provide during wintertime's dormancy.

What golfer after all, is not drawn to the sport partially—if not mainly—because of the chance to exist for a time in a "world of green?"

To achieve that green using Instant Spring, you simply paint the grass.

Wellborn Paint Manufacturing Co. of Albuquerque developed the product which reflects two great interests of company president Fred Wellborn: painting and golf.

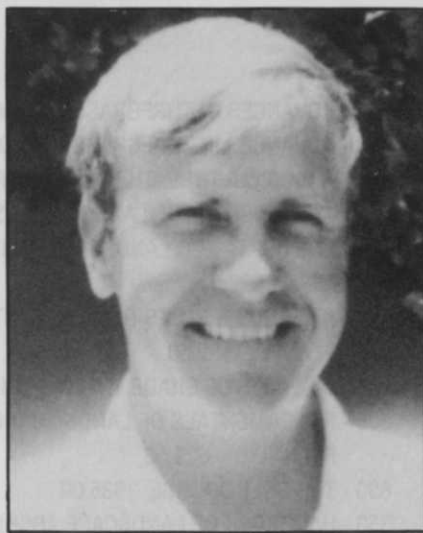
He started his paint company in the middle of the Sun Belt—Albuquerque—in 1947 and built the company into a large regional manufacturer of paints and coatings with the help of chemical engineers, tinters, and energetic marketers.

Many Wellborn products are formulated specially for the Southwestern climate, with its long, hot summers, intense sunshine, low humidity, and occasional winter blizzards.

Wellborn found that the Sun Belt offered many days per year of good golfing weather. In fact New Mexico receives sunshine seven of every 10 winter days. Only the green was missing.

I was familiar with Wellborn and the idea of painting golf course fairways during the early 1970s. My first experience with the product was at Desert Forest Golf Club, one of *Golf Digest's* top 100 courses, in 1981.

Though I've seen applications



Harold Vaubel

done various ways, I use two coats with a 20:1 water to acrylic base ratio in the first coat, and a 30:1 ratio in the second.

As always, application ratio varies with grass type and density, and region of the country.

I don't spray everywhere—just the fairway area. We mix ferrous sulfate in before spraying at a 10 lbs. per acre rate. The use of ferrous sulfate gives a better defined area and a more visually-pleasing result.

I believe the use of paint products in the winter, whether under the Instant Spring label or not, has been a visual plus.

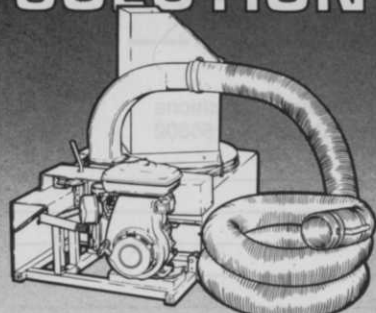
Initially, the desire for as much year-round greenery as possible came mainly from the golfers but superintendents who have gone this route have found some other benefits as well. In my own case, I found some unexpected positive results:

- A better playing surface. Rye-grass is often used to keep things green for a longer period of time. However, it's a rough, uneven playing surface. By using other grasses that go dormant sooner than rye, we can have a smoother surface.

- Cost savings. Products which bring spring to the stage earlier than the calendar does also help out financially.

Compare the cost of seeding and maintaining rye-grass, which I estimate can run as much as \$900 to \$1,000 an acre, with the \$100 an acre it takes to apply two coats of "Instant Spring" at the application ratios I previously mentioned.

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# PROBLEM SOLVERS

by Balakrishna Rao, Ph.D.

## Pine problems

**Problem:** Well-established, large Scots pine trees are turning brown and dying, and we are unable to find any evidence of insect or disease problems. Do you have any idea what the problem might be? If so, I would appreciate your comments to help save these and other pines. (Ohio)

**Solution:** Since you were unable to see any disease or pest problems, I suspect the possibility of pinewood nematode causing wilt problems. Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) are reportedly very susceptible to this pest.

For positive identification, send plant tissue samples to a diagnostic clinic like Ohio State University, which is equipped to perform nematode assay. Generally, 6-inch long, 2- to 3-inch diameter branches close to the trunk are sufficient to determine the nematode activity.

At the present time, there is no chemical control for this wilt disorder. Since nematodes are reported to be spread by insects like pine sawyer beetles, controlling the insect activity might help in managing the nematode problem. Dead and dying trees should be cut and removed to prevent breeding sites for insect vectors. Disinfect pruning tools before using them on healthy trees, since the nematode can be transferred through wounds.

Although the importance of fertilization with this problem is not fully understood, extension personnel do recommend maintaining good cultural practices and a good fertilization program. Reports also suggest that controlling needlecast and pine tip blight diseases may aid in minimizing wilt problems.

## Managing black locust plants

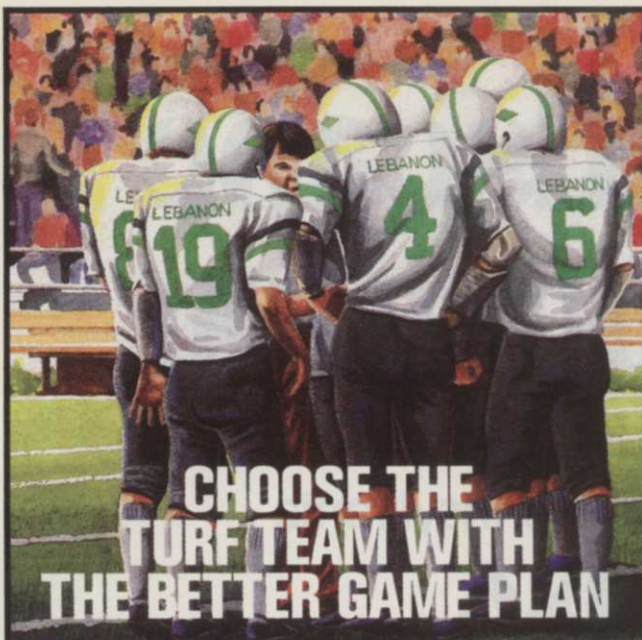
**Problem:** What chemicals and methods can be used to control black locust plants growing near highways or slopes? The plants are about 2- to 4-inches in diameter and growing rapidly. (Chicago)

**Solution:** Black locust plants can be effectively managed by the use of chemicals through foliar sprays, basal trunk treatments, or stump treatments.

For foliar sprays, Garlon 3A plus 2,4-D or dicamba plus 2,4-D combinations can be used. Spraying should be sufficient to wet the leaf surface rather than to the point of runoff. Since these treatments will discolor and show "burn out," this method may not be aesthetically acceptable in many areas.

Another approach is to do basal trunk treatments. Apply combinations of Garlon plus 2,4-D ester or dicamba plus 2,4-D ester formulations on the trunks about 18 inches above the ground level.

In places where the above methods are not acceptable or feasible, consider using the stump treatment methods. Reports indicate that cutting back the black locust plants to ground level first and then immediately applying Tordon to the cambium layer will provide adequate control. Read and follow the label specifications for best results.



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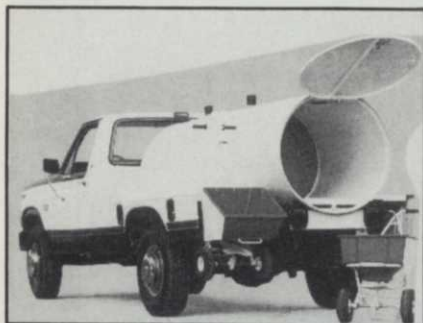
# PRODUCTS

## Low volume rig from Perma-Green

Perma-Green Supreme of Merrillville, Ind. has introduced the GL3001, a low-volume spray rig.

A production capacity of 300,000 square feet per fill-up enables your operator to complete every spray job—large or small—in record time, Perma Green claims.

Twenty-six cubic feet of bagged products, extra chemicals and equipment are kept secure, dry and out of sight in the locking hatchback com-



partment. A gas spring lifts and holds the latch, and built-in brackets secure the spreaders.

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## Four 'heavyweights' for lawn and garden

Agri-Fab has four new products for lawn and garden built to last.

The Model 41-0166 plug-type lawn



aerator connects to tractors and riding mowers with a simple pin hitch.

The Model 41-0184 utility cart has a 17-cubic foot capacity with manual

lift for dumping the big hauling jobs.

The Model 41-0187 broadcast spreader (shown here) holds up to 160 pounds of granulated fertilizers, seed, sand or ice melters.

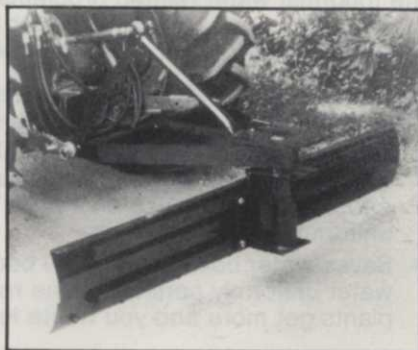
And the Model 41-0188 5 hp lawn vacuum and 10 cubic foot utility cart hold up to 32 cubic feet of clippings and leaves.

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## Blue River shows rear-mounted blades

Rear-mounted blades from Blue River Equipment ready any tractor to level, scrape, fill, grade, cast, or plow snow.

These blades can be mounted on any standard three-point hitch and come in four- to eight-foot widths. They offer full rotation for a wide range of blade angles. Some models may be offset 12 inches to either side or tilted 15 degrees for ditching.



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## Excel introduces new Hustler Mower

Excel Industries' new Hustler 251 is a dual hydrostatic 18-hp, 51-inch utility-sized mower with twin-lever steering, true zero-degree turning radius, forward-deck design, rear discharge, and vacuum cutting action. An optional Bac-pac grass catcher fits between the mower's rear wheels. Hustler offers a full two-year limited warranty on the 251 model.



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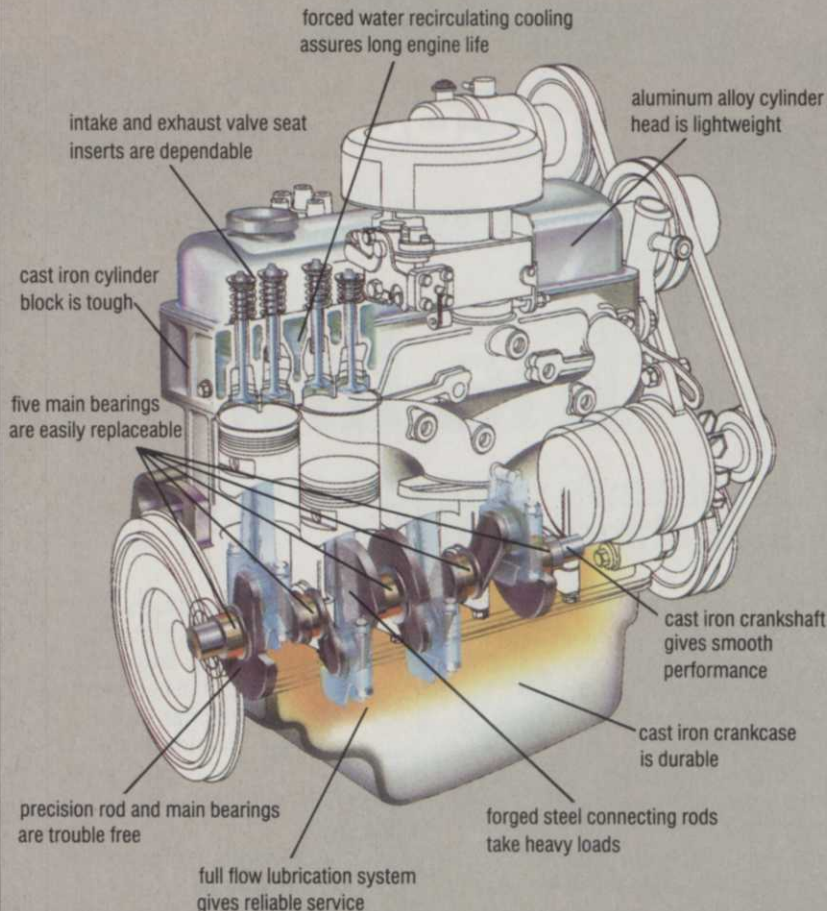
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R-11/14

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## Fiberglass rocks hide aerator floats

Barebo introduces Otter-Rock, a fiberglass accessory designed to simulate rocks, which covers the aerator floats.

The cover gives the impression that the water spray sculpture is natural as it shoots from the aerator unit. An Otter-Rock holds up to six Fountain-Glo lights and will retrofit all aerators up to five hp manufactured



by Barebo.

Aerators control algae buildup and aquatic odors by circulating oxygen back into the water.

Circle No. 194 on Reader Inquiry Card

## New Promark lift rotates full circle

The new Promark trailer-mounted aerial lift is powered by an 18-hp twin-cylinder engine that can be started at the bucket.

Rotation is a continuous 360 degrees, and the articulated arms pro-



vide more maneuverability than telescopic lifts. Controls at the base and in the bucket can be feathered to give variable speed operation. The lift is lightweight, stabilized, and easy to tow, says Promark.

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