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At Druid Ridge, vice president of operations Bob Larson uses a combination of Roundup and Surflan for areas around headstones at the Baltimore, Md., cemetery.

# AN OUTDOOR ART MUSEUM

Rich in tradition, Druid Ridge cemetery in Baltimore is a unique 230 acres. Its unique head landscaper could be the reason.

by Heide Aungst

As if he were sitting around a campfire, Bob Larson recited his favorite ghost story.

"They call her Black Aggie...It's said people have died of fright in her arms..."

Larson continues, telling of fraternity dares to sit in Black Aggie's arms through an entire night. "She was beautiful," he remembers, as if he's lost a close friend.

He drives by the site where she once rested. An empty stone

remains, the family name "Agnus" engraved in the rock.

Black Aggie, a priceless black granite statue, is now in the Smithsonian Institute.

A visit to Druid Ridge Cemetery in Baltimore is like a visit to an art museum. Some of the statues marking graves date back to when the cemetery was built in 1896. So do some of the trees.

Larson, vice president of operations, points to a beautiful blue

atlas cedar at the entrance. The tree is nearing the century mark.

Nearby is a beautiful large purple leaf beech. The Japanese and maraschino cherry trees are beautiful in the spring, he says.

Larson's 230 acres are as much an artwork as the granite statues his crew mows around. Druid Ridge won the PGMS Grand Award six years ago.

### A home for wild ducks

A seven-acre lake, maintained with copper sulfate, gives visitors to Druid Ridge the sense of being in a park. In fact, Larson says, people visit regularly just to feed the wild ducks, which sometimes number close to 175.

But maintaining a cemetery is different from maintaining a park.

Ghost story over, Larson dismisses the myths of what it's like to work in a cemetery. "They're headstones, not tombstones," he says. "This is a

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# Reduce Mowing Costs by 50% and More:

One treatment of Embark® PGR can eliminate mowing of low-maintenance turf for up to 8 weeks without harming the appearance or root system of the grass. This can be your escape hatch from Gramm-Rudman, and other budget squeezers:



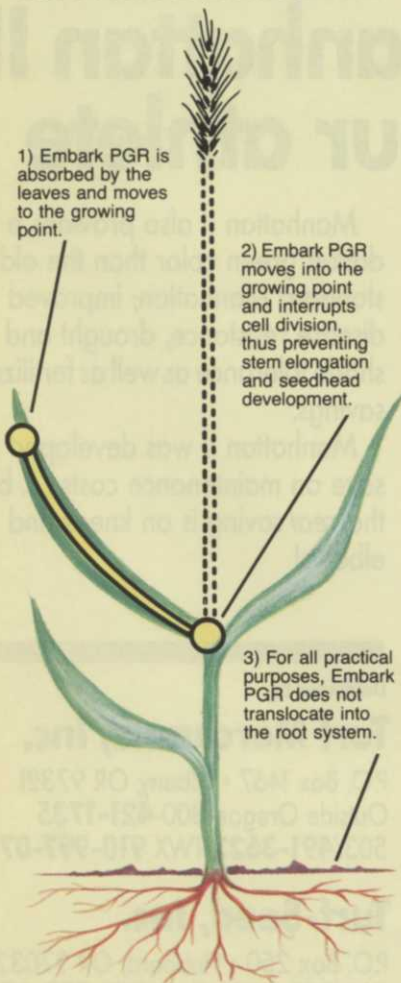
Everett Mealman, *President*  
PBI/Gordon Corporation

## How Embark PGR Works to Prevent Stem Elongation and Seedhead Development:

1) Embark PGR is absorbed by the leaves and moves to the growing point.

2) Embark PGR moves into the growing point and interrupts cell division, thus preventing stem elongation and seedhead development.

3) For all practical purposes, Embark PGR does not translocate into the root system.



Thousands of groundskeepers and vegetation control managers have proven that one spray treatment of Embark PGR can eliminate the need of mowing for up to 8 weeks of such grasses as Kentucky blue grass, fescue, timothy, perennial rye, etc.

Just think what this can do for your budget!

It costs up to \$1,200.00 a mile for mowing along highways, and up to \$35.00 an acre for mowing a cemetery, a golf course rough or an industrial site, according to many analysts. Obviously, your costs will depend on your labor and equipment situation.

## How Much Can You Save by Spraying Embark PGR?

The saving will vary depending on your own conditions, but in general round numbers it usually costs less to spray an acre with Embark PGR than it does to mow it. So the amount you can save by using Embark PGR depends on how often you would normally mow the area during the 8-week period that Embark PGR suppresses growth . . . and how interested you are in the cosmetics.

If all you want to do is suppress growth in an industrial site or a right-of-way, simply spray the area when the grass begins to grow vigorously in the spring, and forget it for 8 weeks. If you want a neater, more uniform look in an area such



Embark PGR should be tank-mixed with Trimec Broadleaf Herbicide to optimize the efficiency of maintaining grass at an acceptable height in a weed-free condition.

as a cemetery or a golf course rough, mow the grass once, either before or several days after spraying Embark PGR. To control broadleaf weed problems, tank mix the Embark PGR with Trimec® Turf Herbicide.

## Embark PGR Suppresses Stem Elongation and Seedhead Development

Embark PGR is unique. No other PGR can match its efficiency in suppressing seedhead development, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the root system along with the viability of the grass.

Embark PGR requires no rainfall or irrigation to be activated. It is absorbed through the leaves and moves directly to above-the-ground growing points in the plant. It works within the leaf sheath to slow down the process of cell division and stem elongation, and to stop seedhead development.



### Use Your Present Spraying Equipment

Embark PGR can be applied when and where you need it, any time during the year when the turf is actively growing. Any equipment that is suitable for spraying herbicides will generally do for the job.

Embark PGR fits your present turf management program and frees up the work force. Get more jobs done with the same people in the same time.

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### Read What Users Say About Embark® PGR

Embark PGR has been on the market since 1978, and it has been used worldwide to treat over a million acres of turf. Its efficiency and dependability is firmly established. For example:

*"One mowing does the job of six. With grassy hillsides on hold for two months, crews cover more ground."*

**Bill Schumacher**  
City Civil Engineer  
Seattle, WA

*"Crews only trim 4 or 5 times a season. That's down from the usual 8 or 10 trips."*

**Larry Farnell**  
Holy Cross Cemetery  
Milwaukee, WI

*"We want roadsides to have a neat, clean appearance. Embark PGR certainly reduced our mowing costs."*

**E.C. "Dutch" Reiner**  
Northern Natural Gas Co.  
Farmington, MN

### Do you have any questions about PGRs?



We have a team of PGR specialists under the guidance of J.S. "Skip" Skaptason, our Vice President of Research and Commercial Development.

If you have any questions about PGRs, you are invited to call toll-free and talk to Skip or one of his team members.

#### Useful Mowing Cost Guide

We have a booklet with a worksheet that will enable you to compare your own mowing costs with the cost of using Embark PGR.

This worksheet will be especially helpful if you have associates who need to understand the money-saving benefits of Embark PGR.

**TOLL-FREE: 1-800-821-7925.**  
In Missouri: 1-800-892-7281.



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# EMBARK® PGR

PLANT GROWTH REGULATOR



Druid Ridge, built in 1896, features a slew of trees close to 100 years old.

cemetery, not a graveyard.”

He confesses he was hesitant to take the job.

But in 1978, the cemetery's executive vice president asked Larson's brother, Mike, if he knew someone who could maintain a cemetery the way Mike maintains a golf course (he's superintendent at Rockville Golf Club).

Mike suggested they contact Bob, who wasn't very happy as assistant landscape manager at Johns Hopkins University. As identical twins, the brothers have a lot in common—including maintaining turf.

Larson never regrets leaving Johns Hopkins. “You don't have a bunch of drunken kids at night tearing up things,” he says.

He's also glad he's steered clear of golf courses. “I'm not married to my job,” he explains.

### Balance means happiness

Larson and his wife have four boys ages one to 16. His family gets all his attention when he's home. His job gets 100 percent when he's there. Balance is the key to a happy life, he says.

He also has to juggle working at two cemeteries. In addition to Druid Ridge, Larson oversees 430 acres at Loudon Park, a cemetery built in 1853.

He employs 13 full-time people and five part-time at Druid Ridge, and 25 full-time, 14 part-time at Loudon Park.

He divides his time about equally between the two sites, although Loudon Park tends to have more burials.

Digging holes for the caskets is the part of the job Larson likes least. “We're like utilities, you have to dig in all types of weather,” he says.

With Baltimore in the heart of the transition zone, Druid Ridge has both warm- and cool-season grasses. Larson describes it as “Heinz 57.”

Although some plots might be zoysiagrass or bermudagrass, the majority is Rebel tall fescue.

The head and foot-stones are lined up in aisles, making mowing easier. A small tractor always follows behind a large one to get missed areas.

That process saves time and labor. The crew mows at least once a week.

Larson uses only Ford tractors and backhoes because of their reliability. He estimates he has 20 tractors between the two cemeteries.

While other cemetery landscape supervisors squirm at the use of upright headstones, Larson says he prefers them. “Those flat stones freeze and thaw. They heave and move up and down,” he says.

### The proud inventor

Larson doesn't need tricks to trim around headstones. He uses a mixture of Roundup and Surflan, around July 1 each year, to kill the turf. Roundup initially kills the vegetation and Surflan provides the residual control.

“I think of myself as the inventor of that,” Larson says proudly. “I started doing that eight years ago, before it was labeled to be used together.”

Larson claims he doesn't do too many things out of the ordinary. With a budget close to \$2 million, he's free to do just about anything.

Larson calls his operation a “self-contained entity.” Loudon Park features a greenhouse where he grows all the perennials used in the gardens around the mausoleums at both cemeteries. The crew also does its own paving and construction work.

Only about three acres of Druid Ridge are irrigated. Larson doesn't do any special watering on the burial areas.

He fertilizes only once a year, usually in late September, with slow release nitrogen at 1½ pounds per 1,000 sq. ft.

Larson has experimented with Monsanto's new turf growth regulator, Limit. “It's the most promising one I've seen,” he says. “It works. But I think people are expecting too much out of the PGRs. Areas still have to be maintained.”

Some cemetery landscape managers use turf growth regulators around headstones to slow turf growth. Larson has used Limit on entire plots and has cut mowing in half during the six-week period it's active.

### Still a 'long way to go'

The use of PGRs or the Roundup-Surflan mixture to kill turf around stones are fairly modern methods of cemetery maintenance. But Larson feels the industry still has a long way to go.

“Cemetery maintenance people are not an organized group and they need to be,” Larson says. “About 95 percent of them are behind the times.”

He blames the cemeteries for not going after good, well-trained people. He also criticizes landscape managers who don't keep up on the latest developments in the industry.

The reluctance of others to get into the industry does have its advantages for cemetery landscape managers. “You can just about name your price,” Larson says. He has, after all, just bought his wife her first Mercedes.

But it's not the money that keeps Larson happy with his job. It's an overall sense of peace and contentment with life.

“If you're Christian, this is where life begins,” Larson says, shrugging off any suggestion of a deeper meaning behind that statement. “I'm just your average run-of-the-mill Catholic.”

Beyond religion, is the history lesson. “You're maintaining areas where people who helped form a country are buried,” he explains.

Confederate soldiers who defended Fort McHenry and writer H.L. Mencken are buried at Loudon Park.

Someday, Larson hopes to be buried in the cemetery he kept beautiful for so many years.

“Yeah,” he smiles, “I want to be buried on the highest spot and my epitaph will say, ‘I'm watching what's going on.’” **WT&T**



Castle Pines Golf Club, twenty minutes south of Denver, Colorado, will host the inaugural "International" this summer.

## Grounds for Ransomes.



Getting ready for a PGA TOUR event is grounds for using the Ransomes Motor 180. This compact, lightweight ride-on triple provides exceptional maneuverability and ground-hugging stability, even on steep slopes. Available with floating head cutting units, the Motor 180 closely follows ground contours on undulating terrain like Castle Pines, and provides a superb finish to difficult areas. A golf course with the natural beauty of Castle Pines deserves to be kept looking and playing its best: a worthy challenge to a caring groundskeeper. And that's grounds for seeing your Ransomes Bob Cat distributor. Or call Ransomes, Inc., One Bob Cat Lane, Johnson Creek, WI 53038, (414) 699-2000.

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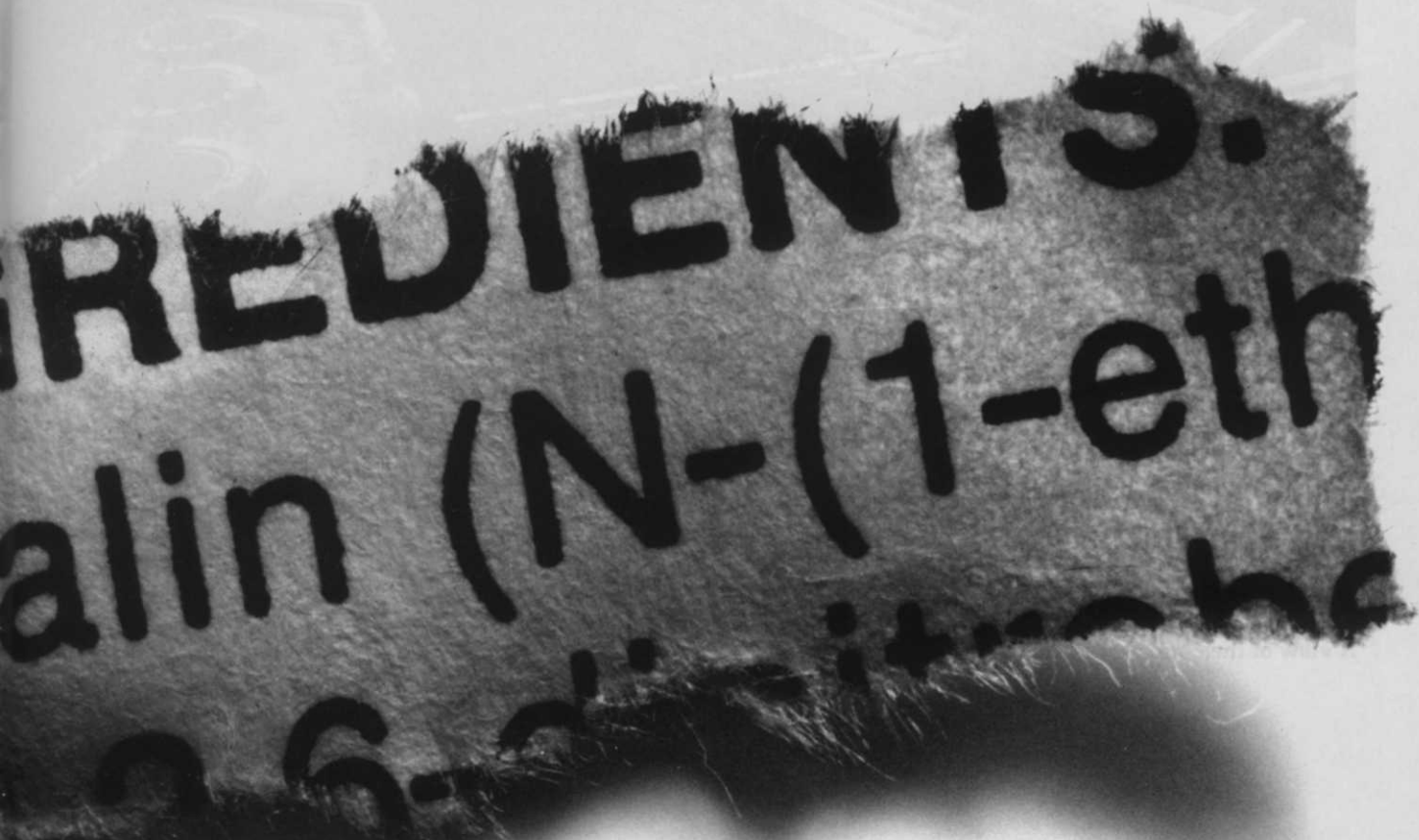
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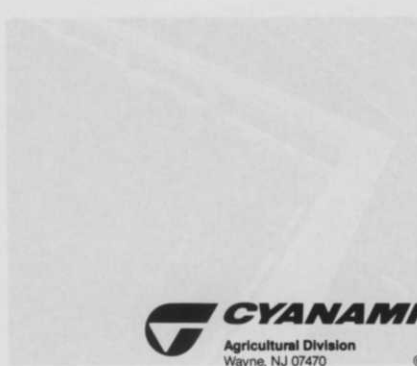
*annua*. Hard-to-control broadleaf species like oxalis and spurge are also eliminated with the same rate.

What's more, pendimethalin breaks down into the environment. And it doesn't move laterally through the soil. Which means it won't seep into bodies of water or stop vegetation you don't want it to stop. Plus, pendimethalin-based herbicides don't have an offensive odor like some products.

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More than 50 major companies are moving their division headquarters to country settings. Here's a look at what AT&T and Mobile Oil have done.

by Heidi Aungst, associate editor



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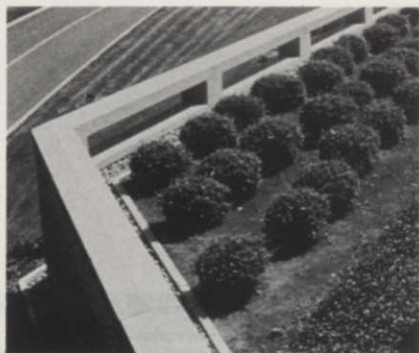


A view of the courtyards at AT&T's Basking Ridge site. There are 1,200 trees on the 126 acres of land.

## DIVINE DIVISIONS

More and more major companies are moving their division head quarters to country settings. Here's a look at what AT&T and Mobile Oil have done.

by Heide Aungst, associate editor



Just a few of the 30,000 shrubs planted at AT&T.

Looking out the window at their corporate headquarters in New York City, executives at AT&T see concrete, pollution, and herds of people. But at AT&T Communication headquarters in Basking Ridge, N.J., executives see lush green turf, blue skies, and herds of wild deer.

Even when a company's headquarters is located in the heart of New York City, it doesn't mean the executives forget about landscaping at other divisions...even though they can't enjoy the greenery themselves.

AT&T and Mobil Oil are prime examples. Both have headquarters in the city, but major divisions in picturesque country settings.

In fact, both companies have won landscaping awards for their division headquarters: AT&T for its Basking Ridge facility and Mobil for its marketing and refining headquarters in Fairfax, Va.

AT&T Communications, opened in 1977, sits on 197 sprawling acres—60 acres of lawn (a special seed mix of ryegrass and tall fescue created by the original landscape architect), three miles of paved roads, an 11-acre pond, and 14 acres of terraces.

AT&T employs its own supervisor of landscape and grounds, Ralph Ayres. Ayres is licensed by the EPA in pesticides, turf, and ornamentals, but the actual maintenance work is contracted out. Controle Maintenance was awarded the three-year contract a year ago.

"We write the specifications and they (contractors) abide by it," Ayres says. "But we're always open to suggestions."

Ayres says the concept of the landscape is to make a modern building look like it's part of the environment.