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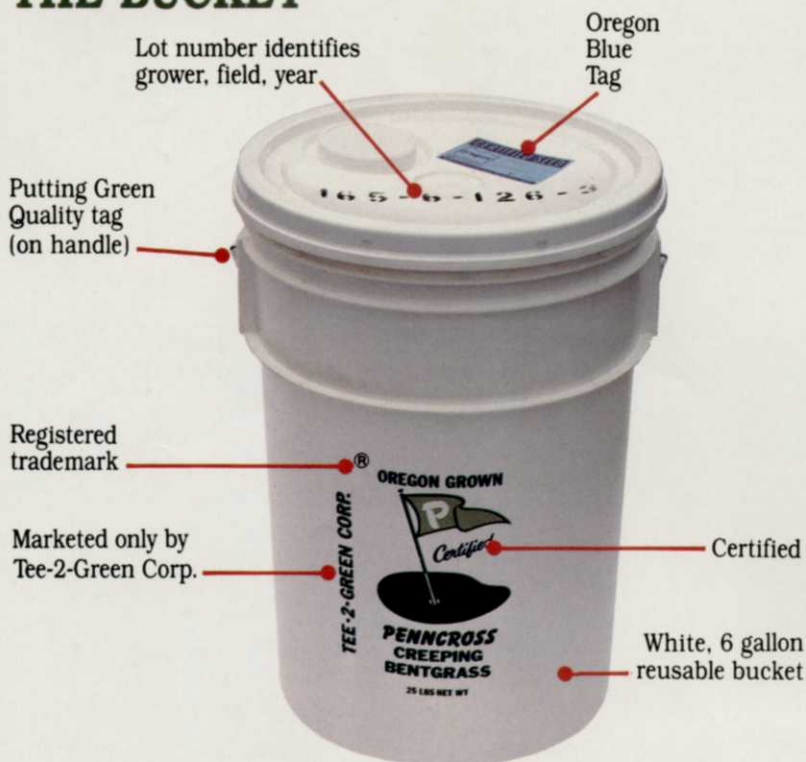
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LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Formerly WEEDS TREES & TURF



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On the cover:
Putters on a bentgrass green,
by Larry Kassell

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OCTOBER 1987/LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT 3

Bacteria strain toxic to *poa* discovered

■ Michigan State University plant pathologist David Roberts has discovered a strain of the bacteria *Xanthomonas* that is toxic to annual bluegrass, while harmless to other plants, animals and humans. So far, he has done most of his testing in the laboratory and greenhouse, with excellent results, he says. This summer marked the first time he field tested the bacterium. Results, he says, are mixed because of a lack of environmental control available in the lab. However, Roberts adds, "It's shown very good herbicidal activity in the field."

Roberts applied for a patent on the selective herbicidal bacterium about a year ago and as of August hadn't received the patent, often a time-consuming process. A number of people have volunteered sites to test the bacterium in various parts of the country but he has yet to make a decision on where further tests will take place. He also is taking offers from chemical companies to develop and market the bacterium once he receives the patent and obtains EPA approval for use.

A seed glut by 1990?

■ The factors seem to be in place. The housing market is slowing, slowing demand. But according to Barry K. Green II, vice president of Jonathan Green, 15,000 additional acres of bluegrass crop were planted by the industry in 1986. "More acreage was planted last year that won't yield this year. Next year it will yield." (Bluegrass fields take two years to produce seed.)

Combine this with the increased popularity and acreage of turf type tall fescues and the new dwarfs of these, plus more perennial ryegrass, and there could be "something of a glut" next year, Green says. In addition, he says researchers in Oregon are developing bluegrass varieties that yield exceptionally well. Green was informed by Rutgers University breeder C. Reed Funk, Ph.D., that upwards of 50 percent of improved bluegrasses in the field can be sterile, unable to reproduce, bringing yields down. The new bluegrasses, now in the first generation of development, will have a wider genetic window with a greater potential for pollination. Green expects the second generation of these new breeds to hit the market by the end of the decade as well. More seed. As a result, he sees the day when sod blend bluegrass seed will actually drop near or below \$2 a pound.

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Bob Peterson (right) and Eliot Roberts talk over current affairs during a board session of The Lawn Institute. Peterson is 1987-88 president and Roberts executive director.

ASSOCIATIONS

The Lawn Institute chooses 1987-88 officers, directors

Bob Peterson of R.J. Peterson Enterprises, Hillsboro, Ore., will be president of The Better Lawn and Turf Institute during 1987-88. Peterson was chosen during the institute's annual meeting in conjunction with the 104th American Seed Trade Association convention in Boston.

Also chosen for seats on the board of directors were Howard Schuler of Northrup King, Doyle Jacklin of Jacklin Seed, Harry Stalford of International Seeds, Bob Russell of J&L Adikes and Norman Rothwell of Rothwell Seeds.

During the meeting, a moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Robert Schery, Ph.D., a former executive director of the Lawn Institute, who passed away late last year.

Current executive director Eliot Roberts, Ph.D., also announced:

- the institute will increase press kit mailings from two to four per year;
- the institute will not include wildflowers in its Variety Review Board cultivars;
- a more assertive posture on the benefits of turfgrasses will be presented during 1987-88; and
- it remains undecided whether the Lawn Institute will begin granting

funds for scholarships.

At the annual meeting, considerable discussion took place on whether to begin research on permanent weed tolerances in seed, as Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia are three states that require noxious weed label tolerances.

Later in the proceedings, C. Reed Funk, Ph.D., told attendees that another National Turf-Type Tall Fescue Test is being seeded this fall.

Next year's ASTA Lawn Division meeting is in Seattle, Wash.

PESTICIDES

Cadmium okay for greens, tees

The only exception to an order banning cadmium allows use of cadmium fungicides on golf course greens and tees under certain circumstances. The use of cadmium in the environment was prohibited under a federal regulation announced Aug. 10 by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Specifically, cadmium use will be allowed on greens and tees only with a "mini-boom" sprayer, and applicators must wear protective clothing during mixing, loading and application of the product.

Homeowners, turfgrass managers

INDUSTRY

Rhone-Poulenc reorganizes Chipco

The Chipco/Specialty Products Group of Rhone-Poulenc has completed a reorganization of its sales, marketing and product development staff. The move was made to increase the group's presence in the turf, landscape and ornamental markets. The reorganization is a result of the company's acquisition of Union Carbide Agricultural Products last year.

The acquisition added Sevin SL carbaryl insecticide, Temik 10G aldicarb pesticide, Florel plant growth regulator, Weedone DPC and DPC Amine and Rootone rooting hormone to the Chipco/Specialty Products Line.

Dan Stahl, business manager for Chipco Specialty Products will now be responsible for these products. He previously served in that capacity for Chipco's 26019 and Aliette fungicides, Ronstar and Turfkleen herbicides, Mocap insecticide and Microgreen nutrient additive.

Within product development, P. Chris Kleyla was named product development manager. Elizabeth A. Brown, Tom C. Davidson and Tom E. Vrabel join the product development staff as program coordinators.

John W. Durfee and Andrew M. Seckinger have been named product managers.

Dick Lehman, director of sales-specialty for Rhone-Poulenc, says the new alignment will facilitate future expansion. "The addition of several former Union Carbide products to the Chipco product line promises to increase the utility of the line to turf, landscape and ornamental managers," he says.

and other users of cadmium fungicides will be forced to seek alternative materials. Neither is cadmium use on fairways and other golf course areas allowed.

The decision to exempt golf course greens and tees was made in part because of information received at the EPA through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Government Relations Program. In May, members of the EPA review team were given a demonstration of the "mini-boom" sprayer at the Congressional C.C. in Bethesda, Md.

LEGISLATION

Blower controversy stirring up the air

California's landscaping industry is beginning to organize against legislative threats that would ban the use of leaf blowers because of "excessive" noise levels. Some communities in the state already have banned their use.

The efforts seem to be paying off in the form of compromises with community leaders. Two hundred contractors attended a Palo Alto City Council meeting to protest proposed anti-blower legislation. This, in addition to postcards and petitions, has forced the council to consider at 9 a.m.-to-5 p.m. use restriction and an 82-decibel noise limit instead of outright banning.

Banning the use of blowers would raise monthly landscaping bills in the city of Belvedere from \$200 to \$250-260.

Other restrictions would limit decibel levels on blowers to under 80, while limiting use of machines in the 80 to 90 db range to 15 minutes or less at a time.

The restrictions are prompting some companies, such as Echo, to produce quieter blowers. Echo claims to have the quietest on the market, producing 70 db at 50 feet.

However, extensive modifications to blower design seem unlikely since the design is already relatively simple, according to engineers at Echo.

The company has also initiated a user education program.

REFERENCE

Book published for 'green' businesses

John R. Beck, one of the nation's top business advisors to the lawn care and pest control industries, has published "Managing Service for Success."

The book includes business management advice from a team of experts like former National Pest Control Association president Hal Stein and public relations counselor Alan Caruba. Topics covered are working relationships with banks, attorneys and accountants; public relations and advertising; new technology; personnel and more.

Send your name, address and \$25 plus \$3 postage and handling to: International Pest Management Consultants, 3631 W. Pasadena, Phoenix, AZ 85019.

NOT EVEN 'HEAVY DEW'...They say it never rains in California. This summer, "they" were pretty near right. "We had our worst drought in 10 years," Janet Hartin tells *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*. Hartin, a cooperative extension agent in San Bernardino County, says that sun-scorched leaves on trees and ornamentals were a big problem. "Low-lying fog and cool valley temperatures caused people to water less than when it's intensively hot. That resulted in a lot of physiological wilt," she notes. Not unlike much of the rest of the country, the dry summer took its toll on Southern California's plants.

AND IT COULD BE WORSE...More work must be done on salt-tolerant grasses, says the president of the Southern California chapter of the GCSAA. The water shortage there could reach epic proportions. "We need snow this winter, or it's water rationing next year," notes Don Parsons of Old Ranch Country Club, Seal Beach, Calif. "In the northern part of the state, the lakes are as low as they were 10 years ago." Parsons thinks there will be a big technological push toward saline and effluent water for irrigation, as reported in the July issue of *LM*.

WARM BODIES NEEDED...*LM* technical advisor Doug Chapman of Dow Gardens, Midland, Mich., notes some statistics that cause him concern about the future of the green industry: fewer high school graduates are choosing horticultural-related fields as a major in college. Purdue, for instance, has 80 students enrolled in horticultural-related studies this year, down from 300 in the 1970s. "There have always been college programs for landscape maintenance," Chapman says. "But we still don't have any for landscape management. We don't have the status attached to our profession. We need to have programs in colleges for landscape management, and we have to call them that."

LOCATION UNKNOWN...Kathleen Colbert of the American Sod Producers Association points out that in the August issue of *LM* the location of Olympia Fields Country Club was not given. Appropriately enough, the course is in Olympia Fields, Ill., just south of Chicago. Colbert also tells us that ASPA has a new address: 1855-A Hicks Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008; (312) 705-9898.

NEW HAZARDS ON THE COURSE...The nine-hole Laurens (Iowa) Golf and Country Club presents a new hazard to the game of golf. It seems the Laurens Airport is not merely adjacent to the course, it is the course. The grass airstrip, which serves private pilots and crop dusters, runs across the rough or fairway on seven of the holes. "The planes have the right of way," Neil Maurer, a charter member of the club, told the *Wall Street Journal*. No kidding. Who's going to stand in the way of a plane? You'd be surprised. Pilots usually circle the field and buzz the course once to clear the runway. However, uninitiated out-of-towners have a tendency to wave back and keep on playing. But they usually figure it out in time to avoid a penalty stroke, among other things.

BUSINESS

No more illegal aliens in the green industry

If you haven't yet, you had better change your hiring policies now, before it's too late. As of June 1, 1988, all employers—including those in the green industry—face fines and possible prison terms for failure to comply with the new Immigration Reform and Control Act.

"The law isn't just for seasonal farm workers," says Charles D. Covey, Ph.D., of the University of Florida. "Everyone

who hires anyone—even for one day—is subject to this new law."

Even if employers personally know for certain that an employee is an American citizen, that person's citizenship or right to work in the U.S. must be verified, Covey emphasizes.

Penalties can range from \$250 to \$10,000 and imprisonment for each instance of "knowingly hiring" an illegal alien, and \$100 to \$1,000 for paperwork failures, even in connection with the employment of a legal U.S. citizen, Covey notes.

The law requires all employers to

verify the legal status of every employee hired after Nov. 6, 1986. Employees on the payroll prior to this date will be "grandfathered in" and will not have to document their legal work status. The law further requires all employers to sign and retain a form stating what documents have been examined. It says that employees must sign the same form certifying that they are legally eligible to work in this country.

To protect themselves, employers should make copies of documents shown to prove citizenship or the right to work in this country.

Beginning June 1, 1988, the full provisions of the law will be in effect for all employers except those engaged in "seasonal agricultural services" who are exempt from civil money penalties until Dec. 1, 1988. Until next June 1, citations will be issued for the first offense; citations and fines will be issued for additional violations.

PESTICIDES

EPA asked to seek more tests for 2,4-D

The Environmental Protection Agency has been asked to continue testing the herbicide 2,4-D for any possible cancer-causing properties.

The agency's Scientific Advisory Panel recommended an interim Category D classification, meaning the compound is not classifiable by carcinogenicity, or cancer-causing capacity.

The agency gave the compound an interim Category C classification in June after examining available literature. Category C means the compound is a possible human carcinogen with limited, inconclusive evidence of animal carcinogenicity.

The Scientific Advisory Panel, reviewing the EPA's work, called for an additional long-term carcinogenicity study in rats exposed to 2,4-D. The agency is considering the recommendation.

Meanwhile, EPA is awaiting the results of another study by the National Cancer Institute, says Steve Johnson, executive secretary of the Scientific Advisory Panel. That study is comparing a population of people who have been exposed to the herbicide with one that has not.

Johnson did not think a permanent classification would be announced in the near future. If the agency decides to sanction the recommended rat-feeding study, a classification will be two-and-a-half years away at minimum, he says.

Representatives of the 2,4-D Industry Task Force, a coalition of 2,4-D manufacturers, recommended a Category E Classification—inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity.



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