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REPEAT



COMMERCIAL MOWERS



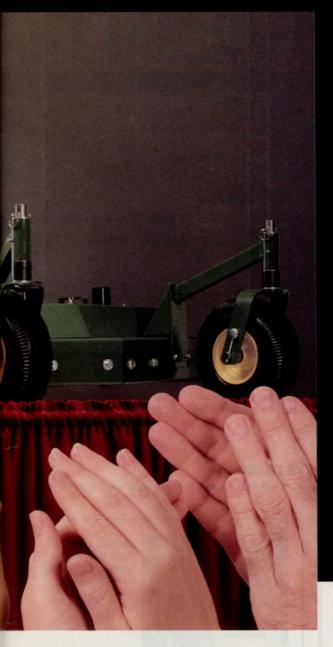
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Formerly WEEDS TREES & TURF



COVER STORY: SEED BLENDS

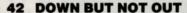
With so many seed mixes and blends available, creating the ideal turf is easier than ever before.

32 ARCHITECTS AS PROBLEM SOLVERS

Brynwood Country Club saved time and money by working with a local landscape architect to solve drainage problems.

38 THE BLACK DEATH

Exactly where black layer comes from remains a mystery, but there are steps you can take to get rid of it.



Filing bankruptcy is not always synonymous with 'tossing in the towel.' Knowing the difference could put a company back on solid ground.

SOIL FERTILITY AND FERTILIZERS

The difference between a great lawn and a good lawn is how well you put fertilizers to work.



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ON THE COVER: Seed blending as seen by Larry Kassell

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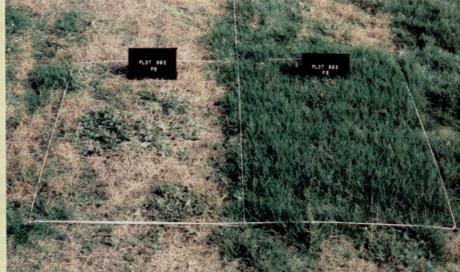
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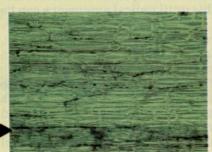
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Left, insect damage in perennial ryegrass. Right, endophytic ryegrass resists insect pests.



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New ornamental crop

■ A flower-inducing hormone applied by a floriculture specialist at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida is expected to bring a popular landscape plant indoors.

The hormone induces ixora to produce blooms simultaneously and on demand, making the shrub a new, commercially competitive ornamental, notes extension floriculture specialist Benny Tjia. Star-shaped blooms appear six to eight weeks after treatment, making it ideal for shipping to northern markets.

A conservative prediction is that sales of ixora will increase from 100,000 to 1 million plants annually because of the hormone,

Tjia says.

"Sixty percent of the ornamental flowers imported into Florida now come from Columbia," he adds. "That totals about \$750,000 worth of plants arriving each day. But instead of rolling over and playing dead, we're learning to cultivate plants that competitors can't."

More seed pregermination under way

■ More and more landscapers are looking toward pregermination of their seed before planting in order to get quicker germination in inclement weather, repair or renovate athletic fields, or to create a turf stand faster than normal seeding methods, says Nicholas R. Spardy, a sales representative with Northrup King Co. As proof of this trend, Spardy reviewed five (count 'em) pregermination methods and extolled the virtues of each. They are:

The Candlestick Park Method, used primarily to repair divots, involves mixing 150 pounds of Turface, 100 pounds of sand and 50 pounds of seed. Keep it in a moist state for up to seven days, layer it

in, water it well and mound it.

The Kansas City Method involves soaking the seed in water that is changed every 12 hours. Do this until radical emergence can be seen.

The Northrup King Method has you put seeds in a burlap sack, soak them for 12 hours and then dry them for 12 hours at room

temperature. Continue this cycle for seven days.

The Milwaukee Brewers Method, for drought repair, uses two ounces of Aqua Gro to each 55 gallons of water. Soak seeds in this solution, which must be changed every four hours. On the third day spread the seed with Milorganite 6-2-0.

Cal-Poly Method uses an aquarium pump to provide additional

oxygen to water, which is changed every 12 hours.

Though all demonstrated a certain level of success, Spardy says, "Changing the water supply or somehow giving the seed a constant oxygen supply seems to be the key to success." That's because changing the water removes seed exudate, he says.

Another avenue being researched, dubbed the Northrup King Modified Method, involves placing the seed in 77°F water, which

has cut the time of radical germination in half.

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GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

GOLF

'Exciting time to grow grass,' super says



Danny Quast answering a question at Jacobsen's College Seminar.
PESTICIDES

"It's an exciting time to grow grass, and a great time to get into this business," said Danny Quast, superintendent at the Milwaukee Country Club. He was speaking to 38 top graduating turf students at the annual College Student Seminar sponsored by Jacobsen Division of Textron this summer.

"You've got the best times about of

"You've got the best times ahead of you," Quast said. "The knowledge and tools are so much better today, it makes the job more enjoyable. Turf equipment and chemicals are better today than they've ever been in my career."

Quast discussed management of people as well as turf, and gave the students a few pointers for success. "If you're dedicated and have a professional attitude toward the job, you'll go far," he said.

Quast has donated his time and expertise for the past 13 years to participate in the 21-year-old seminar.

Does Your Power Mukher Go the Distance?



Circle No. 138 on Reader Inquiry Card

Anti-pesticide law is overturned, thanks to Wisconsin organization

A Wisconsin judge has overturned a Town of Casey ordinance that prevented the use of pesticides on private property.

Washburn County Circuit Court Judge Dennis C. Bailey said "...This court does find and conclude that the area of regulation and use of pesticides and herbicides [by local political subdivisions] has been preempted by federal law." Judge Bailey further concluded that the ordinance, which was drafted by the Office of the Wisconsin Public Intervenor, has also been pre-empted by state law.

The suit was brought by Casey land owner Ralph Mortier and supported by the Forestry/Rights-of-Way/Turf Coalition. The coalition reports that the court battle was a costly victory, but one that would have been even more expensive to lose.

Executive Director Russell R. Weisensel is asking for \$25 contributions from individual members and \$50 contributions from county members to defray its court costs. The address is 1400 East Washington Avenue, Suite 185, Madison, WI 53703-3041.

ORGANIZATIONS

CLCA members let fingers do walking

This summer, members of the California Landscape Contractors Association will again get the opportunity to participate in the CLCA's Yellow Pages Program. This program coordinates the purchase of line listings in telephone directories throughout the state. Here's how it works:

The CLCA sent a certified mailing to its members in June that asked them to choose space under one of three captions—"installation," "maintenance" or "installation/maintenance"—in the landscape contractor's section of 104 utility directories. Each \$60 listing includes the company name, address, and telephone number that will appear beneath the CLCA logo and the phrase "Sign of the Accepted Professionals."

Last year the association's support for the program amounted to \$20,000—\$66 to contractors for each

listing purchased.