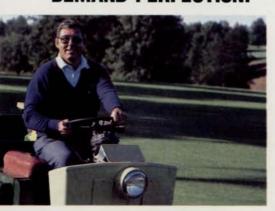


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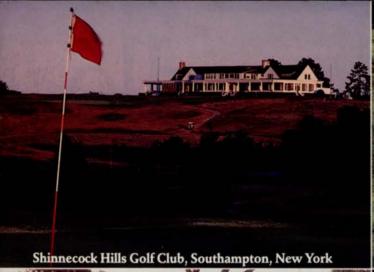
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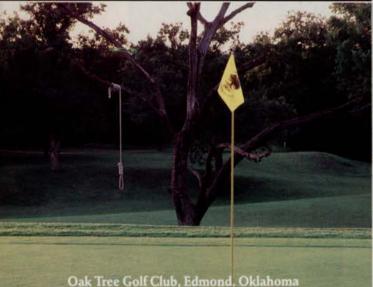
FAX 503-981-5626

Warren Bidwell is available to speak to your superintendents' group about Penn bentgrasses. Call our toll free number for details. TEE-2-GREEN Corp., PO Box 250 Hubbard, OR 97032

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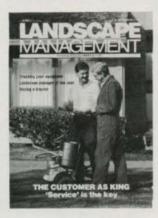
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NOVEMBER 1988, VOLUME 27, NUMBER 11

Formerly WEEDS TREES & TURI



On the cover: Good lawn care companies, like Pro Grass, know how to treat customers. Photo by Larry Kassell

COVER STORY: THE CUSTOMER AS KING

by Will Perry, managing editor. Today's saturated lawn care market demands that LCOs work harder to keep their customers happy.

COMPACT TRACTORS

by Jeff Moehle. The versatility and flexibility of compact tractors make them ideal for budget-minded landscape managers.

NAILING THE CULPRIT

by Jay Holtzman, contributing editor. With an efficient equipment tracking system, those lost and broken hand tools swiftly become a thing of the past.

CLEARING PROFITS WITH THE SNOW by Jerry Roche, editor. The work is difficult and the hours long, but landscapers are making the necessary efforts—and money-from snow removal.

LANDSCAPE MANAGER OF THE YEAR In getting the most out of his personnel and equipment, Roy Peterman made the Brigham Young University campus a model of good management.

'LOVE THAT DIRTY WATER...' by Jeff Sobul. Improvements in treatment have made reclaimed wastewater a viable source of irrigation water, and a way to conserve valuable freshwater supplies.

THE COST OF LAYOFFS by Rudd McGary and Ed Wandtke. To layoff or not to layoff? With the winter season coming up, it could increase your cash flow to lay off some employees until spring. But, in the long run, you may lose some customers next year.

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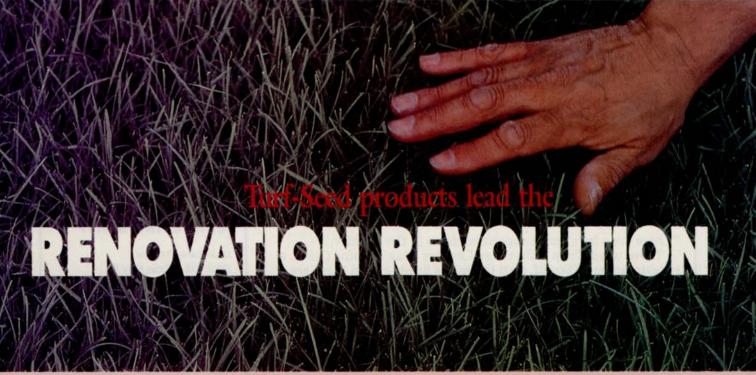
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Home lawn two months after overseeding with Turf-Seed regrass and bluegrass products.







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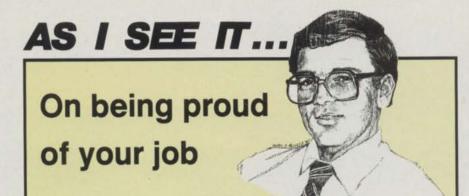
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"There are a lot of great superintendents in the country."

These words from Milwaukee Country Club's Danny Quast, a superintendent himself, start the juices flowing. And there are a lot of other great landscape managers in the country, too. In my six years in the green industry, I've certainly met my share at conventions and in other travels across the land.

"You have to love this business and you have to be motivated," the likable Quast told me this summer, right in the middle of the driest, hottest drought in decades. "The members don't expect as much out of me as I do."

And that's the key.

If this is beginning to sound like a pep talk, maybe it is. Every once in a while, we all need a pep talk. A little "Vince Lombardi"

to remind us that we're proud of what we're doing.

Just what is it that you're doing? You're beautifying our country. You're making it a pleasure for others to go to work. You're making it fun to take the kids outside on a nice spring day and roll around in the grass. You're making it a treat to take a day off from work and play a few holes of golf. In your own special way—think about this—you're making people more fully appreciate life.

And you're having fun doing it. You're not chained to a desk or locked in a room with a computer terminal. You, generally, are outside in the warm sunshine when many others are chomping at

the bit to be unleashed.

Ken Erman is building supervisor at Edgell Communications. He is, typically, one of you. As he approaches retirement, he tells the story best.

"I've been at this all my life. I worked on a farm from the time I was nine. This was my life. I couldn't get enough of work."

Was it hard work. Ken?

"There are hard aspects. But it was worth it to see the product.

To see the results.

"Maybe it's hereditary. My dad was a great one for flowers."
You're a landscape manager. You're historically a hard worker.
Hereditary or not, you take pride in seeing the final product.
Thank you, one and all. And keep up the good work.

Jerry Roche

Jerry Roche, editor

LM

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GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS



Burning turfseed fields means black plumes of smoke and possible danger for motorists.

SEED

Seed prices could escalate if legislation to limit field burning is passed in Oregon

Oregon seed farmers have been "feeling the heat" lately. Field burning, a key part of turfseed growing operations, was cited as the cause of a horrifying traffic accident on Oregon's I-5 in August. Heavy smoke from the field blew across the highway near Albany, decreasing visibility like a curtain of heavy fog.

Shortly after the crash, in which seven people were killed and 38 injured, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) banned field burning within a 1/4-mile of all interstate highways. Since then, the ban has been expanded to a 1/2-mile "fire safety buffer zone" along I-5, with burning banned completely in the first 1/4-mile of the zone. Burning in the second 1/4-mile can take place only with increased state regulation. In addition, seven other highways in the state will be lined by a 1/4-mile buffer zone with burning banned within the first 1/8-mile.

The new rules were issued via a 180-day Administrative Order that will be in effect until mid-February. After that time, the issue will again come before the DEQ for renewal.

"Ever since the accident occurred, people previously tolerant of field burning have come out in opposition to it," says Dave Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Seed Council. The primary opponents are groups called End Noxious Unhealthy Fumes (ENUF), Oregonians for Clean Air, and Residents of Oregon Against Deadly Sprays and Smoke.

Members of these groups and others were among the 60 people present at a September public hearing where a state legislative committee heard the strongest opposition yet voiced against the 40-year-old practice of field burning. Opponents have joined forces with state Sen. Grattan Kearns (D-Eugene) in proposing legislation seeking to ban field burning.

The state's emerging resistance to field burning has been more intense than that of the 1960s and 1970s when the state gained regulatory control of field burning and limited the practice to about 65 percent of the valley's grass fields. The heat of the current debate led Bill Rose, owner of Turf-Seed Inc., to quip: "Oregon's seed industry is respected all over the world—every place but Oregon."

Nevertheless, Nelson is preparing to give the seed producers their fair say. "The industry is organizing to represent itself thoroughly," said Nelson. However, "there's no doubt in my mind that if field burning survives these attempts at banning it, the present rules will remain."

Dennis Glaser, a seed farmer who owns more than 5,000 acres in the Willamette Valley, agrees that the days of field burning are numbered. "I don't know that it's going to be this year," he said, "but I'm not optimistic. I'd say the practice will end within the next three years."

The challenge for farmers, says Glaser, will be to produce the quality seed people have come to expect from Oregon without the benefit of burning, which reduces the threat of diseases (such as ergot and blind seed disease) and keeps prices down.

"Our future yields will be less, that's a given," adds Glaser. "Burning does unexplained things to a plant. There isn't a mechanical way we know of that would do the same thing."

The current Administrative Order covers approximately 30,000 to 40,000 acres of seed fields. Owners of these fields may have to resort to alternative methods of field sanitation: propane burning, chemical spraying, crew cutting and bailing. All cost \$50 to \$70 more per acre than field burning.

Nelson and Glaser agree that a sense of urgency exists among Oregon farmers and university researchers to find an alternative to field burning.

"We're not happy about what has happened, but don't write us off," adds Glaser. "We're good learners and will do what we have to do to continue to produce the best quality seed in the world."

-Will Perry

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