

# ty of reasons.



## **CROSSFIRE** TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE

Crossfire turf-type tall fescue is the only strategy you need for battling a summer ambush of heat and drought. Crossfire is a lower and slower growing variety of tall fescue that exhibits a very dark green color. It combines improved heat and drought tolerance with outstanding turf quality to produce a dense and durable turf. Crossfire's high marks in overall performance during its initial evaluation proved it was ready for the field. Let Crossfire show you how to endure a long summer siege.

## **SPARTAN** HARD FESCUE

Spartan is a robust, advanced generation of hard fescue that is dark green, leafy, and persistent. It demonstrates excellent cold tolerance and creates attractive, low growing, low maintenance turf. Spartan mixes well with perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and other fine fescues. It is an outstanding component in many shady and low maintenance mixes suited for use on home lawns, parks, and golf course roughs.

## **AMERICA** KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

America is a low maintenance Kentucky bluegrass that has a dense dwarf growth habit, dark green color, excellent disease resistance, and good shade tolerance. Perfect in mixes, America is ideal for golf course fairways, sod production, playing fields, and home lawns.

Pickseed also produces the following quality turfgrass varieties: Agram chewing fescue, Jasper creeping red fescue, Jazz perennial ryegrass, Alpine Kentucky bluegrass, Exeter colonial bentgrass, and National creeping bentgrass.

## **SHORTSTOP** TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUE



Shortstop is the little guy with big benefits. As its name implies, Shortstop is a slower and shorter growing variety of turf-type tall fescue. But don't let its stature fool you. Shortstop is plenty tough. It has heat and cold tolerance, disease resistance and is widely adapted. Shortstop forms a beautiful, dense, uniform turf of finer, darker green leaves.

## **BRONCO** Kentucky Bluegrass

Bronco is a very wide bladed Kentucky bluegrass that was developed specifically as a mix companion for turf-type tall fescue. While its texture and color gives it the appearance of a tall fescue, the comparison between the two ends there. Bronco is elite Kentucky bluegrass all the way. Its been bred to be less dense so it won't crowd out tall fescue and yet still aggressive enough to fill in and repair damaged areas quickly. That's what makes Bronco ideal for sports turf use.

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## Believing in his own people

MURRYSVILLE, Pa. — Irrigation expert Tamas (Tom) Tanto thinks that having the right people in the right place at the right time is vital.

"We feel it is very important to take our own employees to out-of-town jobs, and not hire local people there," he explains. "We might have one inexperienced person in an eight-man crew, but he's from our home base and we're training him. Most of our crews have been together for a long time. They work long hours—seven days a week to meet the deadlines—and they do quality work."

Some irrigation organizations send out two or three experienced people, and then hire locally to fill out the crew. But often they find it difficult to get on-site



Tamas "Tom" Tanto (right) confers with David Alexandrowicz, superintendent at St. Clair C.C. in Venetia, Pa.

help of any kind. And they face the problem, right after payday and as a project winds down, that some local help will not show up.

Tanto's company installs irrigation systems for Arnold Palmer, Jack Nick-

laus, Reese Jones, Robert Trent Jones and other top golf course designers. It also re-does irrigation on top-notch, well-known existing courses.

Tanto's 67 employees restrict themselves to an area

extending from Maine to Florida, and from the Atlantic Ocean to Ohio. They work hard to keep on top of 20 to 25 concurrent projects.

Tanto, a 1956 Hungarian refugee who earned a civil engineering degree from the University of Pittsburgh, built complete golf courses until 1974. Then the energy crisis convinced him he should concentrate on irrigation, the least energy-dependent and his favorite phase.

How does he keep up with the fast pace he's set for himself?

"It takes a combination of things," he says. "Good people, good equipment, a commitment to finishing jobs right and on time...it's a matter of putting several pieces of a puzzle together."

Tanto has found it im-  
to page 26

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Chipco® Sevimol® is a special liquid formulation of Sevin® brand carbaryl insecticide for broad spectrum defense against grubs, sod webworms, chinch bugs, bluegrass billbugs, mole crickets and more than two dozen other turf pests. Chipco®



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**PEOPLE** from page 22  
portant to use reliable trenching and vibratory plowing equipment, which can be maintained by distributors wherever he goes. After trying a bit of everything, he has settled on Ditch Witch: six 30 hp trenchers and one 65 hp trencher, along with five 35 hp lawn plows and various attachments, including two earth saws.

"We expect to get 2,000 feet a day out of each machine and crew," says Tanto. "Usually, we run only one machine at a time on a job. Trenching is normally finished by noon, and the whole day is spent laying pipe."

Tanto also recently acquired a Ditch Witch P40

rod pusher, specifically for a course whose manager would not allow him to saw across roads and cart paths. It's "smaller and lighter than any rod pushers we've used before," he says.

Tanto himself visits all job sites frequently, discussing needs with course officials and making sure their schedules are being met. His "normal" 18-hole irrigation job on a new course takes about 60 days.

What about the future? The demand for new golf courses is increasing almost exponentially, and competent irrigation companies are getting busier. What once was a seasonal activity has become a fast-paced, year-round, high-tech activity for dedicated people like Tanto and his crews.



Paul Thomas (left) and Joe Ardolino were responsible for renovating the baseball field at Towson State University.

## Towson's renovation: using all the resources

BALTIMORE — When East Coast Conference officials decided that Towson State's baseball team couldn't play on its home field if it qualified for post-season play, Paul Thomas and Joe Ardolino knew it was time to renovate.

Thomas is grounds supervisor and Ardolino assistant athletic director at this small suburban college. Together they transformed the school's baseball stadium from censure to championship quality, as evidenced by the Beam Clay College Diamond Award won last year.

"The most important

step you can take is also the least expensive step," notes Thomas. "And that is to have a conduit between you and the coaches." Thomas notes that there is no shortage of egos to be found on any coaching staff, which underscores the need to have a strong communicator in close contact with coaches.

"We tried very hard to establish positive dialogue with athletic administrators to get a total picture of their needs instead of working on a game-by-game or as-needed basis," says Thomas.

Finding the money for



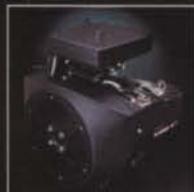
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Finding the money for renovation is as difficult as removing 20 years of poor maintenance, Thomas added. The key is to put all the resources at your disposal to work, says Thomas.

"Convince your athletic department to do for you what it does for its sports programs," says Ardolino. Towson State coaches and ballplayers helped lay sod and the local utility company supplied about \$10,000 worth of trenching and plumbing work. "That's a real important part of our project. We knew we couldn't do it as a one- or two-man show. You need support."

Thomas also suggested to think big when making plans. Tell coaches and administrators of the field's potential and be a good salesman. "Don't walk in and hit them with the price right away," says Thomas. "I think it's better to go in one day and say, 'These are the improvements we want to make.' Give them the improvements and come back

later and tell them how much it will cost."

Ardolino and Thomas say their successful renovation has had a carry-over effect on the rest of the college. "We were able to go to the president for more money and, as a result of our success, we got an increase in our maintenance budget and have three new full-time people."

—Will Perry

**Dr. Gwen Stahnke**, previously with the University of Nebraska, has replaced the retired **Dr. Roy L. Goss**, who was turfgrass specialist at the University of Washington.

**Mike Robinson** of Seed Research of Oregon recently presented a \$500 research grant to **Tom Cook**, representing the Oregon State University Department of Horticulture.

**Judy Brede**, Jacklin Seed Company's warm-season grass breeder, has been promoted to the position of Director of Warm-Season Grass Research. □

# LETTERS

## Customers pay for your labor

To the editor:

Right on with your editorial "As I See It" in the November issue. You have reaffirmed the fact that customers, not the company, pay our labor. In order to elevate the quality and maintain the talent we need to provide the professional services our clients are demanding, we must re-evaluate our pricing policies. Not only will wages have to go up, but we must learn how to provide full-time employment with minimal or no seasonal layoff, and we must provide a good quality benefit package.

My investigation this past season tells me that our young people completing two- and four-year courses in horticulture are being

heavily recruited—many have as many as 12 job offers at very respectable wages. I am sure none of us wants to cut our business by 20 percent because we cannot get the necessary labor force.

Much will be said and written in the next few years about this serious problem, but your editorial hits it where it's at. Get the charges for services up, work efficiently and compensate our people acceptably.

**Ritchie B. Skelton**  
Lied's,  
Sussex, Wisc.

To the editor:

I am writing regarding the article "Biocontrols for the Green Industry" (November, 1989, LM), I agree that new developments in pest biocontrol research

*continued on page 90*

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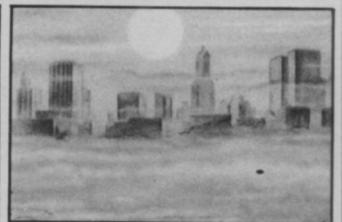
## Savage Heat Waves, Water Shortages, Parched Farms Year After Year After Year

The National Arbor Day Foundation Urges You to Plant Trees to Fight the Greenhouse Effect

The Greenhouse Effect may take hold of the Earth in your lifetime.

If that happens, the huge polar ice caps may melt, causing oceans to flood coastal cities. Drought will plague America's breadbasket. Rivers that supply water to cities will dry up. Heat waves will be commonplace.

A sharp increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide is a major cause of the Greenhouse Effect. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but mankind has destroyed a third of the world's forests.



You can make a difference. Trees you plant may be our best line of defense.

**Free Booklet.** The National Arbor Day Foundation has published a free tree planting guidebook titled *Conservation Trees*. Return the coupon below and I'll send your free booklet by return mail.

*John Rosenow*  
John Rosenow, Executive Director  
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# Weed Control in the Environmental Age:

As turf management has become more sophisticated and environmentally significant, it has become absolutely essential for turf professionals to select a post-emergent herbicide that: • Has a broad enough spectrum to control virtually *all* problem weeds • Releases a minimum of active ingredients into the environment • Provides maximum safety to turf and adjacent trees and ornamentals • Reduces overall expenses (chemical *and* labor) to an absolute minimum. Read why only Trimec® Turf Herbicides can help you solve all of these problems.

Of course you know that herbicidal activity is influenced by temperature, weed species, state of growth, and type of turfgrass. So a herbicide that would be effective in taking hardened-off spurge out of bluegrass would be totally out of place for treating dollarweed in bermudagrass.

Indeed, in light of today's complex weed control problems, the one-size-

fits-all approach to herbicide selection has become totally obsolete.

As a matter of fact, in order to maximize the efficiency of weed control throughout the U.S.A., we have developed seven different Trimec Turf Herbicide formulations.

But even more important, we have developed a unique manufacturing process for each of these seven

formulations so that the acid components are reacted together to form a *Complex* of unified salt, thus assuring you that every Trimec Complex will always be dependable, time after time.

For a comprehensive explanation of how a Complex differs from a formulator tank mix — and why this difference is vital to you in coping with weed control problems today — we invite you to take a close look at the schematic diagrams on the opposite page, which were drawn up for us by one of the most prestigious university professors ever involved in ornamental turf.

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This not only enables you to get those over-wintering annuals at a time when you might otherwise have a void in your work schedule, but it also enables you to get them before their roots have a chance to compete with the turfgrass you are trying to thicken up . . . and you get *all* the broadleaves because Super Trimec has the broadest spectrum of any post-emergent broadleaf herbicide.

Everett Mealman, President of PBI/Gordon, asks: "Can any other herbicide manufacturer point to such a record of safety and efficiency?"

**Super Trimec:** Unparalleled broadleaf control for cool-weather broadcasting and spot treatment of hardened-off summer annuals such as spurge, oxalis and ground ivy. One gallon covers 4 acres.

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**Trimec Southern:** Especially designed to control broadleaves in 2,4-D-sensitive southern grasses.

**Trimec 992:** The applicator's formula. Especially designed for tank mixing with liquid fertilizer and other multiple tank-mix combinations.

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