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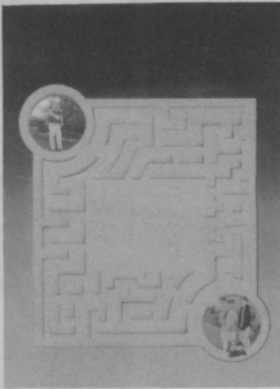
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Randy Thompson



# LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT



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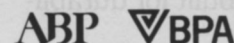
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*John Deere mower decks don't wrinkle with age. All side discharge decks are made from stamped steel with a reinforcing bar around their perimeter to protect them from impacts.*



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# AS I SEE IT...



## Pay me now, pay me later

The soccer field sloped a good three feet from its southern goal mouth to its southwest corner. One of the turf experts surveying it said that if he were coach he'd "put my best left-footed kicker on the top of the hill and everybody else at the bottom."

Just down the road, the varsity football field was rutted, muddy in spots and hard. There was no way, I thought, that I'd ever play on that field—even if it meant a date with the head cheerleader.

These are real fields. Though their poor condition is a commonality, the reasons for their poor condition are radically different.

The soccer field is in a beautiful public park. There is money to improve the field; it's just been mis-appropriated by those holding the purse strings.

Taxpayers spent their park money on wonderfully modern halogen lights for the softball fields, a paved fitness trail and picnic pavilions, instead of opting to level the soccer fields. Someone—the architect, the engineer, the construction company—had simply misplaced priorities.

The football field is nestled behind a fairly large old high school. There is no money to improve the football field; no money to paint the grandstand; no money, even, to replace some of the windows in the school building. What little available money is directed toward other needed projects, like textbooks.

"If only he had some resources," one of my comrades noted, pointing at the field manager. "There's a man who loves his work, is dedicated to it. But his hands are tied." Any leftover money appropriated for landscape work is automatically diverted to the school's front lawn, where passing motorists can easily see their tax dollars at work.

What the taxpayers don't realize, however, is that when you spend money on things other than making athletic fields safe, you're flirting with disaster. That's the seven-letter type of disaster called L-A-W-S-U-I-T.

There's never been a survey done, but I'd bet that for every rutted, ill-kept athletic field in this country there exist about 15,000 attorneys, each waiting for the imminent twisted limb or broken neck that will pay for his or her next trip to Acapulco.

Insurance specialist Jim Leatzow, a frequent contributor to this magazine, agrees.

"When a kid gets hurt in a high school football game and there's a bald spot anywhere near where the accident occurred, multiple attorneys will come out of the woodwork," Leatzow notes from experience. "They allege either improper design or maintenance."

Leatzow says the quest for libel suits against the owners of athletic fields and park systems "is hot stuff." Further, he makes the point that if fields are not well designed and maintained, "they're flirting with disaster."

If this sounds serious, it is. Their message is clear for those in charge of athletic fields: "You can pay now, or you can pay later."

Jerry Roche, executive editor

# LM

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**Larry Hanks, VP Golf Operations;  
North Star Development Co., Inc.  
at Deer Creek, Overland Park, KS.**

“When planning our World-class, Robert Trent Jones II designed golf course in the Kansas City area, we had to seriously consider our hot, dry summers. We simply could not leave the all-important turf areas to

chance. Penncross bent was selected for the greens, zoysia for the tees and fairways, and tons and tons of Triathalawn blend was seeded into the roughs. Our tees, greens and fairways will receive adequate water, but we're counting on Triathalawn's deep-rooting to look good in the unirrigated areas ... especially around our stately trees.

Deer Creek is a privately owned course open for fee play. After observing how tall fescues handled the wear, shade and 1988 drought at neighboring private and public courses, we agreed that the new turf-

types were up to the task. When it came to selecting a brand name, we picked Triathalawn blend, to make the *very best of a real good thing.*”

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# Crabgrass & Nutsedge

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Everett Mealman, President  
PBI/Gordon Corporation

Yellow nutsedge can be devastating if it gets out of hand because of the way it spreads from its roots. Just ask Lentz Wheeler, superintendent of the Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston, Virginia, which is recognized as one of the better maintained courses in the Washington D.C. area.

"We had two years of drought," says Wheeler, "followed by a year of excessive rain, and it brought on an undesirable infestation of yellow nutsedge" —

totally unacceptable for a course like Hidden Creek.

Wheeler goes on to say that he tried several post-emerge herbicides but, in his words, "the main thing we got from them was a lot of phyto, which I wish had been on the nutsedge rather than on our fairway grass.

"Trimec Plus turned out to be the product that came to our rescue. One treatment with Trimec Plus," says Wheeler, "gave us back the type of fairways we could be proud of."

So Trimec Plus gets yellow nutsedge, and it is economical. But how about crabgrass?

"If you want to talk about crabgrass, talk to us," say Ted Davenport and Gerald Krohn, of Bay Landscaping, Inc., Essexville, Michigan (Saginaw, Midland, Bay City).

To fully appreciate what they have to say about Trimec Plus and crabgrass, you need to know that the residential division of Bay Landscaping mainly services upscale homes, most of which they originally landscaped. They have their own pride in those lawns, and they can't abide even the slightest blemish.

"We nearly always have excessive spring moisture," says Davenport. "It tends to leach out the pre-emerge and when the hot weather hits, so does the crabgrass, right along with the summer annual broadleaves. To be on the safe side, our program consists of a broadcast treatment of Trimec Plus for the second and third applications.

"This will be our fourth year with Trimec Plus," continues Krohn, "so you know what we think of it . . . It does a beautiful job of controlling crabgrass and other course grasses, along with every conceivable type of broadleaf."

So Trimec Plus gets yellow nutsedge; it gets crabgrass; it gets broadleaves; it's economical. But how fast does it work?



Lentz Wheeler, superintendent of Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston, Virginia, savors his handiwork on an immaculate fairway that once was plagued with yellow nutsedge. Wheeler says that Trimec Plus did a thorough job of cleaning out the nutsedge, and the cost was surprisingly low. Wheeler was equally impressed by the fact that Trimec Plus also did an excellent job on the few tough broadleaves that were present.





Ted Davenport, left, lawn care applicator of Bay Landscaping, Essexville, Michigan, and Gerald Krohn, in charge of lawn service. They always carry an SP1 Back Pack Sprayer loaded with Trimec Plus. They have found that the SP1 and Trimec Plus are the ideal combination for spot weeding. Not only does Trimec Plus get grassy weeds and nutsedge, but broadleaves as well. The SP1 Back Pack Sprayer is a \$100.00 value, but you can receive one for only \$35.00 when you buy Trimec Plus.



Reed Hull, left, president of Vita Lawn Corp., Rancho Cordova, California, and Bradley Belcher, general manager, say that Trimec Plus often knocks out crabgrass in one application without any phytotoxicity or discoloration to their Bermudagrass turf. Before the advent of Trimec Plus, Vita Lawn used 6-lb. MSMA, which usually required three or even four treatments to get crabgrass without phytotoxicity. They are also very pleasantly surprised by the control of dallisgrass they are getting with Trimec Plus.

You want fast results — you want to talk to Reed Hull and Bradley Belcher of Vita Lawn Corp., located in the Rancho Cordova suburb of Sacramento.

Vita Lawn is a very highly regarded lawn service company, and when the crabgrass hits in Sacramento, Vita Lawn's phone rings off the wall with homeowners who want to become new customers . . . right now!

"We've traditionally sold these new customers a three-application rescue program for their grassy weeds," says general manager Belcher. "In the past, using 6-lb. MSMA, we had to spread it out over three treatments or more to get the crabgrass without phytotoxicity. Trimec Plus often will do the job with just one application and, if we're back two or three times, it is usually because we're after dallisgrass."

### What is Trimec Plus?

Trimec Plus is a Complex that was designed by PBI/Gordon research to solve the problem of grassy weeds like crabgrass, dallisgrass and barnyardgrass, as well as nutsedge, in ornamental turf.

In terms of cost and effectiveness, MSMA used to be the herbicide for nutsedge and grassy weeds . . . but it

has a major flaw when used in ornamental turf. To get enough of it into grassy weeds requires rates of application that can result in burning and discoloration of the turf.

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# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

MAY 1990, VOLUME 29, NUMBER 5

## LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

### LEGISLATION

# Lawn and golf pesticides get kicked in the backside

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Green industry interests were joking that Lt. George Prior has become “the man who wouldn’t die.” But it was no joke as the U.S. Senate held a subcommittee hearing on the alleged dangers of turf pesticides here March 28.

The most forceful and bitter witness to appear during the all-day session was Thomas Prior of Maplewood, N.J., who graphically recounted the death of his brother George eight years ago—several weeks after playing golf at a local course. Prior unhesitatingly blamed the death on exposure to a fungicide which had been applied to the golf course.

“There is a clear need for the government to take a more active role (in pesticide control),” Prior said. “It was established beyond doubt that chlorothanil (Daconil) killed my brother.”

Prior also said that testing laboratories paid for by pesticide manufacturers “have been abused” and that “there are no industry-wide standards for training or application.”

Also taking the stand were 11-year-old Kevin Ryan of Arlington Heights, Ill. and Sharon Malhotra of Murrysville, Pa.

Ryan said, “I can’t function mentally when I’m ex-



Room 216 of the Hart Building in Washington, D.C. was site of a Senate subcommittee hearing on lawn pesticides. Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) (center, facing camera) presided.

posed to pesticides. I can’t even play in my own yard because my neighbors spray their lawns. And being on a baseball team is a dream I’ve given up on because all the ballfields are treated.

“They (lawn care companies) are robbing me of my childhood, and I am angry with my country for allowing these untested chemicals to be applied by untrained applicators.”

Said Malhotra, who complained of severe headaches, numbness, nausea and muscle twitches because of pesticides: “Everytime I leave my home, I’m risking exposure to pesticides. Hundreds of thousands of Americans’

lives have been seriously compromised.” Then—with passion: “Give us a chance to live normal, productive lives again.”

Senators in attendance were John Warner (R-Va.), Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.). They did not ask for testimony in favor of turf pesticides until later in the day, when most media representatives had left to file their stories.

Representing the golf course industry was William R. Roberts, government relations chairman of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

“The goal of the GCSAA is to work with legislators and regulators to protect

the environment,” Roberts said. “We do not intend to deal in the emotions of the moment. We will spend our dollars on research and education. We will not spend our dollars in the courtroom challenging the regulatory process.”

“Golf is honestly trying to...leave our home base here on earth...a little bit better.”

The hearing was called as a response to a General Accounting Office (GAO) report. Testifying for the GAO was associate director Peter F. Guerrero, who chose to focus on alleged cases of false advertising by the lawn care industry.

“We believe that the

*continued on page 11*