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# JOB TALK

## **Instant landscapes?** Move trees

■ Ever hear of "instant landscaping?" It's a landscape design meant to look very well established, even if it's just 10 minutes old.

Dennis Higbie, landscape manager at the Walt Disney MGM Studios in Orlando, Fla., has a baker's dozen of instant landscaping rules, from plant acquisition to big-tree moving, to maintenance. And, he says, each procedure is based on the mandate that you shouldn't be able to tell the plant or tree was moved into the space.

"Acquisition of healthy, pest-free plant material can make or break a project, financially and aesthetically," says Higbie. "Plant acquisition sets the "instant landscaper" apart from his or her counterpart in other disciplines. If what we need is not available right now, putting on a third shift won't solve the problem."

Higbie's approach to plant spacing involves intentionally overplanting certain portions of projects to hasten the desired look and provide specimens for future use.

"Once you have an instant landscape," says Higbie, "follow-up care is the most critical aspect." Crews keep daily tabs of plant vitality. Transplanted trees are immediately guyed, fertilized, watered three times at installation, and as needed thereafter.

The landscape division of Disney World is expert when it comes to moving big trees. The time required to prepare and move a tree can be anywhere from three days to three years, and what happens during the move is crucial to the tree's lifespan.

Elements of timing

Deciduous trees should be dormant or in period of least

#### TABLE 1. Elements of 'instant landscaping'

- · organization and planning
- · installation practices
- plant acquisition
- maintenance
- plant size
- turf

- design considerations
- · unique specimens
- · big-tree moving
- · flower beds
- spacing

#### TABLE 2. Adaptability of central Florida trees to transplanting

Trees which establish well after a transplant:

- elms
- maples
- queen palms
- Trees which require special care:
- acacias
- · canary island date palms

- magnolias
- oaks
- willows
- camphors eucalyptus
- photocarcus



Balling and burlapping: balling hooks tighten hog wire around soil ball. Photo courtesy Walt Disney World Co.

active growth. Spring is recommended for evergreens, when soil is warm.

- However, timing is often based on installation schedules, tree availability, operational demands.
- Trees received bare root may be boxed or held until a later date.
- "Know" the tree, understand growth principles, and observe to let you know when a specimen may be moved without harm.

Which tree moving method to choose? Size, type, present location and future location are the elements to consider. Disney uses these:

- 1) Balling and burlapping method
- a. The size of the root ball is determined and marked.
- b. A trench is dug, and the ball formed, using a balling spade, a sharp, flat tool.
  - c. Large roots are cut with a pruner or saw.
- d. The ball is tapered inwards towards the bottom, wrapped with burlap, Nails hold burlap in place.
  - e. The wrapped ball is secured with poultry wire.
- f. If the tree is not going to moved immediately, the hole should be filled with sawdust.
  - 2) Cut root ball method
  - a. A trench is dug around the tree.
- b. Tree is moved without wrapping the soil ball. The tight, fibrous root system of trees, palms and bamboos moved this way helps keep the ball together.
- c. Used on specimen oaks. The oaks were root pruned in advance to encourage formation of a very dense, fibrous root system. The result was a shallow, broad root ball in excess of 14 ft. in diameter and two feet deep.

Lifting techniques

Choke strapping: Used on single-trunk palms. Not recommended for trees, as it puts tremendous pressure on the bark.

Choke strapping involves the use of a nylon strap wrapped around the trunk. Protective wrap helps prevent scarring. Even with protection, choke strapping can result in serious girdling damage if used on trees.

Barrel strapping: With this method, the tree is lifted by the root ball, and therefore does not stretch the trunk. The strength of the solid root ball supports the tree. Two wide straps are placed on either side of the root ball. They are looped through each other and then connected to leaders threaded to the top of the tree.

Saddle strapping: Like barrel strapping, saddle strapping involves lifting the tree by the root ball. The tree is lifted at an angle. Trees which must be loaded horizontally on a trailer are best lifted using saddle strapping technique.

-Terry McIver

# Avoid Running Into Problems.



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# SHOWEASE

## Pre- and postemergence nutsedge control

One of the most damaging landscape weeds is nutsedge. Nutsedge is difficult to control because it is common and very hardy. Nutsedge may lie dormant for years and then suddenly overtake a landscape.

Nutsedge reproduces by means of nutlets. Dr. Elton Smith, landscape and horticulture extension specialist at Ohio State University says nutlet dormancy is hard to predict. "That makes control difficult, because you never know where or when nutsedge will pop up," says Smith.

Smith prefers pre-emergence herbicides for most landscape situations. "With ornamentals already planted," advises Smith, "It probably makes more sense to use a pre-emergence product because it won't damage the plants you want to keep.

To remove nutsedge by hand, the entire plant must be removed. But that takes time—time many landscape companies don't have.

Joe Angel, a landscape project manager for Budd Services in Winston-Salem, N.C., often confronts nutsedge on large corporate properties.

Angel encountered a nutsedge problem on the Ciba-Geigy headquarters in Greensboro, N.C. He tried Ciba-Geigy's Pennant herbicide, which he found cut his crew's weeding time by 60 to 70 percent.

Post-emergence products are also an answer. Smith says Roundup and Basagran T/O are two that work, but they are most



Pre-emergence applications gives ornamentals a fighting chance against weeds.

effective if applied when weeds are young.

"You should be extremely careful that these products don't get too close to desirable ornamentals." warns Smith.

Steve Hellwege, spray division manager at Top Care Lawn Service in St. Louis, Mo., prefers pre-emergence control. "It gives ornamentals a fighting chance against the weeds, which compete for light, space and nutrients, and it cuts down on our labor because we minimize our hand-weeding," explains Hellwege. "We don't have to worry about weeds popping up in between property visits when we use pre-emergence herbicides.

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### SHEWAY WAVE HER

## PRODUCT REVIEW

## Tractor serves as backhoe, loader

Kubota Tractor Corporation's new B-20 tractor is an industrial strength compact tractor that can be equipped with a full-scale backhoe and loader.

Powered by a 20-hp engine, the B-20



was specifically designed to meet the rigorous demands of front loader, backhoe, trencher and box scraper work and yet retain the versatility and maneuverability found in a compact tractor.

With its Kubota-made, liquid-cooled 3cylinder diesel engine, the B20 features hydrostatic transmission, and standard

#### HIEN.E-WHI

## REVIEW

four-wheel drive for greater traction and power.

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#### Hydraulic accessory swings side-to-side

The "Powertilt" Bucket and Tool Positioner from Helac Corp. of Washington state is a hydraulically pow-



ered accessory that swings buckets and tools up to 60 degrees to the left or right.

Designed for retrofit installation between the dipperstick and tool of most backhoes and excavators under 40,000 lbs. Standard buckets, 12 inches and wider, and most hydraulic tools are compatible with Powertilt.

Buckets and tools are completely interchangeable with Powertilt installed. Powertilt can expand machine dexterity to permit easier excavation under and around buried pipes, rocks, foundations or sidewalks.

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### Reduce space between paver stones by half

A new Pav-El pedestal reduces the spacing between paver stones by 50 percent and increases load bearing area by 48 percent.



Envirospec, Inc., of Buffalo, N.Y., says the system can be used for elevation, uniform spacing and complete drainage of paver-stones installed on roof deck areas.

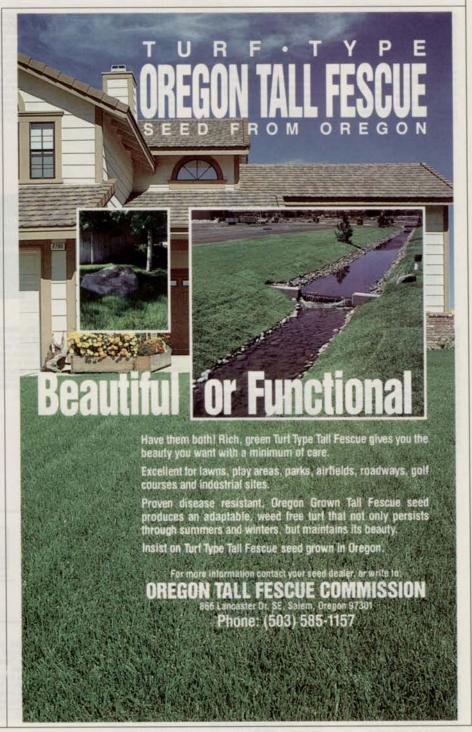
According to the company, the Model 6x was designed to meet the aesthetic and functional needs of architects, roofing contractors and building owners for narrower openings between paverstones.

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### Dump trailer hauls 20 cubic feet of cargo

A new dump trailer from Cushman hauls up to 20 cubic feet of cargo, and can be used with the Cushman Turf-Truckster.

Because of the fifth wheel configura-



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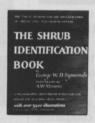
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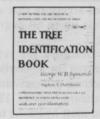
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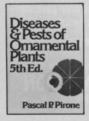
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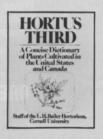
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# REVIEW

tion, the new Turf-Truckster with Dump Trailer has excellent maneuverability for golf course and other landscape management maintenance applications.

The Turf-Truckster must be equipped with the special quick-attach fifth wheel hitch and the live hydraulics package available from Cushman. The Dump Trailer attaches to the



## is hinged for control The Boss straight blade snowplow is

Straight blade snowplow

Turf-Truckster with a 2-inch ball hitch.

The Dump Trailer is equipped with 24-

inch x 13-inch turf tires on 12-inch rims.

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The Boss straight blade snowplow is made with a unique multi-position hinged "V" snowplow whose cab control changes the position of two independently movable blade havles, making the Boss do the work of three different kinds of fixed blade snowplows.

The "rapid-tach" system allows attachment of plow to truck in seconds without an operator crawling under the vehicle in wet and cold conditions. Disconnecting the plow for storage is easy and quick.



The plow is backed by a two-year warranty. M.J. Electric of Iron Mountain, Mich. is the manufacturer.

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## Grass collection system will carry 17 bushels

Ford-New Holland has a new grass collection system for its CM224 and



CM274 commercial mowers that features a 17-bushel hopper with a 73-inch dump height.

The blower impeller is driven from the right-hand mower spindle.

## THE WALKER TOUCH



The Perfect Touch Many operators are finding the mid-size Walker Mower is the perfect size for their jobs – a compact, maneuverable tractor for small areas, combined with open space productivity of a rider, saves time.

The "Midas" Touch Walker Mowers are moneymakers; one owner explained why he was buying a second Walker, "The first one made me money – I like to make money."

The Finishing Touch To please the most discriminating customer, Walker delivers a beautiful mowing job and with the exclusive GHS grass collection option, the turf is vacuumed clean and manicured.

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