USE YOUR CAMCORDER!

■ Mike Mongan of Arcola Country Club in Paramus, N.J. has been very successful at communicating with members and the greens committee through video presentations.

"Membership and governing bodies have situations where they ask you, 'what have you done for me lately?'" Mongan said at the annual GCSAA Convention. "They have short memories.

"I've gained a lot of respect from the membership for the grounds grew because I've been able to demonstrate that we're not just grass-cutters and we don't just sit around drinking coffee in the winter. You get to show them things they wouldn't normally see. We can show things that are being done on a timely basis, in-house with our own staff."

Mongan says you can use a videotape to document things like construction, the effects of nature on the course, and vandalism.

"You can also show (your greens committee) that your crew is well trained, and that they are willing to tackle problems," Mongan says. "The reporting aspect is essential. Being able to bring things to life is an integral part of communication."

Mongan has 10 commandments of video taping, gleaned through four years of experience taping his course's development:

1) Identify a subject or project.

2) Be sure your battery is charged.

3) Keep the segments brief, just enough to give a flavor or whet the appetite.

4) Keep the day/date mechanism on the camera turned on.

5) Refrain from quick movements.

6) Keep reference points the same during time lapse photography of the project.

7) Use the fade button for more professional results.

8) Narrate during your presentation to the governing body, not while taping.

9) Don't tape golfers up close, or their faces.

10) Solicit comments from the governing body during the presentation.

—*J.R.*

Use video cameras to record golf course renovation projects.

Controlling summer patch

■ Summer patch is a disease that affects annual bluegass on golf course greens, tees and fairways in the northern U.S., according to Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University. The scientific name of the pathogen is *Magnaporthe poae*.

Several methods of cultural and chemical control are now available, Clarke says.

"Cultural management (i.e., aerification, fertilization, lowering soil pH) will reduce disease severity and thus reduce the amount of fungicide needed to control summer patch," he further notes.

Aerifying will reduce the disease's harmful effects on turfgrass. "It doesn't matter whether it's shallow- or deep-tine aerification," Clarke says, "Springtime aerification, however, is most effective in reducing disease severity."

Fertilizers can help superintendents cope with summer patch. For instance, Clarke states, an acidifying fertilizer will reduce the severity of the disease by lowering soil pH. "This is a long-term approach in which results don't become apparent until the third year," he further notes.

Sulfur-coated urea, ammonium sulfate and ammonium chloride will reduce the disease. However, certain fertilizers should be avoided. Calcium nitrate and potassium nitrate will actually accentuate summer patch.

Clarke further notes that superintendents can decrease the probability of damage from summer patch and other root diseases by making sure the soil pH is between 5.5 and 6.0, which is more acid than the normally-accepted 6.5.

If you must use a fungicide to control disease outbreaks, Clarke says that foliar applications of the fungicides in the accompanying chart work best. Use full label rates until proper cultural practices (i.e. fertilization and aerification) reduce disease development.

He adds that high rates of water—four or five gallons per 1000 square feet—should accompany fungicide application. "But if you can't apply that much water, irrigation does enhance control slightly," he says. One-eighth to one-fourth of an inch of irrigation is ideal.

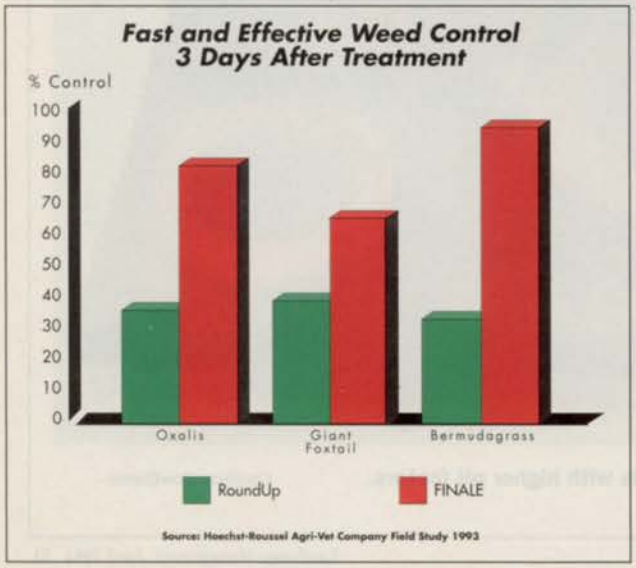
continued on page 54

Summer patch thrives in soils with higher pH factors. *Courtesy DowElanco*

NEW FINALE™ HERBICIDE WORKS.

FINALE. KILLS WEEDS IN 1 TO 4 DAYS.

Seeing dead weeds proves its effective control. Finale™ gives results in as few as 1 to 4 days, versus the 7 to 14 days required with Roundup.® So why wait when you can use Finale?



FINALE. EFFECTIVE BROAD SPECTRUM CONTROL.

A nonselective herbicide, Finale provides effective control of broadleaves, grasses, sedges, and woody species.

TWICE AS FAST AS ROUNDUP®!

FINALE. ECOLOGICAL FEATURES.

Finale degrades rapidly* in the soil into naturally occurring compounds. It has no soil residual activity and there is no root uptake.

FINALE. BECAUSE RESPONSIBLE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT INCLUDES THE ENVIRONMENT.

Circle No. 113 on Reader Inquiry Card

Hoechst Roussel

* Under natural conditions the half-life of Finale in soil and water (DT50) is between 7 and 20 days, depending on temperature, aerobic conditions and microflora.

Marketed by Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet Company, Somerville, NJ 08876-1258. © 1994

SUMMER PATCH *from page 51*

The *Magnaporthe poae* fungus needs a soil temperature of at least 60 degrees at a two-inch depth to infect roots. This means that the soil temperature will have to be 60 degrees for four or five days in a row before it will begin the infection process. Therefore, the first fungicide application should not be made until this time. For optimum control, repeat two to three times at 21- to 28-day intervals.

To summarize Clarke's approach to effective summer patch management:

- aerify and improve drainage;
- raise mowing height during heat stress;
- overseed with perennial ryegrass, tall fescue or bentgrass;
- fertilize with ammonium sources or SCU; avoid nitrate sources;
- keep pH between 5.5 and 6.0; and/or
- apply systemic fungicides in 4-5 gal. water/1000 sq. ft.

Clarke made his observations at the GCSAA Convention in Dallas two months ago.

—Jerry Roche

FUNGICIDES FOR SUMMER PATCH CONTROL

DMI/sterol inhibitors

Product	Rate
Banner 1.1E.	4 oz./1000
Bayleton 25DF	4 oz./1000
Rubigan 1AS	3 oz./1000
Sentinel 40WG	1/4 oz./1000

Benzimidazoles

Product	Rate
Cleary's 3336 50W	8 oz./1000
Fungo Flo 4.5F	8 oz./1000
Tersan 1991 50W	8 oz./1000

I.D. weeds: start with weed type

■ Weed identification begins with classifying the weed type.

Broadleaves, or dicotyledonous plants, have two seed cotyledons (young leaves) at emergence and have net-like veins in their true leaves. Broadleaves often have colorful flowers. Examples of winter broadleaf weeds include clover, lawn burweed, henbit, speedwell and chickweed.

Grasses, or monocotyledonous plants, have only one seed cotyledon present when they emerge from the soil. Grasses also have rounded hollow stems with nodes (joints), and parallel veins in their true leaves. Annual bluegrass is an example of a winter grass weed.

Sedges and **rushes** generally favor a moist habitat and have stems which either are triangular and solid (sedges) or round and solid (rushes). Although man y sedges are perennial and live through the winter, frost usually causes sufficient shoot dieback. Sedges therefore are not usually noticed at this time.

Most winter weeds germinate in late summer through early fall, grow throughout the winter months, and flower or produce seedheads during late winter and early spring. For most observers, winter annual weeds are not usually noticed until spring when growth sprouts, along with seedheads and flowers, produce a ragged-appearing turf.

In the past, weed identification has frustrated turf managers because of the lack of an adequate turf weed identification guide. "Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses" is a highly recommended identification guide published recently for turfgrass managers. It is available from either the Florida, Georgia or Alabama state cooperative extension offices. County agents, lawn care operators and industry representatives are also helpful in identifying troublesome weeds.

—Dr. Bert McCarty, University of Florida

Native plant is defined

■ What is a native plant? According to Tom Smith, who is on the board of directors of the Wildflower Association of Michigan, the definition goes back a long way.

Smith says the correct definition, according to the fall, 1992 issue of "Wildflower" magazine is "a plant that grew in an area prior to European settlement." The definition appeared in an article by Mark V. Wilson, David E. Hibbs and Edward R. Alverson entitled "Native Plants, Native Ecosystems and Native Landscapes."

Smith writes: "Many of our introduced or 'exotic' plants now occur 'naturally in a region' and are 'ideally suited to grow there' as the definition in the article states. That does not make them native. If they can reproduce in nature in an area, then they are considered 'naturalized' but not native."

Smith is president of Grass Roots, East Lansing, Mich.

Primo receives New York label

■ The New York Department of Environmental Conservation registered Primo, a growth management tool, to be used on turf in the state beginning March 18th. Primo was labeled for use in the rest of the nation in February, 1993.

Primo, manufactured by Ciba Turf & Ornamental, is registered for golf courses and highly-maintained commercial and residential turf. When used at standard rates, Primo reduces turf growth and clippings by approximately 50 percent for four weeks during prime growing periods, Ciba says.

The product may be used on all major warm- and cool-season turf species, including bahiagrass, common and hybrid bermudagrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, zoysiagrass, bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, red and tall fescue and annual and perennial ryegrass.

For more information, call the Primo information line, (800) 395-8873.

PLCAA courts regional/state groups: ARAs gain momentum

Allied Regional Associations are growing in numbers and influence—and providing leaders.

■ Robert Ottley doesn't wear the crusader's mantle comfortably. He's a more deliberate and soft-spoken individual as president of One Step Tree & Lawn, North Chili, N.Y.

Ottley admits he didn't realize what he was getting into when he said "yes" to a request that he chair PLCAA's Allied Regional Association (ARA) Committee. Even so, he's determined, in his soft-spoken way, to steer the committee toward a written document that spells out the relationship between the Professional Lawn Care Association of America and ARAs. More on that later.

ARAs: what are ARAs, you ask?

Surprise. If you're a member of any one of 19 state or regional lawn care/pesticide user organizations, you're also a member of an ARA. You may not know this because none of your dues goes to the PLCAA, and your membership in the state organization is entirely separate from PLCAA.

But your state or regional association communicates and cooperates with PLCAA. It keeps PLCAA informed of state and local issues, usually regulatory or legislative, and PLCAA lends support where it can. The partnership, actually just worked out the past three years, hasn't been that perfect. But that's the plan.

That's what Ottley has been stressing too—more communication and cooperation between PLCAA and ARAs.

"I think there's been a feeling on the PLCAA board that, yes, we really want the ARAs out there. But, on the other hand, maybe we don't," says Ottley.

This is significant because:

- The combined membership of the 19 ARAs exceeds 3,000 companies, about three times larger than PLCAA's membership.
- ARA numbers are growing faster than PLCAA's.
- Local and state pesticide-use issues have had a more immediate and direct affect on LCOs' businesses than national issues, particularly evident since the U.S. Supreme Court, in its interpretation of FIFRA, ruled against federal pre-emption in 1992. (See related article on pre-emption.)
- PLCAA's leadership, itself, gets drawn from ARAs.

Don Tannehill, Tridon Lawn Service, Inc., Olathe, Kans., ARA liason from Kansas told PLCAA that 14 hort groups in state are measuring impact of green industry there.

Robert Ottley, center, meets with Henry (Pat) Voges and his wife, Patricia, during ARA meeting in Washington D.C. The Voges represent the Nassau-Suffolk Landscape Gardeners Association, a Long Island-headquartered ARA.

PLCAA, of course, literally grew out of its skin in the first six or seven years of its existence, until about 1986. Membership climbed, staff grew, so did the services it offered.

Then, figuratively, PLCAA hit the wall. It quit growing.

Its membership continued to sag alarmingly through the late 1980s. Until then, PLCAA's attention only fleetingly focused on state associations. What little attention they did receive seemed tinged with PLCAA's wish that state groups, somehow, bend toward becoming PLCAA chapters.

After all, PLCAA was *the* voice for the lawn application industry, and projections that it could attract 2,000 members by 1990 didn't seem unreasonable.

But the industry's continued maturation and consolidation stopped PLCAA's growth.

Faced with a growing membership and

to page 58

ELSEWHERE

Complete list of allied associations, page 58

LCO battles local regulations, page 59

Counting many pre-emption successes, page 62


JUST AD
Roundup
Water Soluble Granule
Herbicide by Monsanto
DRYpak

D WATER

Same great weed control of Roundup,® now in premeasured packs.

Introducing Roundup® Dry Pak — a water-soluble granular formulation in premeasured packs (25 per box). These handy little packs are convenient to store, ration out, carry and use. Just pour in one pack for each finished gallon of spray solution you want, then fill with water.

Roundup Dry Pak measures faster, easier and with more accuracy than liquid herbicides — saving you time and reducing waste. It also eliminates the mess of measuring liquid herbicides. As a result, Dry Pak poses less risk of exposure. If any of the granules would spill, they're simple to clean up.

So if you thought regular Roundup gave you great peace of mind, just wait until you try Roundup Dry Pak. It provides the beautiful results and environmental profile that made Roundup the most trusted herbicide in the world. Plus, it's packed with a lot of extra benefits, just for good measure.

To find out how Roundup Dry Pak can add convenience to your program, call **1-800-332-3111**.

Roundup®
Water Soluble Granule
Herbicide by Monsanto
DRYpak

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS FOR ROUNDUP DRY PAK.

IND-47084 1/94

ARAs *from page 55*

financial crisis four years ago, the PLCAA board lured executive director Ann McClure from the Irrigation Association, chopped PLCAA's staff, and launched into annual self-examinations. These measures, coupled with more persistent membership marketing, stabilized the trade group.

About 1990 also, PLCAA 'rediscovered' state and regional lawn care groups which it eyed as potential "chapters."

PLCAA, after inconclusive debate, tacitly backed board member Robert Andrew's efforts to help grow a new crop of state lawn care associations.

Andrews, who owns The Greenskeeper, Carmel, Ind., hit the road and succeeded admirably, particularly in his home state but also in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. (The Ohio Lawn Care Association, in just four years, has 400 members alone.)

But how many of the member companies that belong to ARAs also participate and pay dues to PLCAA? Proportionally, not many.

Still, Andrews feels PLCAA could form state chapters, particularly where ARAs don't already exist. (Texas and Illinois are obvious choices.)

"Perhaps, PLCAA can go in and, using its membership base in those areas, begin a true chapter concept. It would help get the state organization off the ground. Also, if it's worked right, it can generate additional members for PLCAA," says Andrews.

Regardless, Andrews says ARAs certainly haven't harmed PLCAA. That's because PLCAA deals with national issues, ARAs with state and local issues, a clear division.

"I've never believed the old argument that state groups detract from PLCAA. Now, after having served on the PLCAA board and as PLCAA president and after having started some of these groups, I feel even more strongly about it," says Andrews.

Mona Bond of the Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association, says ARAs still need "a more defined, structured" relationship with PLCAA. The flip side: PLCAA deserves more support, including financial support from ARAs. An ARA pays only $150 annually to PLCAA.

"In my view, we reap a lot more benefits from PLCAA than that," says Bond who, along with 23 others, met with Ottley this past February in Washington D.C.

Dale Amstutz of Northern Lawns, Omaha, Neb., was at that meeting. A charter member of the Nebraska Professional Lawn Care Association (NPLCA) and a PLCAA board member, he supports the growing link between ARAs and PLCAA.

"We got tremendous support from Norm Goldenberg (board member and TruGreen/ChemLawn vp) and Tom Delaney (PLCAA government affairs). They helped us put together a sample bill," says Amstutz of NPLCA's effort to get FIFRA into Nebraska. "PLCAA is most valuable in the legislative arena."

Not coincidentally, Amstutz, Andrews, Ottley—even PLCAA's president, Lou Wierichs of Appleton, Wis.—joined PLCAA's board after participating in ARAs.

Board members won't be too surprised when Ottley, on recommendation of this committee, asks for stronger ties with ARAs. But he's going to ask that ARAs take work harder to entice member companies to also participate in PLCAA.

—Ron Hall

Allied Regional Associations

(U.S. states in **boldface**)

Association of **Montana** Turf & Ornamental Professionals, Dennis Roberts, P.O. Box 90331, Billings, MT 59108; (406) 256-9499.

Association of Turf & Ornamental, Kermit Throckmorton, 8511 Walnut Hollow Cove, Cordova, TN 38018; (901) 753-6481.

Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals, Judy Maurer, P.O. Box 102502, Denver, CO 80250-2502; (303) 777-1578.

Grounds Management Association of **Wisconsin**, Lou Wierichs, Jr., P.O. Box 566, Appleton, WI 54912; (414) 739-5615.

Indiana State Lawn Care Association, Pat McGrady, P.O. Box 143, New Castle, IN 47362; (317) 836-4866.

Interstate Professional Applicators Association, Dan Beheyt, Eastside Spraying Service, P.O. Box 681, Kirkland, WA 98033; (206) 823-2600.

Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association, Mona Bond, 1051 N.W. Greenwood, Ankeny, IA 50021; (515) 963-1395.

Kentucky Turfgrass Council, Dwight Barkley, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475; (606) 622-2228.

Lawn Care Association of **Pennsylvania**, John D. Wanner, 908 Second St., Harrisburg, PA 17102; (717) 236-2050.

Lawn Services Association of **Michigan**, Kay Ruffino, P.O. Box 608, New Baltimore, MI 48047; (810) 598-7158.

Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals, Karen Connelly, 1620 Sudbury Road, Suite 6, Concord, MA 01742; (509) 287-0127.

Nassau/Suffolk Landscape Gardeners Association, Patricia Voges, P.O. Box 489, Brightwaters, NY 11118; (516) 665-2250.

Nebraska Professional Lawn Care Association, P.O. Box 1197, Hastings, NE 68902; (402) 462-6161.

New York State Lawn Care Association, Robert Ottley, 4343 Buffalo Road, North Chili, NY 14514; (716) 594-1095.

North Central Turf Grass Association, Betsey Smith, P.O. Box 10444, Fargo, ND 58106-0444; (701) 232-0215.

Ohio Lawn Care Association, Ken Guenther, 2999 Silver Drive, Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43224; (614) 261-1221.

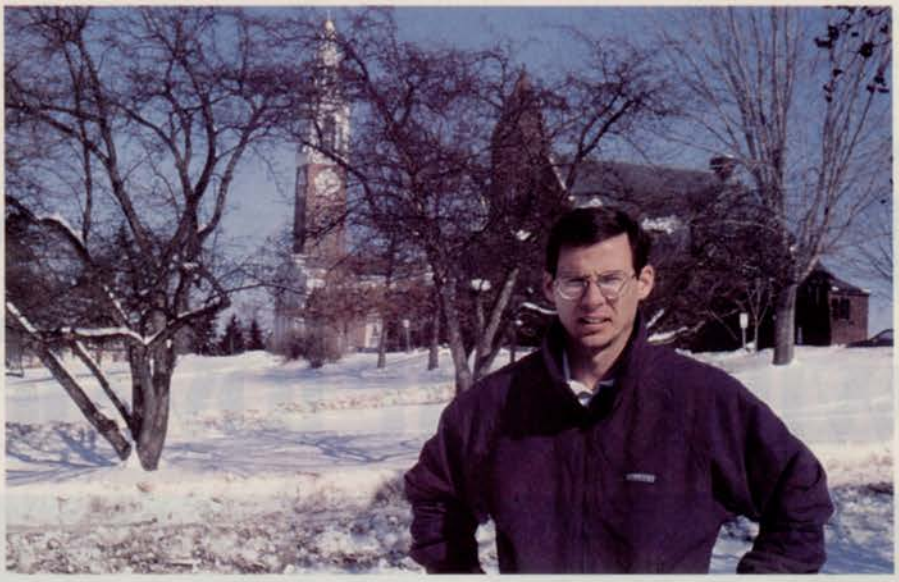
Professional Lawn Care Association of Mid-America, Olivia Golden, P.O. Box 35184, Kansas City, MO 64134; (816) 765-7616.

Professional Lawn Care Association of Ontario, P.O. Box 375, Mount Brydges, Ontario, N2C 2K6 Canada; (519) 471-2620.

Professional Lawn Maintenance Association of **Connecticut**, Gary Steward, P.O. Box 11, Watertown, CT 06795; (203) 274-0608.

Vermont firm lives with city regulation

Peter Harrison opposed Burlington, Vermont's pesticide regulations, but they passed anyway. Then he grew his Lawnmark site in spite of the roadblock.



Snow usually doesn't leave the University of Vermont campus until late in spring. When it does, Peter Harrison and his Lawnmark crew arrive at daybreak to fertilize and treat the UVM Commons before a.m. classes start.

■ If they didn't plow Main Street in Burlington, it would make an incredible ski jump. Launch from the picture-postcard hill of the University of Vermont campus and rocket down through a mile of bustling, Europeanesque stores and shops. *Whoosh*, given a stout heart and a steady backwind, who knows, even the green, quiet hills of New York across frozen, blue Lake Champlain seem almost reachable.

But at least one person in this community in northern Vermont—expert skier that he is—says things could be better.

Peter Harrison, 33, is learning to live with a ridiculous pesticide-use ordinance. A slightly built, athletic, intense man with bristling energy, Harrison manages the Lawnmark operation in Burlington, one of several Lawnmark locations in the Northeast and New England purchased by, and being folded into, $100-million-a-year Barefoot Grass very soon.

Harrison—it's his Yankee upbringing—doesn't mince words.

"It's a real pain in the butt," says Pete of the ordinance the city adopted, over his strenuous objections, prior to the start of the 1993 season. "The ordinance says we have to pre-notify, by letter and at least 24 hours in advance, any abutting neighbor of any property we're going to treat."

Even so, the company he manages grew last year.

The regulations, in fact, cover *anybody* applying pesticides within Burlington, leading to the curious spectacle of one of the ordinance's chief sponsors himself being discovered breaking the law. "Can you believe it?" asks Harrison rhetorically.

Many homeowners, says Harrison, disregard the ordinance. But Harrison says his branch won't test the law. He intends to work within its requirements, He keeps records to prove that he does.

He says he warned his 500 or so customers inside the city limits that the ordinance, if passed, would result in higher prices. "I sent two letters to our customers and informed them about the ordinance and what it meant. I asked them for their support, and for them to voice their concerns too," he recalls. But the controversy stirred little community interest. Efforts to raise a pesticide users group never really materialized either.

Few customers within the city seemed to care at all—that is, until Harrison informed them that he had to charge $8.75 more per application to fulfill the requirements of the ordinance. The company, then known as Nature's Helper, had to do all the paperwork and extra mailings by hand, says Harrison. Once it had been acquired by Lawnmark and computerized, however, he could drop the extra cost down to $2 extra per application.

"Vermonters won't waste money," says Harrison, a native himself and a 1983 graduate of University of Vermont. "They definitely want to see some value when they spend their money."

As if the prenotification clause weren't bother enough though, the ordinance also prohibits using any pesticides within 500 feet of Lake Champlain. Some of the city's nicest homes sit on the scenic lakeshore. Homeowners there can select an all-natural program, a fertilizer-only program, or they can do there own lawn care.

Harrison says the city added the provision in spite of being informed of research done by Dr. Tom Watschke at Penn State (and others) documenting turf's role as a biological filter.

In spite of the turmoil of the ordinance, the branch that Harrison manages remains healthy and growing, with sales of $½-$1 million. That's in spite of three name changes involving two different owners the past three years. Consider also that Harrison, in lawn care nine years, converted the program from liquid to primarily granular.

Harrison's branch market extends northeast over Lake Champlain to Plattsburgh, N.Y., and to Montpelier about 40 miles in the other direction. Harrison says his seven employees (including two office workers) cover a lot of hilly, rural territory.

He credits the growing popularity of the company's tree and shrub program, and stronger commercial sales for the branch's success. Most of all, he says the branch thrives because of the "tremendous effort" of its employees.

"Everybody puts in more than their time," says Harrison who, himself, regularly logs 14-hour days once the season starts. (The last two years his location couldn't even start its first round because of snow until April 20.)

That's another reason why neither he, nor his comrades, could defeat the pesticide laws. They were stretched too thin.

"It was a learning experience," he admits with a shrug. "I got to see how the political process works. I found out you need all the help you can get."

—Ron Hall

You might think using less insecticide means you'll have to put up with more insects. But that's not necessarily the case. Because *how* you use your insecticide is as important as *how much* you use. With the right tactics, you can use a lot less and still get excellent results.

Here's an example. Mixing insecticide with insecticidal soap can reduce the amount of insecticide you need on your ornamentals by about 50 percent. Soap controls most soft-bodied insects and mites. By adding insecticide, you'll also take care of tougher insects, like scales and worms. University studies suggest you may get better control than you get with insecticide alone.

A few ways to bala with your love for the env