

INFO CENTER

Books, literature and videos for the green industry

SPORTS PLANS...Typical sports field irrigation plans are now available from Hunter Industries for use as general guidelines in preparing estimates and installations. Included are layouts for football, baseball, softball, tennis, soccer, lawn bowling and croquet. The plans, which are 11 by 17 inches, are scaled to professional sports field standards. A set of 27 plans are included, three-hole punched. Cost is \$15 for the plans; with a Hunter Sports Field Plan binder, \$20. To order, call (619) 471-9010.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES...A new guide contains current, research-based information on fertilizing trees, shrubs and lawns; the fate of pesticides; low maintenance trees, shrubs and grasses. Also included are in-depth reviews of proper planting and maintenance of trees and shrubs; integrated pest management and a comprehensive list of recommended plants for a variety of locations. Cost of the 74-page publication is \$7.50. Make check or money order payable to UMass and send to Bulletin Center, Cottage A, Thatcher Way, Univ. Mass., Amherst, MA 01003; or call Kathleen Carroll at (413) 545-0895.

ESTIMATING...The Professional Grounds Management Society's updated "Estimating Guidelines" is now available for \$15. Long held to be the estimating "bible" by grounds professionals, the booklet is 36 pages long, three-hole punched. Included are a cost estimating worksheet, points of cost generation, how to estimate, costs vs. bid, personnel costs, machine costs, capital cost calculations, etc. Send orders to PGMS, 120 Cockeysville Rd., Suite 104, Hunt Valley, MD 21030. (Maryland residents add 75 cents state sales tax.)

PRUNING STANDARD...The International Society of Arboriculture and the National Arborist Association are both offering copies of the ANSI A300 Pruning Standard. It is titled "Tree, Shrub and Other Woody Plant Maintenance: Standard Practices." To order through the ISA, send \$20 for each publication (\$15 for ISA members) to ISA, P.O. Box GG, Savoy, IL

61874. Add \$5 for domestic shipping. To order through the NAA, phone (603) 673-3311 or e-mail to 76142.463@com-puserve.com.

EN ESPAÑOL...The Ball Floriculture Dictionary translates from English to Spanish and vice versa. It is a practical, handy book for people in the floriculture business with more than 6,000 entries and a cross-referencing system. For more information, write Ball Publishing, P.O. Box 9, Batavia, IL 60510. In the U.S., phone (800) 456-5380 or fax (800) 456-0132. Outside the U.S., phone (708) 208-9089 or fax (708) 208-9350.

BETTER BUSINESS..."The Successful Business Plan: Secrets & Strategies" is now available for \$25.50 from the American Association of Nurserymen, 1250 I St., NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005. An excellent tool for businesses that need financing, it contains more than 150 tips from 15 insiders who reveal what most impresses the people who evaluate and fund business plans. Seventy-two worksheets make it easy, and a sample plan guides you. AAN members receive a \$4 discount. For more information, phone (202) 789-2900 or fax (202) 789-1893.

FIFTY PUBLICATIONS...In its new Publications Catalog, the Associated Landscape Contractors of America has listed more than 50 publications designed exclusively for the green industry. Included is information on everything from managing your finances in a tough economy to creating a safer work environment to marketing your valuable services. For a free copy, contact ALCA at 12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA 22091; phone (800) 395-2522 or fax (703) 620-6365.

NOW ON TAPE...The "Tree Climbers' Guide" is now on five 60-minute audio cassettes that contain every word of Sharon Lilly's book. Cost is \$40 (\$30 for International Society of Arboriculture members). Shipping & handling to U.S. points is \$5. Contact Robin Kopp at the ISA for more information: (217) 355-9516.

PSU's Huff: 'commando' research on turfgrasses

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.—How much damage can the treads of a 60-ton M-1 Abrams tank do on grass?

Enough that David Huff of Penn State University is trying to develop new grasses to revegetate military training sites.

"In times of war, you can't be concerned about environmental impacts, but the Army realizes that there is no need to destroy an environment for training purposes," says Huff.

Research for the project, which is funded through the Army's Cold Region Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, N.H., will be done at Fort Drum near Watertown, N.Y., and at Penn State's turfgrass facilities here.

"At Fort Drum, we were out there with the troops and the tanks and practice artillery," remembers Huff. "It was like collecting plants in the middle of a war zone—commando botany."

Huff is trying to develop a grass species that grows fast enough to revegetate barren stretches of ground while also exhibiting the resiliency to grow back after a tank or a company of soldiers tramps all over it.

He is examining local native grasses such as crinkled hairgrass and some commercially available grasses like fine fescues.

"We want a hardy species that can grow back from below-ground growing points while also giving us enough seed production to keep reseeding," says Huff. "Otherwise, this isn't a beauty contest—we don't care what the grass looks like."

By concentrating on grasses collected at Fort Drum, Huff can use individual species' natural adaptability while selectively breeding other traits like seed production and/or disease resistance.

The research may also help land reclamation and restoration efforts.

"I think grasses are one of the greatest tools for reclaiming land," Huff says. "At Fort Drum, which has very sandy soil, these grasses could turn inland sand dunes into usable land. It's a very slow process and you have to have a lot of patience. The Army realizes it's not going to be done overnight."

JOB TALK

Versatile mowers are a maintenance 'must' in Old Lyme

■ Old Lyme, Connecticut—where Lyme disease picked up its moniker—is largely a “bedroom community” for stock brokers, doctors, lawyers and other professionals who work in nearby Hartford and New York City.

Whether they commute on a daily basis or just come to the rural community on weekends, taking care of their own lawn maintenance is simply not an option for many residents.

Serving the needs of this unique demographic group is the foundation upon which Village Landscaping has built a successful business. Owner Richard Vattalino says that maintaining more than 300 estate-size (about two acres) lawns would not be possible without some time- and labor-saving equipment. Each estate poses different obstacles and landscaping features with which he must cope.

“Every estate is different,” Vattalino says. “From the type of trees and shrubbery to other beautification features like flag poles and bird baths, our zero-radius unit and its outfront deck give us the ability to reach under shrubs, under rail fences and trim close—and to do it all quickly. It's the only way I can keep up.

“Of my 300 customers, 200 of them must be maintained weekly. My zero-radius unit's maneuverability, speed, ease of handling,



Richard Vattalino needs quick maneuverability to maintain the ins and outs of Old Lyme's vast array of estates.

comfort and up-close trimming capability saves me so much time over other mowers, I can easily keep up with the pace.

“I estimate that zero-radius maneuverability has allowed me to service a third to half-again as many accounts—and to harvest the additional income they provide—than if I were to use a different mowing system.”

Virtually every estate also has a wide range of mowing requirements. Around swimming pools, patio gardens and other sensitive areas, for instance, there can be no clipping residue. With the 25 hp Grasshopper Diesel mower, he can easily engage a grasscatching system and switch back to side discharge quickly and easily.

In addition to maintaining the grass, during the fall and important part of Village Landscaping's workload also includes keeping estates free of massive amounts of leaves.

“Though Connecticut is famous for its beautiful fall and its enormous variety of leaves, those leaves must be picked up,” notes Vattalino. “Having a versatile machine is important to making that job quick and easy. Its ability to leave the area absolutely immaculate is very important to me and my customers.”

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PRODUCT REVIEW

Flail mowers used for manicured finish

Alamo AT (Turf Flail) mowers are designed for mowing large private lawns, parks, golf courses, schoolyards, playgrounds and business parks where a manicured finish is desired.



The vertically-rotating knife action of the flail mower projects the cut material downward into the grass, rather than out from under the mower. The AT60 and AT74 have cutting widths of 60 and 74 inches, respectively. Both are available in forward or reverse rotation.

The AT74 comes with a reversible three-point hitch which permits centered or offset operation for close quarters.

The Turf Flail is the original "No-Bag-It" mower, Alamo says.

Circle No. 201 on Reader Inquiry Card

Three-HP edger features curb hop, mud scrapers

Husqvarna's Model LE309 edger, powered by a three-horsepower Briggs & Stratton engine, was designed to easily trim along curbs. It uses a nine-inch blade with an adjustable curb hop.

The edger also has mud scrapers on the blade shield and rear wheels. Handle-mounted depth control allows the operator to adjust the edger without bending over. The edger can be adjusted to a maximum cut depth of 2 1/2 inches. A 3/4-inch handle, as opposed to the standard 1/2-inch handle, was



added for extra durability.

The edger can be adjusted to a variety of degrees for improved cutting to both the left and right. The unit comes with a wider 15-inch base and dual front wheels.

According to Husqvarna, with their new curb hop feature, it is as easy to trim along curbs as on sidewalks.

Circle No. 202 on Reader Inquiry Card

A neat, powerful edger for commercial users

The new Green Machine 1900e, offered by Homelite Inc., was designed to edge neatly along beds, walks and drives.

It has a large, adjustable guide wheel and a nine-inch blade powered by a 22.6cc



Mitsubishi engine. The edger has a fuel capacity of 16.9 fluid ounces, a 72-inch flex shaft and comes with a one-year commercial user warranty.

Other features include a safety harness with a quick release latch and vibration absorbing design. The throttle starting lock allows the user to start the unit at just above idle speed, rather than at full throttle. A commercial quality gear case features two-piece housing and can be accessed without special tools.

Carbon steel helicopter gears were included in the design for maximum durability.

Circle No. 203 on Reader Inquiry Card

Two-way radio called smallest in the world

The world's smallest hand-held two-way radio is now available from Global Wireless Communications Products.



MicroTalk, which is the approximate size of a king-size cigaret box, is a five-watt, 10-channel synthesized radio featuring user-selectable scan to lock out or avoid busy channels. It is available in 148-174 MHz and 450-470 MHz frequencies.

MicroTalk comes with a belt clip, a 600MAH battery, 110-volt wall charger, rubber duck antenna and wrist strap.

Circle No. 204 on Reader Inquiry Card

Trimmers, brushcutters new for professionals

Four new trimmers/brushcutters and two new brushcutters, made for the commercial market, offer Life+1 warranties. They are Green Machine brand, manufactured by Homelite, a subsidiary of Deere & Co.

The 2600 and 2800 series of trimmers/brushcutters have the exclusive Tap-For-Cord line feed, a 72-inch shaft, 17-inch trimming swath and loop handle. They weigh just 13 lbs.

The 3000 is the ultra-heavy duty high-performance model made for 40 hours-a-week use. It comes with either a j-bar or bicycle-type handle and has a full anti-vibration system.

The 4000 series brushcutters have a large 42.7cc engine, j-bar or nordic-type handlebars, 18-inch trimming swath and 74-inch shaft length.

Circle No. 205 on Reader Inquiry Card

Heavy duty edger makes professional end product

Sidewalks, driveways and curbs need a manicured edge, and that sometimes means cutting through dirt, debris and turf. Encore's Pro-Line Edger will stand up to heavy use and give a well-groomed, professional trimmed finish.

The counter-rotating blade is guarded



to protect the operator from debris. A hardened steel .150-inch blade with sharpened edges gives a clean cut. Engine selections include a 3 hp Briggs & Stratton or a 4 hp Honda.

Circle No. 206 on Reader Inquiry Card

New device perfect for tying up loose leaves

Jokari's new Multi-Sealer instantly wraps a heavy duty tape around the ends of any trash or lawn bag, creating a strong, airtight seal that won't open or unravel.



The Multi-Sealer seals tight in seconds on bags with sealing areas up to 1.5 inches in diameter. It's small enough to carry around with you and—best of all—costs only \$6.75 wholesale with tape for 100 seals (additional tape sold separately).

Circle No. 207 on Reader Inquiry Card

Broad line of edgers has numerous applications

Creative Curb manufactures edgers that use the extrusion method to form curbs and edging. They are available as self-propelled, electric, or gas-powered. Accessories for the equipment include a variety of curb shapes, including mower strips.

Creative Curb's concrete landscape borders are durable, permanent and freeze-thaw tolerant. Installation requires no forms, displacing little of existing landscape. The installed borders will not rot, rust or discolor. Concrete borders control root systems, separate lawns and simplify the edging process.

The cost of materials is approximately 40 cents per foot while the machines' production capabilities are more than 200 feet of concrete edging per hour, according to

Creative Curb.

Larger machines are available for all curbing applications.

Circle No. 208 on Reader Inquiry Card

Trimmer's lightweight design adds to operator comfort

The SRM-2110 trimmer and brushcutter from Echo Inc. is designed for use by those with lightweight needs or for the heavy-use homeowner.

The SRM-2110 comes standard with an eight-tooth grass and weed blade for brushcutting and with a heavy-duty, dual-line head filled with .095 Cross-Fire trimmer line for trimming. The SRM-2110's grip assembly is ergonomically designed to increase operator comfort. The cushioned grips and vibration-reduction system help keep the operator's wrist in a natural and relaxed position, reducing discomfort and fatigue.

The 21.2cc engine gives the unit sufficient power for cutting brush and weeds. The SRM-2110 comes with a 59-inch shaft and an angled cutting head so it could get in hard-to-reach places.

Circle No. 209 on Reader Inquiry Card

Gas-powered, hand-held edger features durability

The SE301F edger from Hoffco is a sturdy addition to that company's commercial product line.

The SE301F is designed for day-to-day use by professional grounds managers. It features a solid state ignition with a positive on and off switch for safety and convenience, and the 19.3-ounce fuel tank allows for a longer running time.

Powered by a 25.6cc, two-cycle Fuji engine, this unit is still lightweight at 15 pounds. A Walbro carburetor provides the air/fuel mixing and has a primer pump for easy starting. It cuts with an eight-inch blade that is protected by a die-cast guard and features an adjustable cutting depth.

An anti-vibration "tear-drop" handle is ergonomically designed for operator comfort and control. The guide wheel offers smooth maneuverability and balance. Safety goggles are standard equipment, and a shoulder strap is optional.

The SE301F edger comes completely assembled with a one-year commercial warranty.

Circle No. 210 on Reader Inquiry Card

New software automates pump monitoring

Syncro has upgraded its Superintendent Software for remote monitoring of its Eagle Pump Stations from a remotely located PC.

The software displays full performance data, including flow rate, total gallons pumped, system pressure, set point and variable frequency drive (VFD) speed. The user can also set individual alarm presets.

A menu-driven display enables the superintendent to obtain the status of individual pump station components such as individual pump performance, VFD operation, speed control mode and individual selector switch settings. Results can be sent to a printer or disk file for later access.



The Superintendent Software works with MS-DOS 3.0 or later, MS-Windows or OS/2 and runs on any Intel-based, IBM-compatible computer.

Circle No. 211 on Reader Inquiry Card

Numerous options give one machine many uses

Excel's compact mower line with its optional attachments allows one person to mow, edge and pick up clipping in a single pass.

The eight-bushel Bac-Pac grass catcher vacuums grass, leaves and other debris. The side-mounted edger attachment features a coulter blade that cuts against the sidewalk or curb. Both attachments were designed so that the controls would be in easy reach of the driver.

Excel's mowers have a dual-path hydrostatic system. Each drive wheel is independently controlled for zero-radius turning. The Hustler line also offers simple twin-lever steering for control of forward, reverse and turns in one hand.

The Hustlers 251K and 260K include anti-scalp wheels that provide added flotation on uneven turf.

Circle No. 212 on Reader Inquiry Card

Catalytic oxidation provides waste-water treatment

RGF Environmental Systems Inc. has designed the CO³P System of low-cost oxidant to provide a hydroxal radical for contaminated water treatment.

The CO³P is a poly-skid mounted sys-

tem that uses ozone, UV light and hydrogen peroxide to create a hydroxal radical for maximum potential. This system will destroy herbicides, pesticides, hydrocarbons, odors, chlorine, algae and bacteria through oxidation. The process breaks down organic compounds to carbon dioxide and water.

This unit can be added to an existing water treatment or recycling system or can be used as a stand-alone system.

Circle No. 213 on Reader Inquiry Card

Insertion flow sensor line has multiple applications

George Fischer Inc. offers a recently expanded line of Signet insertion flow sensors in a variety of materials.

The Signet 515 Rotor-X and 2535 Low Flow plastic paddle wheel sensors are both available in a choice of chemical-resistant materials. Both are designed to be effective in applications involving gravity flow lines. They can be fitted in pipe sizes from 1/2 inch to 36 inches.

The Signet 2540 and 525 metal paddle-wheel sensors offer the advantages of insertion flow sensor technology in a 316 stainless-steel package. Designed for applications with extremely low flow velocities, the 2540 is available for pipe sizes ranging from 1 1/2 inches and above. An optional "hot tap"

configuration was added to decrease downtime. The 525 metalex Flow Sensor is available for pipe diameters from 1/2 inch to 12 inches and high pressure, high temperature applications.

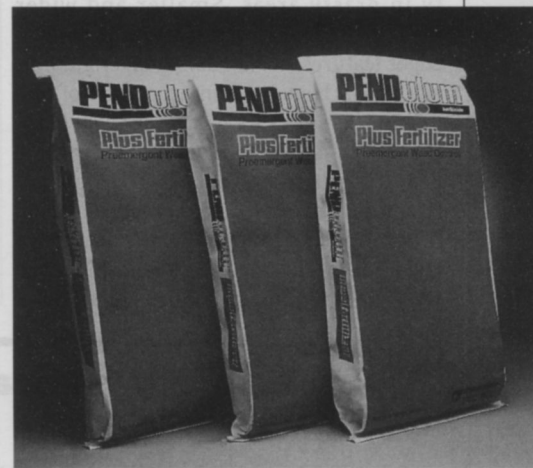
The Signet 2550 Insertion Magmeter combines insertion flow measurement technology with advanced microprocessor-based electronics. Packaged in a metal enclosure, the Signet 2550 handles flows from 0.3 to 20 fps and pressures up to 250 psi. The Magmeter has no moving parts and handles waste streams and slurries containing up to 20 percent suspended solids.

Circle No. 214 on Reader Inquiry Card

Pre-emergent, fertilizer combined as one product

American Cyanamid has Pendulum Plus Fertilizer, a combination product that includes both a pre-emergence herbicide and a fertilizer.

Pendulum Plus Fertilizer is formulated to provide control of most annual grasses and many broadleaf weeds found in turf-grass. It is labeled for use on Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, fine fescue, tall fescue, bentgrass (except putting greens and tees), bermudagrass, St.



Augustine grass, bahiagrass, centipedegrass, zoysiagrass and blends.

This is a granular product and can be applied with most commercially available spreaders. It contains the active ingredient pendimethalin. Pendulum Plus Fertilizer can be used over the top of flower beds and nurseries for pre-emergence control of more than 45 grassy and broadleaf weeds without harming more than 260 labeled ornamentals.

Circle No. xxx on Reader Inquiry Card

Mobile AC power with new charging unit 2500 watts

Many vehicles carry onboard equipment that requires a reliable source of mobile AC power. A new inverter/charger/conditioner from Heart Intyface Corp. supplies a full 2500 watts of dependable AC power from any 12-volt DC battery bank.

The Fleet Power 2500 acts as a 130 amp, 3-stage battery charger/conditioner. It features fully automatic, "hands-off" operation, including automatic power source transfer switching.

The unit is UL listed and C-UL listed for Canada.

Compact and quiet, the Fleet Power 2500 requires no maintenance.

Circle No. 216 on Reader Inquiry Card

Three edgers designed for home and professional use

Three edgers from Stihl are designed to meet specific edging needs, from the professional landscaper to the weekend home user.

The FC-72 comes equipped with a depth adjustment wheel to simplify edging along sidewalks or curbs, as well as stability in grassy areas. Smaller and wider wheels are available as an option. This edger features a 1.45 cubic-inch engine, an eight-inch blade and an arbor size of one inch.

The FC-44 was designed to put the finishing touch on any edging job. Standard features include a master control handle, a debris deflector, an easy access blade nut and air filter and a large choke. This edger has a 1.84 cubic-inch engine and holds 1.2

New control tool allows for irrigation expansion

PiggyBack is a new way to extend the range of existing controllers by adding more stations.

When triggered by the last station of a controller or of one program, it begins watering when that station turns off.

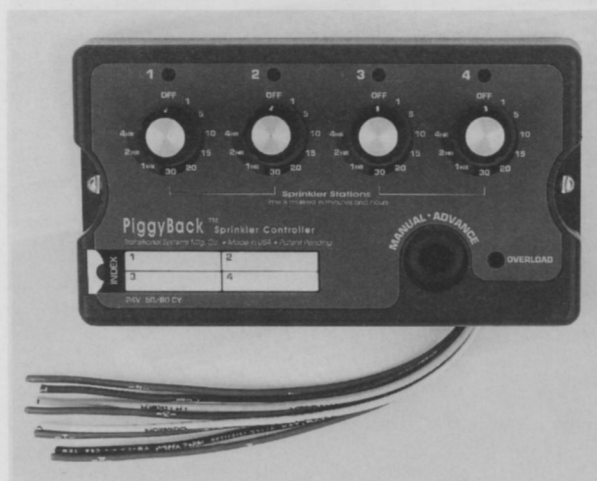
Each of its four zones has a timing range of one minute to four hours and units can be connected in series to add more zones.

A manual start/advance button, pump start and circuit breaker are provided.

PiggyBack can also be used alone by manually starting each cycle. By coupling units together, it can temporarily substitute for a controller during repairs.

Further uses include homeowners who dislike automatic programming, or situations requiring closely-monitored watering such as nurseries, new plantings and severe water restrictions.

Circle No. 217 on Reader Inquiry Card



pints of fuel.

The electronic ignition and full-lined shaft on the FC-44 have a lifetime warranty. A wide guide wheel and replacement skid plate are available as options.

Designed for home use, the EC-70 electric edger is lightweight and quiet. It has an easy-to-adjust depth wheel and cord keeper and a built-in shoulder strap attachment. The EC-70 weighs a little over 10 pounds and is 73.6 inches long.

Circle No. 218 on Reader Inquiry Card

Controller versatile to match landscape needs

The ESP-LX controller from Rain Bird features flexibility and is available in six-, eight-, 12- and 16-station models.

Designed to match both the water requirements of various landscapes and mandated water-use regulations, the ESP-LX provides four programs and a 365-day calendar with true odd- and even-day watering schedules. The ESP-LX is an outdoor model and has a weather-resistant

Protect and carry landscape blueprints on-site easily

Donnelly International, of Wales Center, N.Y., makes The Print Cady, a carrier and working surface for blueprints and drawings.

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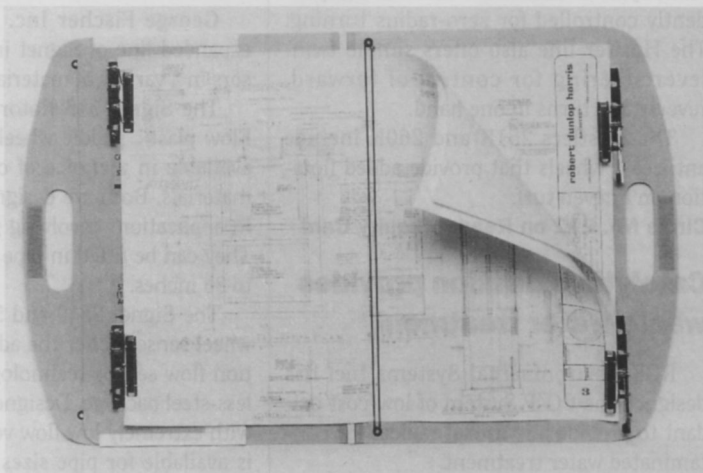
The Print Cady is ideal for landscape contractors, engineers, architects, builders or electricians.

The Print Cady is made of durable PVC, and is available in 11x17 inches; 17x22 inches (adjustable to 18x24); and 24x36 inches.

Custom-size quotations by request. Custom name and logo are optional for a nominal charge.

Prices range from \$46.95 to \$56.95.

Circle No. 219 on Reader Inquiry Card



and key-lockable cabinet.

The controller has a diagnostic, electronic circuit breaker system. The system can sense a shorted or overloaded valve circuit. When a short is detected, the problematic station is bypassed and the ESP-LX continues to operate the other stations in the program. An alert light turns on to indicate there has been a problem and the station number with the problem is displayed along with the word "fault."

The controller has a test program, water budgeting program and provisions for hooking up a rain or moisture sensor system. An indoor version (ESP-LXi) of the same series, with a plug-in style transformer, is also available through Rain Bird Distributors worldwide.

Circle No. 220 on Reader Inquiry Card

Central controller for large turf applications

The Network DR2 from The Toro Company is a new irrigation control system for new and retrofit large turf applications.

The Network DR2 satellites use modular technology to allow for flexible system design as site demands change. Four-station modules enable easy expansion from 16 to 32 stations and should keep retrofitting less costly and disruptive. The Network DR2 provides diagnostic sensor data to the central computer and can operate as a stand-alone controller, which is programmable through a portable keyboard interface, or as a satellite of the central control system.

The Network DR2 includes Toro's Electro-Flow feature, which assists in the proper management of hydraulic flow and electric current demands for optimal operation of the control system during the irrigation cycle.

The Network DR2 central comes with a one-year, no-charge subscription to the exclusive Toro National Support Network, a support system for computer hardware and software.

Circle No. 221 on Reader Inquiry Card

Walk-behind mowers offer versatility and value

Walk Behinds from Ariens mulch, bag or side discharge grass and vacuum leaves.

The Walk Behinds come with 5-, 5.5- or 6-hp engines, made by Kawasaki, Briggs & Stratton or Tecumseh, respectively. The

mowing deck is made of 14-gauge steel. The 21-inch deck also features a "rolled-under" lip to enhance air-flow for better bagging and side discharge.

Standard equipment includes a 2½-bushel rear bagger, a side discharge and a Mulch-Master Plug and mulching cover. The handlebar was designed with ergonomics in mind, to fit the most comfortable position of the hands and wrists. The handlebar features four working positions, one service position and one storage position.

Optional Swivel System wheels are available and improve the Walk Behinds's performance around flower beds, trees and shrubs.

Circle No. 222 on Reader Inquiry Card

Steel, tree support device minimizes branch breakage

A simple wire device attached to a stake can support heavily-laden fruit or ornamental tree branches to prevent breakage.

The Fruit Brute is made by V.I.T. Products of San Diego.

The wire ends provide dual point penetration which dig into the stake under high compression stress to prevent slipping and to assure a positive locking action.

The Fruit Brute installs quickly and can be removed quickly.

Fruit Brute is extra wide at its bottom, for full closure at the top of the stake to create a centered entry for the barbed ends. Using your thumb and forefinger to gently squeeze the shank, the top of Fruit Brute easily opens for rapid installation.

Fruit Brute will not twist or unwind and will not splinter stakes.

Circle No. 223 on Reader Inquiry Card

Low-profile light combines styling with efficient output

The Malibu Low Profile Edge Light features a half-dome shape and low profile for use along driveways, sidewalks, patios, paths, steps and decks.

The light is secured into the ground by two stakes. The stakes can be removed so the light can be easily mounted on walls, fences and other flat surfaces.

When the ground stakes are removed, the edge light can be mounted to create dramatic lighting effects on flowers, plants, walls or architecture.

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