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ON THE COVER: VALHALLA GOLF CLUB, LOUISVILLE, KY., MARK WILSON, SUPERINTENDENT. PHOTO BY LARRY KASSELL.

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LANDSCAPE

**F**or me, there is no more abominable task in the world than breaching the doorstep of a car dealership. Why? Because I'm not only fearful of being taken to the cleaners by the slippery salesmen, but—not knowing the difference between a cylinder and a valve—I also dread the prospect of revealing my total ignorance in front of complete strangers.

Many of you, we suspect, feel the same way about computers. Terms like *Read-Only Memory*, *28,800 baud* and *Pentium chips* confound you.

"There are enough reasons—time management, people management, materials management and communication—to have a computer," says Peter McCormick of TurfNet Associates. "And hardware is becoming affordable. I went into a computer store last week and saw a great little computer for \$895."

If you haven't joined the computer revolution yet, but might want to try, here's a step-by-step guide:

- 1) Put your checkbook in your pocket and bop on down to your local computer store.
- 2) Find a sales clerk in the hardware section where all the monitors and keyboards and stuff are displayed.
- 3) Tell him you want a "PC-compatible computer with a Pentium chip." That kind of machine will allow you to run a wide variety of programs at fast speeds and should not be outdated for at least—oh, say six months.

If the sales clerk hits you with some doubletalk about "megahertz," just remember that the higher the number, the faster the processor (100 Mhz seems to be a watershed speed nowadays).

You will probably *not* want a Macintosh computer, unless you're going to be using it at home and the kids will be using it, too. Macintoshes are

easier to use than PCs, but fewer business programs are available.

4) Tell him you want Windows '95 software. Actually, the computer will probably come with a wide variety of software, from games to screen savers—much of which you'll probably never use.

5) Tell him you want at least 8 "megs" (that's "megabytes," or thousands of computer bytes) of "RAM" (Random-Access Memory). Eight megs should be enough to allow you to access multiple computer programs at one time, but if you can afford 16 megs, get them.

6) Tell him you want "a hard drive with at least 500 megs," which is pretty standard today. This is the total amount of memory, in bytes, that your computer can store. Many new machines come with up to 1.2 gigabytes, or 1,200 megabytes; but if you're not going to be running complicated graphics, you don't need that much.

7) Tell him you want a machine with at least a "14,400 bps (or baud) fax/modem." This will enable you to access online and Internet information with a reasonable amount of speed. If you can afford a 28,800 bps fax/modem, get one.

8) Tell him you want a "4x CD-ROM drive," which is a machine that reads digital compact disks like the ones you play on your stereo system. ("ROM" stands for "Read-Only Memory," which means you cannot record to the disks, only play them.) Four-x means quadruple-speed; if you can afford an 8x, get it.

9) Give the nice man your check—which in no case should be more than \$2000, more likely around \$1100-\$1600.

10) Before leaving the store, sign up for computer classes. They cost a little extra, but without them, you might be lost.

One last suggestion—and it's more of a warning: do *not* get caught spending hours and hours in front of your computer. You still need to get outside and talk to your employees, visit customers and check out the turf and shrubs.

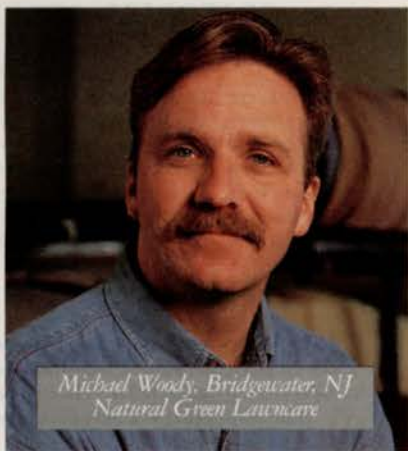
A computer is nothing but another tool, like a spade or a cellular phone. You can use it to educate yourself, to provide some of your needs, and to make you a better manager. But it's no substitute for what you're already doing right. **LM**

## How to wire yourself without getting electrocuted



*Jerry Roche*

JERRY ROCHE  
Editor-in-Chief



*Michael Woody, Bridgewater, NJ  
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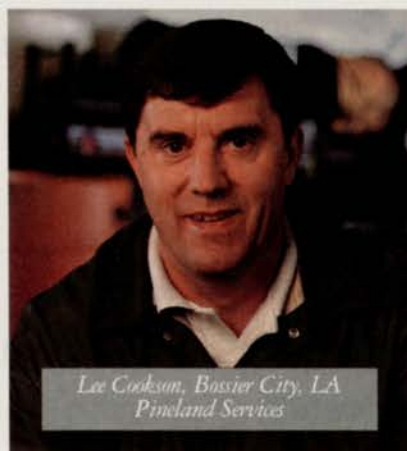
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## The ins and outs of weeds and aerification

*Will aerifying in spring affect the performance of pre-emergence herbicides? When is the best time to aerify, in spring or fall? Do we need to rake and remove the cores after aerifying to reduce future weed problems? For aesthetic reasons, some of our clients insist that we remove all the cores from the lawn surface. We believe that for agronomic reasons we need to leave the cores on surface.*

—MICHIGAN

Several university findings indicate that aerifying after a pre-emergence herbicide application will not have any significant adverse effect on herbicide performance and crabgrass control. This practice is being used by some lawn care professionals.

Others, however, are concerned about the possible outbreak of crabgrass from this operation when soil cores are left on the surface of lawns. The soil in the core contains weed seeds as well as beneficial microbes needed for decomposition of thatch. The soil particle containing weed seeds can filter down and may contribute to weed problems. However, I am not familiar with any published research findings indicating that this may be the case.

If the density of the aerified turfgrass is poor, then there is a good chance for weed seeds to germinate and present problems in the future. Weed seeds can remain viable in soil for many years. In this situation,

the best thing to do is to improve the vitality of existing turfgrass through proper watering and fertilizing. That will make the turf more competitive with weeds. In some situations, overseeding after aerification, or using a slicer/seeder (slit-seeder) is needed to improve the density.

Most people prefer to aerify in the fall. Agronomically, fall is preferred because at that time there are cool temperatures and adequate moisture for the turfgrass to recover. Generally, turf can be aerified about three weeks before freezing temperatures occur. There should be good growing conditions for the roots to grow after aerification.

There is no need to remove cores from the lawn surface after aerifying. Leaving the cores will allow the microbes to filter down through the thatch layer to ease thatch decomposition.

## Rose of Sharons not always red

*Are there any Rose of Sharon plants that do not produce a lot of baby plants around them from falling seeds? Please provide a list of Rose of Sharon plants which have different flower colors.*

—OHIO

Many Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) cultivars are available in major wholesale nurseries.

Among these, 'Diana,' 'Helene' and 'Minerva' are National Arboretum releases. They are also triploid and produce few

## ROSE OF SHARON

Cultivar	Color
'Ardens'	Double violet
'Banner'	Double red, white
'Blue Bird'	Single purple
'Blushing bride'	Double pink
'Boule de feu'	Double red
'Collie mullins'	Double purple, lavender
'Diana'	Single pure white
'Hamabo'	Single pink
'Helene'	Double white
'Lucy'	Double red
'Minerva'	Single lavender, red center
'Paenyflorus'	Double pink
'Red heart'	Single white, scarlet center
'Woodbridge'	Single pink, red center

seeds. They could be used if you don't want seedlings around mother plants. Cold hardiness of these cultivars is questionable. Some may show extensive dieback during the winter. Cultivars 'Helena' and 'Diana' are slow growers.



**BALAKRISHNA RAO**  
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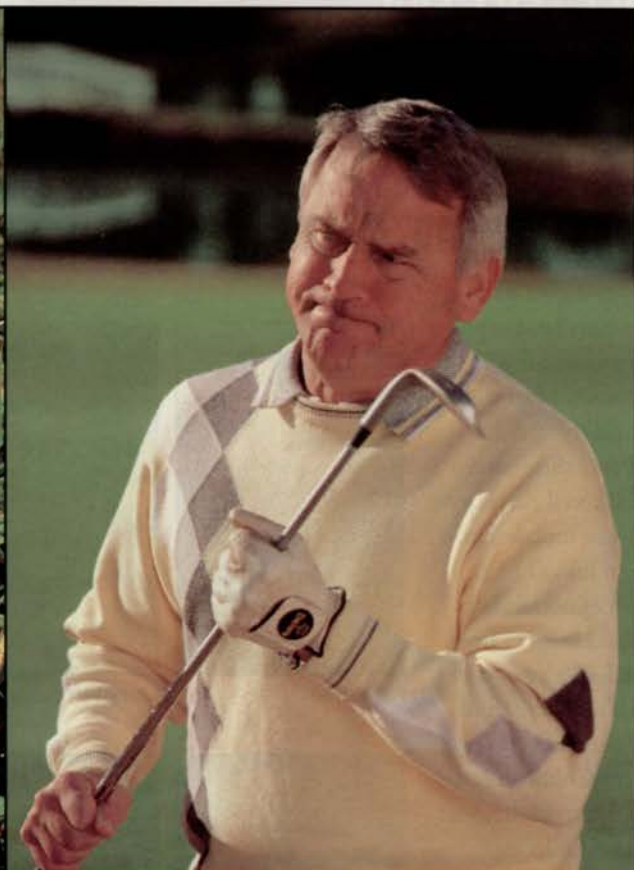
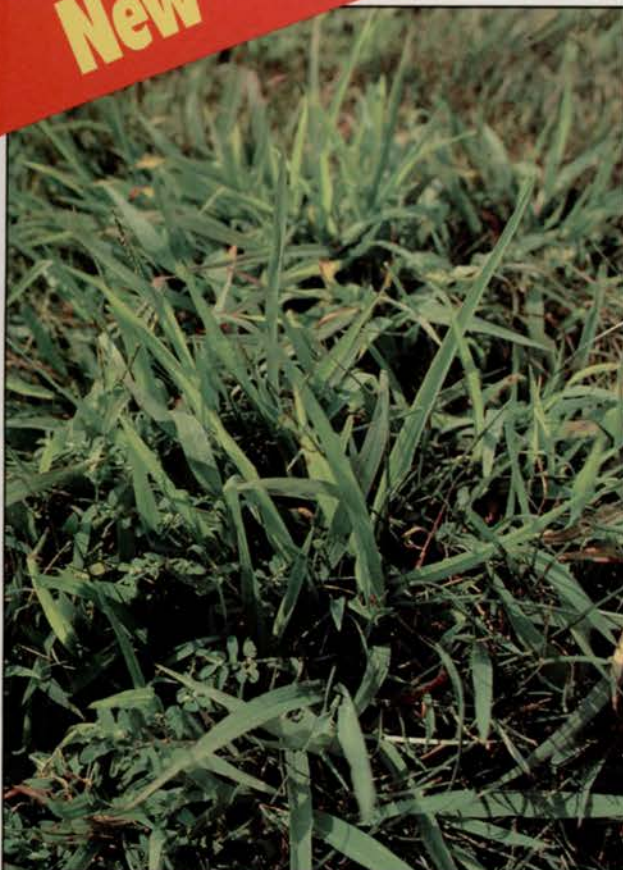
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## Six join our edit panel

Six new landscape managers join the LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT Editorial Advisory Panel this month. The Editorial Advisory Panel was founded in 1993 to bring LM's veteran editorial staff news and insights from the end-user's point of view. This is the third set of panelists chosen.

**Jerry Coldiron Jr.** is grounds superintendent at Boone Links and Lassing Pointe public golf courses in Florence, Ky. Coldiron is a GCSAA-certified superintendent and graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in horticulture with turf specialization.

He is past president of the Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents Association, and was the Kentucky Turfgrass Council's 1991 "Man of the Year." In 1994 and 1995, his courses won back-to-back GCSAA Environmental Steward Awards, and in 1994 he was E.K.U.'s Department of Agriculture Outstanding Alumnus. He and wife Susan have three boys, Josh, Jake and Jared.

**Corey Eastwood** is the golf course superintendent at Stockdale Country Club in Bakersfield, Calif. He has previously worked at Marbella Country Club in San Juan



Pat Nibler



Larry Iorri



Jerry Coldiron Jr.



Corey Eastwood



Russell Studebaker



Mike Guthrie

Capistrano, and California's Green Hills Country Club and Churn Creek Golf Course.

Eastwood earned his GCSAA certification in 1986. His wife Susi is in law school, and his son is a general sales manager for a Jacobsen/Textron distributor.

**Mike Guthrie** is vice president of Ground Control Landscaping's Maintenance Division. Ground Control is the largest landscape contractor in the Orlando, Fla., area.

Earlier in his career, he was with Johnson's Landscape in the metro Washing-

ton, D.C. area and with Landcare Industries, Tampa.

Guthrie, who attended Clemson University, was Exterior Landscape Division chairperson for the Associated Landscape Contractors of America in 1992.

**Larry Iorri** is founder and owner of Down to Earth, Inc., a small landscaping business in Wilmington, Del. He was president of the First State Branch of the Professional Grounds Management Society for 15 years, and on the Board of Directors of the Delaware Turf Grass Society for nine. He is a graduate of

the University of Delaware and holds certificates of merit in ornamental horticulture from Longwood Gardens.

Iorri's company has been featured in four industry publications, including LM. He has been a featured speaker at the Green Industry Expo. Wife Janine is the company bookkeeper and mother to Brent and Kristin.

**Patrick Nibler** is co-owner and vice president of operations for ProGrass, Inc., a chemical lawn care company in Wilsonville, Ore. He's a member of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, the Northwest Turfgrass Association, the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Oregon Association of Nurserymen and the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association.

Nibler was on the PLCAA Board of Directors for three years and chaired its Education Committee. He's also been on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Turfgrass Association. He and his wife Cheryl have two sons.

**Russell Studebaker** is former city horticulturist for the Tulsa Park and Recreation Dept. and curator of horticulture at the Tulsa Zoo. In semi-retirement, he remains a prolific writer (a weekly garden column for the Tulsa World) and speaker (garden clubs, plant societies, nursery and plant associations, and



civic organizations).

He is a charter member and a past president of the Oklahoma Horticultural Society and has been president and board member for the Professional Grounds Management Society and the Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute. □

### Correction

Due to an inadvertent error in our June, 1996 issue, an incorrect reference was made to Sostram Corporation's Echo fungicides.

The advertisement should have referred to "Sostram's advanced ECHO STICK™ formulations..."

The advertiser apologizes for any inconvenience. □

## OSHA reform in the hopper

by JAMES E. GUYETTE / Contributing Editor

Recommendations aimed at gaining much-needed reforms within the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) were introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives during April.

The bipartisan piece of legislation—H.R. 3234—is also known as the Small Business OSHA Relief Act.

"We're hoping to move this legislation quickly," says Rep. Cass Ballenger (R-N.C.), who wrote the bill. "This is not an OSHA bill that will offend anybody."

The new bill's most controversial provision would require that OSHA perform a cost-benefit analysis on any proposed legislation, and new rules could be issued only if they meet those cost-benefit standards.

Other provisions would:

- 1) Waive penalties for small businesses (less than 250 employees) that move quickly to correct certain violations.
- 2) Put an end to citation/penalty quotas placed on OSHA inspectors.
- 3) Relax enforcement of "paperwork" violations.
- 4) Urge consultation and cooperation rather than enforcement.

As of June 4, the bill was in the House Work Force Protection Committee. A hearing from the House Economic and Educational Opportunity Committee is expected.

Support is growing for a similar piece of legislation in the U.S. Senate, according to Sen. Christopher S. "Kit" Bond (R-Mo.).

"The inspectors come in like they are from the king—not from an elected government," says Bond. "Too often, regulators think their jobs are to go out and issue citations and collect fines. If we can make that change, we can go a long way." □

## Pay for the ride home an issue

by JAMES E. GUYETTE / Contributing Editor

The U.S. Congress is considering legislation to clarify the issue of paying travel-time wages to employees who take home company vehicles.

Using the company truck to get to and from work is largely viewed by employees as a "perk." Landscape managers, like other small business owners, seldom pay their workers an hourly wage for drive time. Nevertheless, national union officials are opposing H.R. 1227 that would allow these arrangements to continue.

The issue is real, and H.R. 1227 needs industry support, says Sandra Boyd, assistant general counsel to the Labor Policy Association.

For instance, a Dept. of Labor audit over travel-time wages resulted in Stan Hoselton of the Union Roofing Co., Chenoa, Ill., paying additional wages for each of his 18 employees who drive his trucks home.

"They came in with their attorneys and said, 'This is the law; it doesn't matter what your collective bargaining agreement is,'" Hoselton says. "If they would have gone back more than three years, they would have wiped us out."

Under the current mishmash of conflicting regulations, the question of "at what point does the timeclock turn on?" is poorly defined, but H.R. 1227 addresses "compensable travel time" as it amends the Portal-to-Portal act. Under the proposed law, several criteria must be met for travel time to be non-compensable:

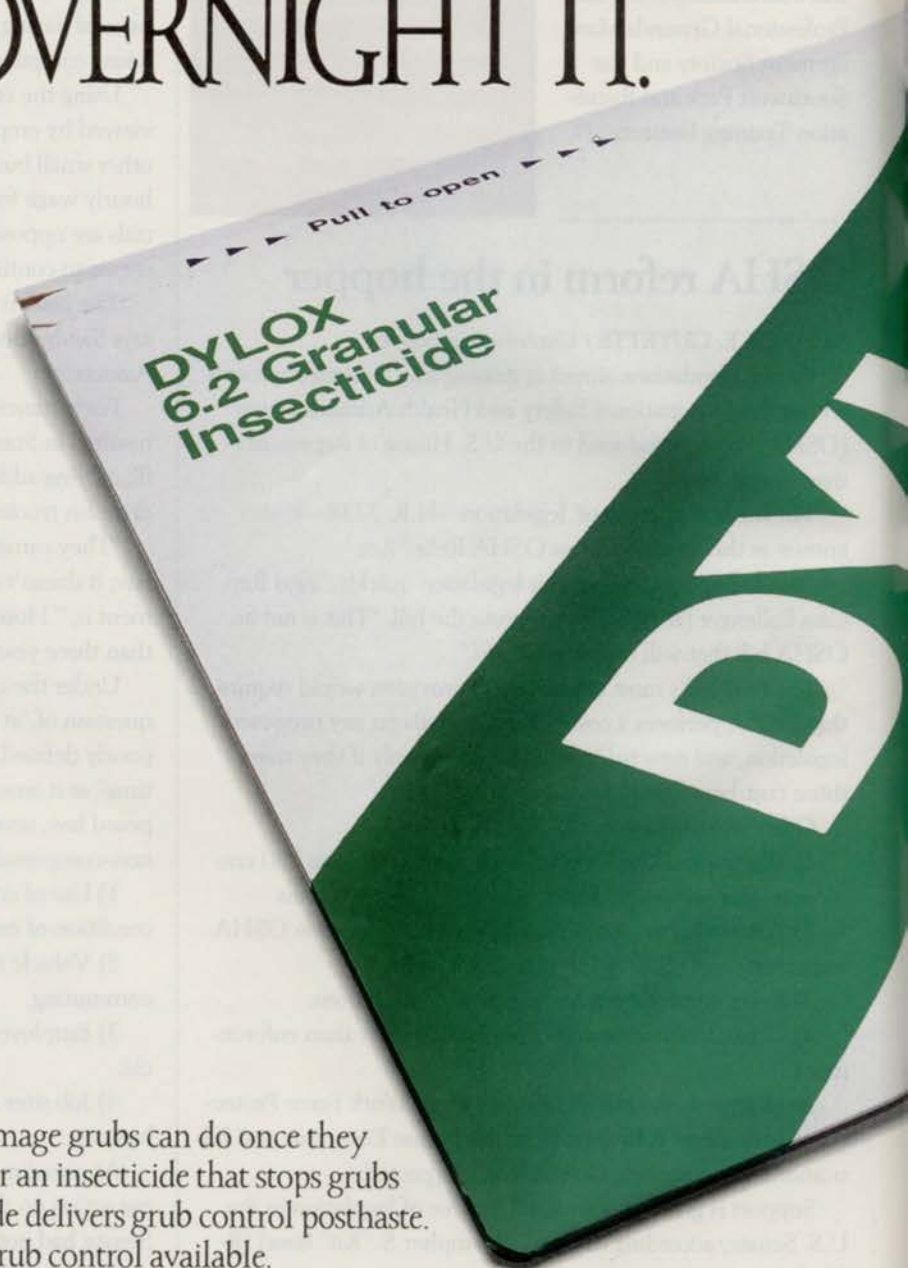
- 1) Use of company vehicle is entirely voluntary and not a condition of employment.
- 2) Vehicle is the type that would normally be used for commuting.
- 3) Employee incurs no cost for driving or parking the vehicle.
- 4) Job sites are within the normal area of the contractor's business.

At presstime, H.R. 1227 was out of committee and awaiting action on the floor of the House of Representatives. The Senate had not considered it.

Boyd and the Associated Specialty Contractors (ASC) organization urges landscape managers to join them in contacting their elected officials in support of the legislation. □



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