



## The New Generation Of Top-Rated Tools.



It doesn't matter if it is a single yard or a sprawling condo community. Tough jobs require top-rated tools. STIHL's tough new BG 75 challenges our own BG 72 in power and performance.

Lightweight, quiet and powerful, the BG 75's new, larger

25.4 cc engine goes from zero to 134 mph and back without breaking a sweat. STIHL's unique ElastoStart™ shock absorbing handle and electronic ignition make it fast starting, reliable and comfortable.

The telescoping extension tube means one size truly fits all and with optional gutter cleaning and vacuum kits, this blower

is one of the most versatile yard tools on the market. Get your hands on the new BG 75.

Call 1-800-GO STIHL (1-800-467-8445) for more information or for the name of your nearest STIHL dealer.



# STIHL®

# INSIDE



ON THE COVER: ENVIRONMENTAL LANDSCAPE SERVICES WORKERS SPIFF UP THE WESTCHASE HILTON HOTEL IN HOUSTON.

## COLUMNS

- 2 OPENING SHOTS
- 8 ASK THE EXPERT

## DEPARTMENTS

- 10 HOT TOPICS
- 36 EVENTS
- 38 SUPPLIERS CORNER
- 38 INFO-CENTER
- 40 PRODUCT REVIEW
- 64 CLASSIFIED
- 67 AD INDEX
- 68 GRAB BAG

THE VOICE OF THE GREEN INDUSTRY

# LANDSCAPE *management*

## FEATURES

- 12 **COVER STORY:  
THE LM 100**  
Our spin on some of the best and most visible golf courses, athletic and grounds facilities, and lawn-/landscape companies in North America—ones that help set the standards for green industry excellence. How did we pick them? See Jerry Roche's "Opening Shots" column on page 2.



- 26 **SEED AVAILABILITY:  
IT'S SHORT**  
It will not be easy to find the exact turfseed you might want this fall, if reports from seed growers are accurate. Here is a complete rundown of suppliers' most requested cultivars.  
*JERRY ROCHE*
- 33 **LM REPORTS:  
CHIPPERS/SHREDDERS**  
The original "Don't Bag It" program was meant to address turfgrass clippings, but there is some wisdom in extending the concept to other landscape debris like tree prunings, broken branches, twigs and brush.  
*JERRY ROCHE*
- 30 **CONSIDERATIONS IN  
PESTICIDE SELECTION**  
You must understand your pest problems, observe the environmental concerns where they're being used, and know the pesticide's characteristics to make the right choice.  
*R.L. BRANDENBURG, PH.D.*
- 43 **CORPORATE  
CAPABILITIES**  
The top suppliers to the green industry take a few sentences to tell you more about their companies and the products and services offered.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (ISSN 0894-1254) is published monthly by Advanstar Communications, Inc. Corporate, editorial and advertising offices: 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Accounting, advertising production and circulation offices: 131 West First St., Duluth, MN 55802.

**Subscription rates:** one year, \$39, two years \$58 (U.S.); one year \$66, two years \$99 (Canada and Mexico); one year \$130, two years \$195 (all other countries). For air mail delivery, include an additional \$70 per order annually. Current issue single copies (pre-paid only): \$4 (U.S.); \$7 (Canada and Mexico); \$12 (elsewhere); add \$3.50 per order for shipping and handling. Back issues, if available, \$10 (U.S.); \$14 (Canada and Mexico); \$20 (other countries); add \$3.50 per order for shipping and handling (pre-paid orders only).

**Office of publication:** Advanstar Communications, Inc., 131 W. First St., Duluth, MN 55802. Periodicals postage paid at Duluth, MN 55806 and additional mailing offices.

**Copyright ©1996 by Advanstar Communications, Inc.** All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from Advanstar Marketing Services, Attn: Permissions, 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130 or phone (800) 225-4569 x123. Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by Advanstar Communications for libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center.



Canadian G.S.T. Number: R-124213133, IPM number: 841919

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Landscape Management, P.O. Box 6198, Duluth, MN 55806.



LANDSCAPE

If you're asking what an "LM 100" is, you can join most of our other 50,000+ readers. Simply put, it's this month's cover story, a new project we have undertaken this year. It's a vehicle by which we can recognize the biggest, brightest and best of the green industry. We hope to make this an annual "event" in the magazine, and there's no reason why it can't be, with your help.

Certainly, a project of this magnitude isn't undertaken on a whim. But there wasn't much staff debate about giving it a go. We are united in

the firm belief that many top organizations in the U.S. green industry should, in some way, be further recognized for their valuable contributions to the industry's image.

Some of the friends and acquaintances you've made at turf meetings might be on this year's list. You might recognize the names of some of your competitors. And if you're a progressive organization dedicated to pro-

ounding the benefits of well-maintained, beautiful turf and ornamentals, we may even have contacted you last month about joining our list.

We selected this year's "LM 100" based on a variety of criteria. Probably the most important was national visibility, both in the green industry itself and in the general public's eye. That might mean a PGA Tour championship golf course. It might mean a landscaping company whose owner has served on his or her national organization with due diligence in the past year. It might mean a lawn care company that goes beyond the call of duty to uphold the virtues of green grass and customer retention. Or it might mean a college whose grounds manager has personally invited us to his campus to check out the athletic fields.

The other criteria we used to select these

100 included:

- ▶ continuing relationship with the leading national association serving their specific trade (and we asked the associations for referrals);
- ▶ good business practices;
- ▶ availability to the trade press (specifically LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT) for quotable quotes, good business/agronomic tips;
- ▶ "image" (a subjective quality, at best);
- ▶ dedication to the green industry; and
- ▶ efficiency of the organization.

We realize that this entire list is very subjective indeed. We expect our 100 to be discussed, debated and contested—not necessarily for the organizations we've named to the list, but more for those that we've left off (and we've left off quite a few).

Senior editor Ron Hall was final authority on what lawn and landscaping companies were selected. Managing editor Terry McIver handled selection of the golf courses and athletic fields that made this year's list. And the three of us continued to be amazed at the number of really good, visible organizations from which we could choose. We realize that, if we had the room in this month's magazine to do justice to 250 organizations (or even more), we could have easily expanded the list.

So to those who made our "LM 100" this year: thank you, and keep up the good work. You can look forward to receiving your official "LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT 100" frangible certificate in the mail in the coming weeks.

To those who didn't "make the cut" this year: let us know about your organization (we've always got time to chat), keep up the good work, and remember that there's always next year. **LM**

## The LM 100: what makes them tick?



*Jerry Roche*

JERRY ROCHE  
Editor-in-Chief

Questions, comments? Contact Jerry by phoning (216) 826-2830, faxing (216) 891-2675 or e-mailing to 75553.502@compuserve.com.



# Taking over new turf.

You know our M-Series mid-size tractors for their all-round versatility. Now we're going after some new turf.

Introducing our M4700, 2-wheel drive Turf Special. It's got wide flotation turf tires, a low-profile front end, creep speed for spraying and turf conditioning and a sunshade for added comfort.

Like all Kubota tractors, the M4700 is loaded with features that increase productivity and make operation easy.

An ISO-mounted, semi-flat deck greatly reduces vibration

Creep speed transmission has 12 forward speeds (0.17-13.76 mph) with turf tires.



*Kubota also offers an M4700 model with 4-wheel drive.*

and minimizes fatigue, while hanging pedals add comfort and ease of operation.

The E-TVCS 5-cylinder diesel engine delivers maximum power, with high torque, low noise and low vibration. Enhanced combustion efficiently

reduces fuel cost and lowers emissions.

The Kubota M4700 Turf Special. It's designed from the ground up for landscape and turf applications. And then some.

For more information, please write to:

**Kubota**

KUBOTA TRACTOR CORPORATION  
P.O. Box 2992, Dept. GM  
Torrance, CA 90509-2992

or call Toll Free 1-888-4 KUBOTA ext. 401  
(1-888-458-2682 ext. 401)

Financing available through Kubota Credit Corporation



**Everywhere You Look  
- There We Are!**



**Ranked Among the Best  
Franchise Opportunities in America!**

Success Magazine <b>GOLD 100</b>	Entrepreneur Magazine <b>Franchise 500</b>	Income Opportunities <b>Platinum 200</b>	Business Start-ups <b>The Top 150</b>
---	---	---	--

- Proven Leaders in the Lawn Care Industry
- 17 year Track Record of Successes
- In-depth Training
- Exclusive Territory
- Extensive Support



Call Roger Albrecht at: **1 800-982-5296**

Circle 125

**PRO'fect:** having all professional qualities for performance and longevity.

# THE PRO'JECT TRIMMER

Professionals need PROformance. That's why our new PROFORCE TBC-2510 trimmer has more quality features than others in its class. At 11.6 lbs. with 1.3 hp, it has excellent power-to-weight and outstanding acceleration. A heavy-duty



The New  
**PROFORCE  
2510 Brushcutter**

anti-vibration system combined with a SOLID-STEEL drive shaft and the new BRAIN® autofeed cutting head ensure smooth and reliable cutting power. The engine has been tested to last over 1500 hours and complies with new emission standards. To enjoy PROfection, see your Tanaka dealer or call **206-395-3900**.

THERE'S MORE  
TO LIKE ABOUT  
**Tanaka**

Tanaka equipment is used exclusively at



Circle 135

## LANDSCAPE management

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Fax (216) 891-2675  
E-mail 75553.502@compuserve.com

Jerry Roche **Editor-in-Chief** (216) 826-2830  
Terry McIver **Managing Editor** (216) 891-2709  
Ron Hall **Senior Editor** (216) 891-2636  
Dr. William Knoop **Technical Editor** (903) 860-2410  
Vernon Henry **Group Editor** (216) 826-2829  
Lisa Lehman **Art Director** (216) 891-2785  
Lisa Bodnar **Graphic Designer** (216) 891-3101

### READER ADVISORY PANEL

Jerry Coldiron **Boone Links / Lassing Pointe G.C.** Florence, Ky.  
Corey Eastwood **Stockdale Country Club** Bakersfield, Calif.  
Mike Guthrie **Ground Control Landscaping** Orlando, Fla.  
Larry Iorri **Down to Earth Landscaping** Wilmington, Del.  
Pat Nibler **ProGrass** Wilsonville, Ore.  
Russell Studebaker **Horticultural consultant** Tulsa, Okla.

### BUSINESS STAFF

John D. Payne **Publisher** (216) 891-2786  
Leslie Montgomery **Administrative Coordinator** (216) 826-2856  
Judy Miducki **Production Manager** (218) 723-9281  
Donna Pack **Group Business Manager** (216) 891-3131  
Debi Harmer **Production Director** (218) 723-9325  
Rosy Bradley **Senior Production Manager** (218) 723-9352  
Karen Edgerton **Circulation Manager** (218) 723-9280  
Sandy Ollah **Green Book Supervisor** (218) 723-9618  
Lynn Viele **Green Book Coordinator** (218) 723-9393  
Alex DeBarr **Group Publisher** (216) 891-2789

### ADVERTISING OFFICES

**Headquarters** 7500 Old Oak Blvd.  
Cleveland, OH 44130-3369  
(216) 243-8100 Fax: (216) 891-2675

John D. Payne **Publisher** (216) 891-2786  
E-mail: jpayne222@aol.com

Kerry Jacobson **Southeastern Sales Manager**  
(216) 891-2626

Tom Galligan **National Sales Manager**  
3901 52nd Ave.  
Kenosha, WI 53144-1830  
(414) 653-9523 Fax: (414) 653-9524  
E-mail: tgalligan@aol.com

John Kiesewetter **Western Sales Manager**  
859 Willamette St.  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 461-0022 Fax: (541) 461-0044

Dan Hoke **Classified / Market Showcase** (216) 891-2672

### MARKETING SERVICES

Marcie Nagy **Reprints (100 minimum)** (216) 891-2744  
Anita Knight **Circulation List Rental** (800) 225-4569, ext. 172  
Advanstar Marketing **Microfiche/Film Copies** (800) 225-4569, ext. 839  
Chris Baxter **Subscriber/Customer Service** (218) 723-9477  
Mary Abood **International Licensing** (216) 826-2804  
**Books, directories, back issues, photocopies**  
(800) 598-6008; (218) 723-9180



**President & CEO** Robert L. Krakoff  
**President, Advanstar Publishing** Robert L. Krakoff  
**President, Advanstar Expositions** James M. Alic  
**VP/Finance, CFO and Secretary** David W. Montgomery  
**Vice Presidents** Kevin J. Condon, William J. Cooke, Brian Langille, Phil Stocker  
**Treasurer & Controller** Adele D. Hartwick

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW LONG  
GALLERY WORKS TO PREVENT BROADLEAF WEEDS,  
ASK SOMEONE WITH TIME ON THEIR HANDS.



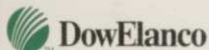
After applying Gallery\* preemergence herbicide, you've got about 6 to 8 months of good solid waiting before you'll spot the emergence of any of over 95 different broadleaf weeds. Even the tough ones like spurge, dandelion and plantain.

In fact, Gallery is the only preemergent on the market today that's designed to prevent so many broadleaf weeds, yet is safe over the top of all turfgrasses,

and over 400 different species of ornamentals.

So now that you have a little extra time on your hands, maybe you can get around to digging up even more business.

For further information on Gallery, or any other product in the extensive line of DowElanco products, give us a call at 1-800-352-6776. Always read and follow label directions.



\*Trademark of DowElanco



## COLORBLENDS

### TAKE THE GUESS AND THE WORK OUT OF BLENDING TULIPS.

Above Item #1205 Tulip Colorblend "The Royals" Purple/Yellow  
1000 Topsize bulbs ... \$292 delivered (cont'l 48 states)

Order Now! For Fall Delivery and Planting  
Toll Free 1-888-TIP-TOES (847-8637)

Over 50 Colorblends available.  
Cemet., Cities, Hosp., Hotels, Univ., Zoos - We accept P.O.'s.  
GCSSAA members have pre-approved credit.

SCHIPPER & CO. USA Box 7584 Greenwich, CT 06836



SCHIPPER  
& CO. USA

Circle 132

### NEW PUBLICATION!

## Containment System Design:

Chemical Storage,  
Mixing and Recycling

by Fredric R. Haskett

Item #668 \$74.95



Find out how to prepare your company for the scrutiny of government regulators. Learn how your operation can comply with new regulations. Understand the legal implications of compliance versus noncompliance. Discover the difference between the cost of recycling finished product residues and the cost of disposal.

Areas covered in this comprehensive guide include: Planning, The Containment Facility, Equipment Standards, Site Standards, Emergency Response Procedures, and more.

**Call 1-800-598-6008**

Outside the U.S. call 216-826-2839

**Advanstar Marketing Services**

7500 Old Oak Blvd. • Cleveland, OH 44130

Price subject to change

CODE: 949511

## LANDSCAPE management

A proud member of these green industry  
professional organizations:



**Associated Landscape Contractors of America**  
12200 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 150, Reston, VA  
(703) 620-6363



**American Association of Nurserymen  
(National Landscape Association)**  
1250 I St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 789-2900



**Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America**  
1421 Research Park Dr.  
Lawrence, KS 66049-3859  
(913) 841-2240



**Independent Turf and Ornamental  
Distributors Association**  
1217 Wayburn  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230  
(313) 331-7739

**International Turfgrass Society**  
Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences, VPI-SU,  
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0403  
(540) 231-9796



**National Arborist Association**  
The Meeting Place Mall, P.O. Box 1094,  
Amherst, NH 03031-1094  
(603) 673-3311



**National Golf Foundation**  
1150 South U.S. Highway One, Jupiter, FL 33477  
(407) 744-6006

**Ohio Turfgrass Foundation**  
P.O. Box 14824, Columbus, OH 43214  
(614) 261-6750



**Professional Grounds Management Society**  
120 Cockeysville Rd., Suite 104,  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031  
(410) 584-9754



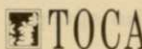
**Professional Lawn Care Association of America**  
1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135,  
Marietta, GA 30068-2112  
(404) 977-5222



**Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment**  
1155 15th St. NW, Suite 900,  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 872-3860



**Sports Turf Managers Association**  
1375 Rolling Hills Loop, Council Bluffs, IA 51503-8552  
(712) 366-2669; (800) 323-3875



**Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association**  
P.O. Box 156, New Prague, MN 56071  
(612) 758-5811



# Introducing The Quietest Backpack Blower Ever Designed.

## THE PB-46LN — THE QUIET 1™ FROM ECHO.

With Echo's revolutionary new Quiet 1™ clean-up jobs never sounded so good because it's a full 50% quieter than its predecessor — even when it's being operated at full throttle!

With a maximum air velocity of 180 MPH and an average air volume of a whopping 790 CFM, you've got the power of a user friendly hurricane, with the sound output of a finely tuned imported automobile.

Patent-pending sound reduction technology enables the PB-46LN to operate at only 65 decibels (as measured according

to ANSI B175.2-1990 Guidelines), which is ideally suited to meet the needs of the many communities that have enacted noise legislation. This exciting innovation in commercial backpack blowers will allow you to take full advantage of the labor savings afforded by a backpack blower without disturbing noise sensitive communities.

This new technology also makes the PB-46LN ideally suited for resort maintenance where excessive noise can be a problem with discriminating guests. Best of all, the new PB-46LN is made by Echo. It's powered by an industry tested and approved 44cc commercial grade engine that's built to take the abuse of long work days. The durable, yet lightweight frame, protects critical engine

components under demanding usage, but still allows them to be serviced with ease. The automotive type air filter, for example, can literally be replaced on a job site in a matter of seconds.

The Quiet 1™, another in a series of product innovations from Echo, the choice of professionals! For the name of your nearest Echo dealer, call 1-800-432-ECHO (3246). Or write: Echo, Incorporated, 400 Oakwood Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

**ECHO**  
**Ask Any Pro!**



## Post-emergence grass control

*Is there a product or practice which can help manage weedy grasses in Kentucky bluegrass, ryegrass and fine fescue lawns once they have germinated?*

—INDIANA

You may be dealing with annual grassy weeds or perennial grassy weeds. For annual grassy weeds, like crabgrass, post-emergence herbicides such as Daconate-6, Acclaim or Dimension can be used. Ideally, these products should be applied when annual weedy grasses are very young.

Since Dimension has both pre- and post-emergence activity, it can be applied during the period of germination. After germination, until about the six-leaf stage, Acclaim has given the best results in our field studies. Once the plants begin to tiller, the treatment response may vary, depending on the type of product, air temperature and other factors.

In addition to chemical management, it is also beneficial to provide good cultural practices such as mowing, watering, fertilizing and pest management—as needed—to improve the health of desirable turfgrass.

Other groups of grassy weeds include perennial plants, such as coarse or tall fescue and quackgrass. For tall fescue management, consider using Lesco TFC selective herbicide. Reports indicate that TFC treatments in the fall give the best results. Another option is to ei-

ther mechanically hand-dig the tall fescue clumps or spot-treat them with Roundup or Finale, and then overseed the area.

For weeds such as quackgrass, there is no selective herbicide. Digging and removing is not practical because the quackgrass has rhizomatous underground stems. It is very prolific and difficult to remove the roots. Portions of the plant can produce new growth. So instead of treating just the plant, it is a good idea to treat a large, heavily infested area with Roundup or Finale. Be aware that these herbicides will kill every green plant which they contact. Also, caution should be taken while applying these herbicides. If the herbicide comes in contact with your shoes, it could be carried to other parts of the property. Quite often, plants like quackgrass with underground rhizomatous growth habits may require a follow-up treatment 7 to 10 days later.

Once the treatment is satisfactory, (after 7 to 10 days), prepare the treated area for seeding and seed it with desirable compatible grass mixture or blends.

Always read and follow label specifications for best results.

## Tiny trees a vexation

*We are finding young seedlings of maple and oaks in lawns. What can be done to get rid of these?*

—OHIO

The wet spring we have had in the Northeast supported the germination of maple and oak seeds. Seedlings can be man-

aged either mechanically or chemically.

They can be pulled by hand, which would be laborious and time consuming. Instead, mow the yard at the proper height and frequency. Since these plants are young, once the terminal bud is removed, they tend to die off.

Another approach is to use any of the common broadleaf herbicides applied on lawns that contain 2,4-D, dicamba or MCPP.

## Two for nutsedge

*What can we use to manage serious problems with nutsedge in lawns?*

—LOUISIANA

Consider using selective herbicides such as Image or Manage. Purple nutsedge is most common in your area, but these products are registered to help manage both yellow and purple nutsedge.

Provide treatments when the nutsedge is in the 8- to 10-leaf stage and provide the second application 8 to 10 weeks later, as needed. These products are post-emergent and will help manage the weeds that are active at the time of application, but they will not help manage the germinating seeds of nutsedge. Therefore, if nutsedge is severe in some lawns, additional treatments may be needed in subsequent years.

Maintain good cultural practices, particularly mowing to help reduce future weed seeds.

LM



**BALAKRISHNA RAO**  
*Manager of Research and  
 Technical Development  
 for the Davey Tree Co.  
 Kent, Ohio*

### SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

"Ask the Expert"  
 Landscape Management  
 7500 Old Oak Blvd.  
 Cleveland, OH 44130

Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear in the magazine.

FIRST THERE WAS MANHATTAN, THEN MANHATTAN II, NOW THERE'S

The Best  
Just Got  
Better!

# Manhattan 3

Turf-Type  
Perennial  
Ryegrass

## Formula for a Successful Turf

**Step 1: Draw from the most celebrated turfgrass breeders of all time to advance the time-proven best perennial ryegrasses, Manhattan and Manhattan II.**

**Step 2: Select Oregon's finest grass seed growers to raise high standard, certified seed. Most have produced Manhattan for more than 25 years!**

**Step 3: Market only high quality, competitively priced seed consistently on a long-term basis. An adequate Manhattan supply has been available in good and poor crop years.**

**Step 4: Select dependable, knowledgeable distributors to get your product to the marketplace. Some helped introduce the original Manhattan in 1970.**

**Step 5: Specify Oregon certified Manhattan 3 for all ryegrass applications!**  
*Look for this familiar skyline on the bag you buy:*

**Manhattan 3 characteristics:**

- An elite turfgrass cultivar
- High endophyte level
- Dark green color
- Improved density
- Improved mowing quality
- Improved rust resistance
- Better summer color
- Lower growth habit

*Manhattan 3 is co-marketed by:*



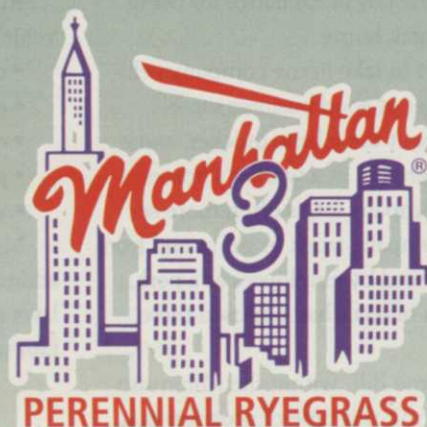
**TURF MERCHANTS, INC.**

33390 Tangent Loop, Tangent, OR 97389  
Outside Oregon 800-421-1735  
541-926-8649 / FAX 541-926-4435



**TURF-SEED, INC.**

PO Box 250, Hubbard, OR 97032  
800-247-6910  
503-651-2130 / FAX 503-651-2351



Circle No. 138 on Reader Inquiry Card

# Minimum wage act disallows paying travel time to workers who take company trucks home

by JAMES E. GUYETTE / Contributing Editor



**Russ Schmidt (above) of Schmidt Landscaping, St. Louis, lets a trusted employee who's been with him for 10 years 'home-garage' his other truck. 'He takes care of it like it's his own,' Schmidt says. 'You get to a point where you can only offer people so much pay, so you begin to look around for ways to give them other perks. A company vehicle is one way.'**

Legislation that increases the minimum wage to \$4.75 an hour also includes a provision that allows workers to take home company vehicles without being paid for the time spent traveling.

Known as "home garaging," the strategy of allowing landscape crew members to commute to and from the jobsite in

company trucks parked overnight at their homes had been under fire from the U.S. Department of Labor. The main issue is that landscape managers and other small business owners, such as contractors, seldom pay their workers an hourly wage for this time spent driving to and from the jobsite. This put them on a collision course with Labor Department regulations that mandate such travel time payments—even though workers may have negotiated away the pay in exchange for being able to take the truck home.

Allowing crews to take home company vehicles can be a matter of good business sense. Workers can arrive at the jobsite quicker, and a vehicle parked overnight at a worker's home rather than in a company lot, is often more secure. Using the company truck to get to and from work is largely viewed by employees as a perk, yet national union officials had opposed these arrangements.

The "Travel Time Bill" within the Minimum Wage Act will permit this type of program as it

amends the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947.

"The bill will become law as soon as the President signs it," says John Runyan of the Labor Policy Association, an industry trade group based in Washington. He adds that the measure first has to be passed by a Congressional conference committee because the House and Senate have approved differing specifics. "Under any scenario, it is now a virtual certainty that the travel time problem will be resolved favorably," he reports.

"Commuting in company-owned vehicles is beneficial to both employer and employees. Yet under the [previous] law, employers were at great risk if they had such programs and did not compensate employees for time spent commuting," Runyan notes.

Owners of landscaping businesses that set up these programs faced the possibility of stiff fines and other business repercussions. Runyan seeks "a common-sense answer to this dilemma. It makes clear that commuting in company-owned vehicles is not working time so long as there is an agreement between the employer and employee, and the commute is 'within a normal commuting distance' of the employer's business."

Runyan says voluntary use of company-owned vehicles results in:

- consumer savings,
- expeditious service,
- employee convenience,
- parking and vehicle storage advantages, and
- vehicle and cargo safety.

Municipal lawmakers might have something additional to say, however, many of them have laws against parking commercial vehicles of certain sizes in residential driveways. □