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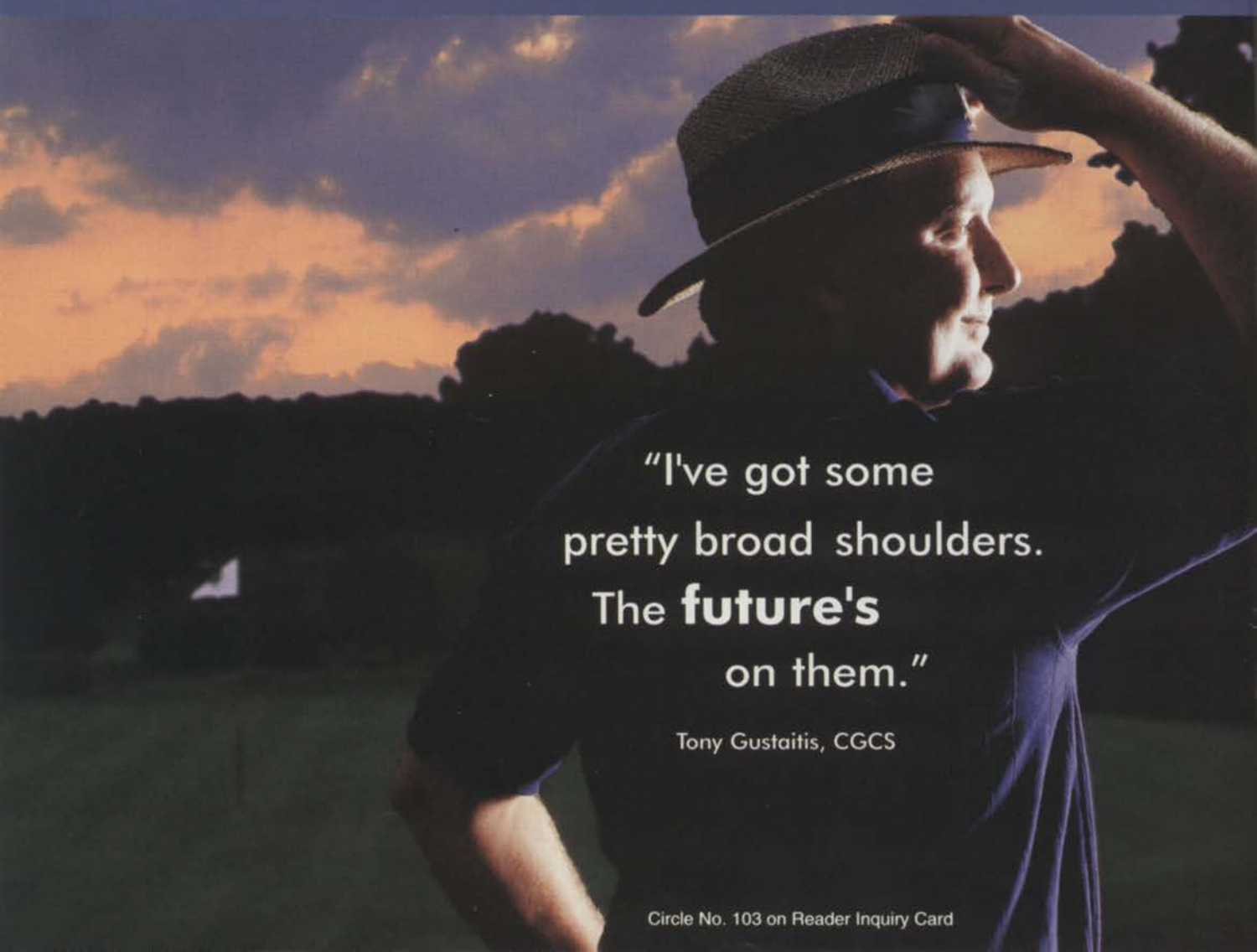
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on them."**

Tony Gustaitis, CGCS

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Don't be in a hurry to fertilize turf in the spring. Get a soil test and wait until the turf is growing.

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ON THE COVER: BALD MOUNTAIN PROVIDES THE BACK-DROP FOR SUN VALLEY GOLF COURSE, SUN VALLEY, IDAHO. SUPERINTENDENT IS KEN ZIMMERMAN, CGCS. PHOTO BY SCOTT PLATZER / F-STOCK, INC.

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A quality, high-production mower is often the reason—the *only* reason—the professional contractor can turn a profit in the cut-throat mowing industry. Here's why.

J. PAUL LAMARCHE

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LANDSCAPE

Word from the Professional Lawn Care Association of America as we went to press: the Department of Transportation has just helped cut down on lawn care operators' paperwork.

HM-200—the rule that covered LCOs who carry specific quantities of hazardous materials—has been modified. Operators no longer have to meet training, emergency response phone number and shipping paper requirements, effective Oct. 1, 1997.

Late news is good news for industry



Terry McIver

TERRY McIVER
Editor-in-Chief

"Until now, even if you carried over 1/2 gallon of gas in your truck, you had to have shipping papers," explains Tom Delaney, PLCAA director of government affairs.

"Through phone calls and comments to the *Federal Register* by PLCAA members and attendees at PLCAA's Legislative Day-on-the-Hill in Washington, D.C., the Association was able to put pressure on the Department of Transportation to make this change."

Gasoline containers must be made of metal or plastic and conform to Occupational Safety and Health Agency requirements, which are less stringent than DOT requirements.

"LCO's will also no longer have to conform to state and federal regulations regarding transport of 400-gallon-size tanks or smaller mixed with two percent or less concentration of a Class 9 material, which covers certain pesticides," says PLCAA.

The point is not that product applicators want to abolish any and all regulations, just those that are unfair, impractical, or redundant.

The American Association of Nurserymen reports ergonomic guidelines to prevent "repetitive motion" injuries will be more of an OSHA concern this year.

It's too early to call this bad news, so for now, we'll hope it's good news. It will remain in the "good news" category if resulting guidelines are sensible and workable. For example, the AAN cites a 1994 attempt at ergonomic-related legislation, which wanted to prevent "lifting or carrying anything weighing over 25 pounds without assistance more than once during a workshift."

Once again, no one wants to ignore legitimate worker concerns. I have them, too. As someone who uses a typewriter—excuse me, *keyboard*—regularly, I must say carpal tunnel syndrome is a concern of mine. But I know the ergonomic guidelines that prevent it, and it's up to me to follow them. I also worked a job that required lots of heavy lifting, but I knew when to call my friend Arnold over to help me.

Cleveland-based **Freedonia Group** predicts demand for commercial lawn and garden equipment will hit \$1.2 billion per year by 2000.

Growth, says Freedonia Group, will come as a result of:

- ▶ favorable demographic trends;
- ▶ a positive outlook for new golf course construction;
- ▶ expanding state and municipal spending;
- ▶ commercial and multi-family home construction;
- ▶ high levels of equipment replacement from golf course superintendents, municipal maintenance crews and professional landscape firms.

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE) tells us that legislation proposed in New Hampshire will allow local control of pesticides. It's all in the interest of "home rule," a form of government New Hampshireers seem to prefer.

As did a lot of other people, way back in 1776. **LM**

Comments? Write Terry at 7500 Old Oak, Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44130; **phone him at** (216) 891-2709, **fax him at** (216) 891-2675 or **e-mail him at** lscape@en.com.

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Scales infest oaks

We are finding scale-like structures on twigs, as well as on the trunks of our oak trees. They are mostly grouped, generally laying one over the other. The areas where they are found are slightly sunken. Some have small, black dots on the center of what looks like a scale cover. What are these? How do we manage them?

—MARYLAND

From your description it appears that your problem is related to a scale and most likely it is obscure scale. Obscure scale is commonly found on species of oak, chestnut and hickory. They have also been reported on beech, maple, dogwood and willow. Obscure scale is most prevalent in the southern United States.

With one generation per year, obscure scale completes growth around mid August on white oak and mid July on red oak. On pin oak, the crawler activity peaks during July then declines, only to have another surge in August.

Managing obscure scale is difficult because the scales grow in clusters with one laying on the other. The layers make pesticide penetration to the target crawlers difficult. Also, they lay eggs over a long period of time and there is an extended period of crawler activity. Crawlers can settle under the layers of scale clusters; therefore, they are not readily exposed to insecticide treatment. They overwinter in the partly grown adult stage (second instars).

There are a few parasites and predators of this scale that may be effective as biological agents or you can treat the infested trees with horticultural oil. Thorough coverage of twigs and trunks is needed. Because they grow in clusters, the horticultural oil may not penetrate deep enough to manage all of the scales. Therefore, in the spring treat again with insecticides such as Malathion or Sevin. Of course, read and follow label directions.

Scientists are researching the feasibility of using systemic products such as Merit insecticide to manage scales. Continued research should help answer questions in managing these difficult and destructive pests.

Stumped over sprouts

Some clients do not want their stumps to be removed by grinding. Quite often we find sprouts growing from cut surfaces. In some cases we even find suckers on the roots. How can we manage these problems?

—MICHIGAN

Use Roundup in an undiluted form or up to a 50 percent solution with water to manage sprouts growing from the cut surface of a stump. Treatments should be made immediately after cutting the tree. Apply Roundup on the cut surfaces along the edges of the trunk on the cambial layer. Use a hand sprayer. There is no need to apply all over the stump. Recutting the stump and then treating may be re-

quired if there is more than a one-hour delay.

Roundup may not be effective if a tree is removed during winter. Pathfinder II (Garlon, which contains trichlopyr) can be used. Generally, this may require a different type of pesticide applicator license, so make sure you have the proper license.

To manage sprouts on cut stumps near a body of water (ponds, rivers, streams, lakes), consider formulations such as Accord or Rodeo. Roundup can't be used near a body of water. Again, make sure your pesticide applicator license allows you to use these products.

Do organics leach?

Do organic fertilizers, such as the one containing powder blue, leach? Do we need to apply more fertilizer in sandy soils than we would use in clay soils? Or, should we increase the frequency of fertilization?

—NEW YORK

Organic fertilizers containing powder blue can leach to some degree, but at a much lower extent and not so readily as the inorganic quick-release fertilizers. When using the above product in sandy soils, use the recommended rate but increase the frequency of your treatment schedule. This to compensate the fertilizer loss due to leaching through sandy soils. Where feasible, incorporate some organic mulches through methods like vertical mulching.



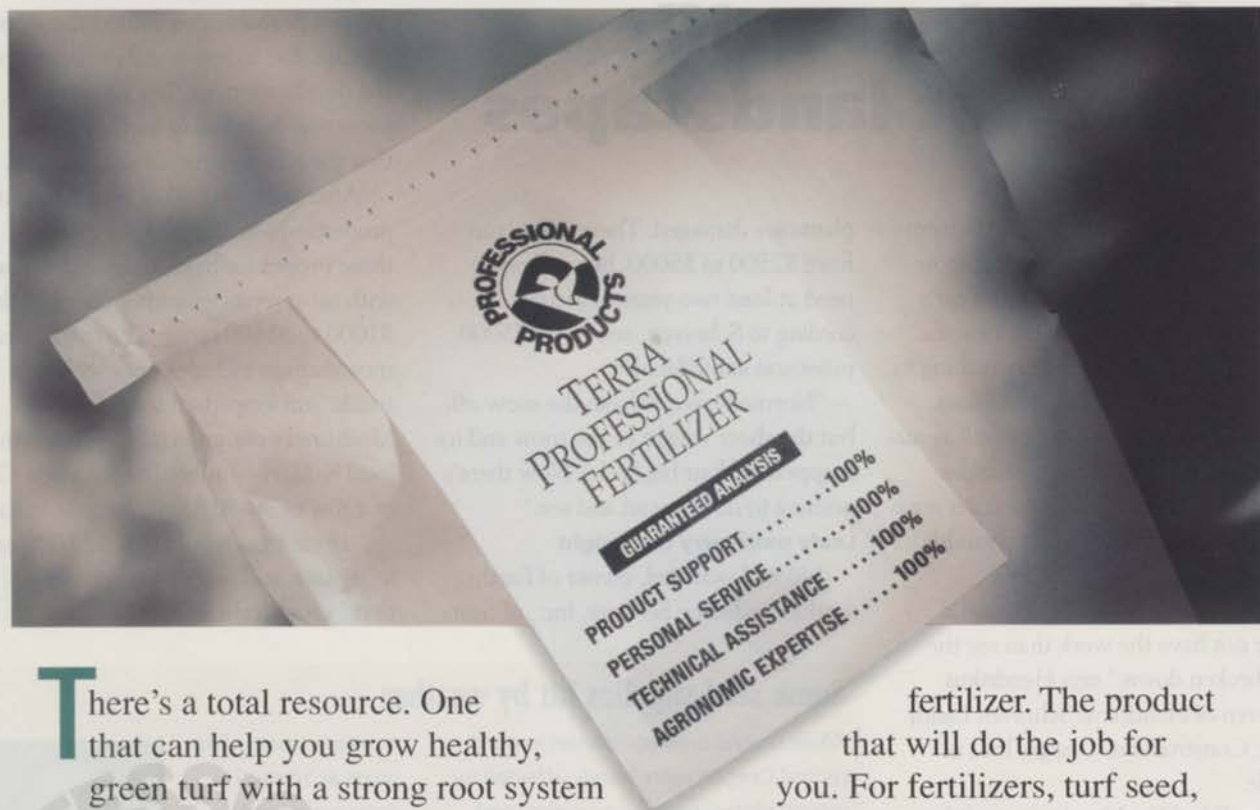
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Weather bends, buries and breaks Pacific Northwest landscapes

by LESLEE JAQUETTE

SEATTLE, WASH.— Combine a November snowstorm with a Christmas snowfall of 16 inches, mix in a New Year's Eve windstorm and you have a Pacific Northwest landscape industry rushing to evaluate damage and calculate losses.

Seattle, in King County, as well as surrounding Washington State counties have been declared national disaster areas after heavy snow, flooding and mudslides caused \$250 million in damage.

"There's a ton to be done, but I'd rather not have the work than see the trees broken down," says Hendrikus Schraven of Hendrikus Schraven Landscape, Construction, Design, Inc., of Seattle.

"It will feel like blood money. I'd rather see everything survive."

Analyzing the effects of the worst series of storms in five years, Schraven estimates 40 percent of his mature nursery

Tree damage was the most visible sign of damage after wind storms hit the Seattle area. Wet snow added to the damage later.



plants are damaged. These plants run from \$2500 to \$5000, but will now need at least two years to recover. According to Schraven, one of his \$5000 pines was annihilated.

"Normally, we'd shake the snow off, but the sheer weight of the snow and ice snapped off four big limbs. Now there's nothing to do but wait and see."

Leafy trees carry the weight

Mike Moshcatel, owner of Earthworks Landscape Services, Inc., of Seat-

tle, notes the November storm—which dropped around eight inches of wet snow—probably committed the worst damage due to leaves still remaining on the deciduous trees. The December snow was drier but in such quantities that the effects were almost identical.

After surveying 40 of his 150 clients' properties, Moshcatel reports half of those properties have significant damage, with most repair estimates falling in the \$1000 to \$1500 range. The most common damage includes trees with split trunks and lopped off tops. One of Moshcatel's commercial accounts—the local K-Mart—suffered badly when 13 of a row of 30-40 ft. maples split in half.

"These trees would cost \$20,000 each to replace, and no one's going to pay that," says Moshcatel. □

Some seed supplies hit by weather

While several seed companies in north central Oregon were barely affected by recent winter storms, one major seed producer experienced significant damage and lost production.

Jerry Pepin, general manager of Pick-Seed West, says the Tangent, Ore., company lost 10 percent of new tall fescue and perennial ryegrass as a result of heavy rain and snow over the Christmas holiday.

While this figure represents 25 to 30 percent of new plantings, the total amount of established field loss runs around two percent. Estimated total loss looks to be about three to five percent.

Pepin remembers that last year's perennial ryegrass crop was down due to equally disastrous weather. After two years of substantial flooding, Pepin estimates the 1997 crop could see

a price increase of as much as 10 to 12 cents per pound.

"It's a farming operation," says Pepin. "We take our chances with nature; growing grass is no different."

Tom Stanley, marketing director of TurfSeed, Hubbard, Ore., says the company seed supply is relatively untouched by the storms, with less than five percent damage to production fields.

Dave Nelson, executive secretary of the Oregon Seed Council in Salem, adds that his area also survived in good shape.

"Although some fields were inundated, the rain subsided soon enough to avoid submerging the plants for days or weeks," says Nelson. L. J.



Jerry Pepin: 'We take our chances with nature.'