

West coast nurseries survey storm damage

by LESLEE JAQUETTE

California nurseries, some of whom supply landscape companies across the U.S., have delayed harvesting deciduous and orchard trees due to heavy rains in late December.

"Not only have rains prevented digging of bareroot trees in the state," says Ross Hutchings, executive administration director of the California Association of Nurserymen, headquartered in Sacramento, "but in some cases rains have forced nurseries to wash off roots and re-spray."

During the same cluster of storms, Washington and Oregon nurseries were spared for the most part, says Jeff McIvor, director of marketing and communications for the Oregon Association of Nurserymen.

During the second week of January, nurseries that use container-bound plants were not showing major losses, but Hutchings reports that some grow-in-the-ground nurseries have harvested as little as 10 percent of their bareroot crop, when normally 80 to 100 percent would be dug and shipped by early January.

Hutchings reports that Sierra Gold Nursery in Yuba suffered much damage when the staff was forced to evacu-

ate the premises with only 10 percent of its deciduous crops harvested.

A majority of the crop at the Dave Wilson Nursery in Hickman and Reedley, Calif., was pulled out of 'heeling-in,' which means the trees must be pulled out, washed and re-sprayed at considerable added expense.

Soggy profits

Hutchings could not comment on how the weather damage will affect prices of nursery stock. He did suggest, however, that it will be hard for some individual nurseries to show a profit.

"On the upside, in a few years, we may see people re-landscaping in response to the storms."

Despite strong winds in excess of 60 mph, Southern California's Monrovia Nursery Co.—one of the largest nurseries in the U.S.—has survived with only minimal damage.

General Manager Jim Poorbaugh notes only minor problems caused by the relatively warm weather. He credited the company's experience in handling bad weather.

Poorbaugh says four of 12 hoop houses and a polypropylene shade were torn from their bases. Al-

though these will have to be replaced, the plants are fine, with no cold or sun damage. In addition, there were no water problems due to plentiful rainfall prior to the winds.

"The winds inconvenienced us because lack of electricity in the office re-

duced productivity," says Poorbaugh.

"It's an irritation to clean up, but the quality of the plants didn't suffer." □

Feds satisfied: BF/TG-CL deal moving forward

The acquisition of Barefoot, Inc. by ChemLawn parent company ServiceMaster is a step closer to completion, now that the mandatory waiting period has expired.

The Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice have not requested further information, thus satisfying the government-imposed requirements needed to close the transaction.

As of January 10, ServiceMaster needed to register its shares with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The tender offer will begin upon fulfillment of this requirement. Closing of the transaction is contingent upon participation in the tender offer by the holders of at least 75 percent of Barefoot's 14.5 million outstanding shares.

Barefoot is the nation's second largest lawn care company, with more than 500,000 system-wide customers, spanning 103 metropolitan markets, with 53 company owned markets, 50 franchises, and annualized customer level revenues in excess of \$125 million.

TruGreen-ChemLawn is the nation's largest lawn care company, with customer level revenues of more than \$630 million, serving 2.5 million customers through more than 260 service centers across the country.

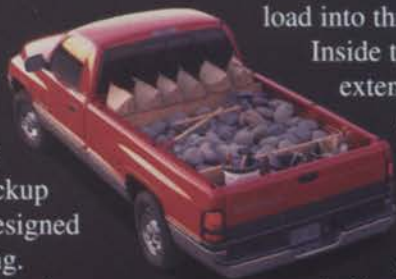
ServiceMaster reports it has more than 6 million customers in the U.S. that use its various service companies, including Terminix, Merry Maids and American Home Shield. □



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Via mail, e-mail, fax, etc.

Asian group a good work force

I enjoyed your article [on Hispanic laborers] in the Oct. 1996 *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*. I am a retired priest of 8 years and play golf about twice a week. I have worked as a priest with 5000 migrant workers in the 60s and 70s for 15 years. They were mostly asparagus, onion, potatoes, sugar beet workers. At the time I worked with them not many got beyond the third grade. Many could not read or write. Television allowed many older people to

learn English, mostly watching soap operas on rainy days.

They were a poor, but happy people. Not many of the luxuries of our affluent society, just enough to stay alive and move from state to state to harvest a crop for us who were more affluent. I never met a lazy migrant worker in 15 years.

I might mention there are 19,000 Hmong people now living in the Twin Cities. They, too, are people of the land, now in the flow of city life. They, too, are good workers,

never lazy, but farm oriented. No doubt they too could fit into the green environment program.

Fr. John F. Cody, St. Paul, Minn.

Wages must increase!

All I've read about this past year in all my trade magazines is about Mexican labor this and that.

If you are American born and bred, you know the hard facts of life in America:

Fact #1: You cannot support yourself, apartment, car, gas,

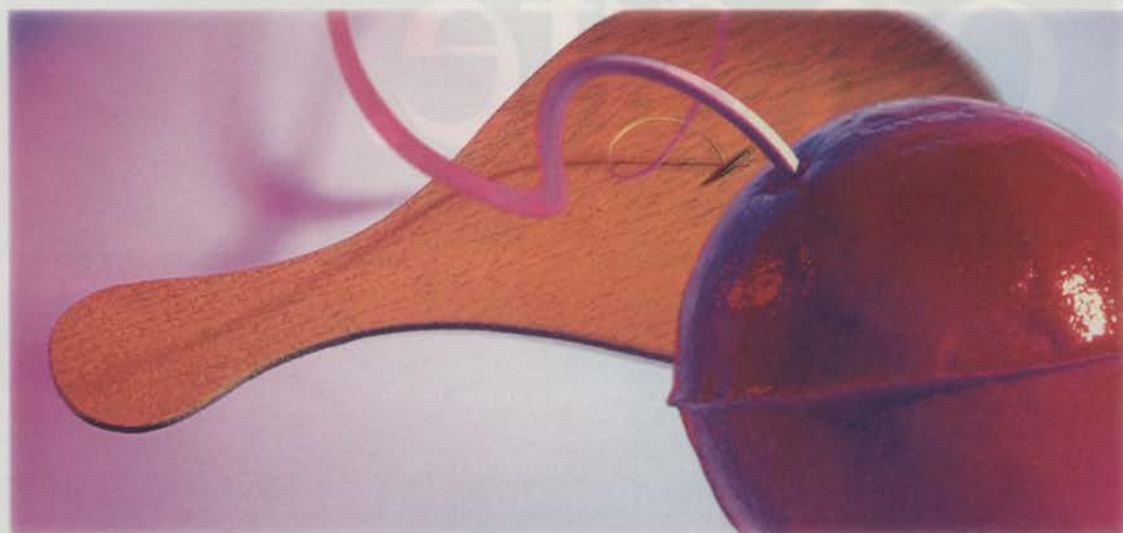
insurance, food, phone, utilities and clothes (not including health insurance, girlfriend, a family or maybe even a life) working for \$5-\$6-\$7 dollars an hour. You have a calculator, do the math.

There are plenty of American men and women that love to work outdoors and would love to work in all areas of the green industry. What stops them? Fact #1! Americans are a lot of things, but we're not that stupid.

There are a lot of companies who hire and train competent

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Seed Company

Advent perennial ryegrass isn't only beautiful — it's resilient. To heat. Drought. spring after spring. All of which makes Advent an excellent choice for home



American people and actually pay them a decent wage for their efforts. They understand if you want to live and stay in America you have to earn a certain amount of money.

Corporate America has been using cheaper labor for years, laying off Americans and moving operations to some sweat shop in Asia. Corporate America never once said "We cannot fill these positions." They readily admit they can make more money and compete in our markets by moving and hiring foreigners.

More money, more company profits are the only rea-

son for hiring cheaper labor. Stop blaming hard working Americans who care about themselves and their future. Shut up and bite the bullet.

Change will only start with you and me. Remember your American parents. Just because all your friends are jumping off the bridge, will you?

Jerome A. Lesak, J.L. Land Development, Kirtland, Ohio

Web site request

I would like to see a question and answer "Bulletin Board" section where people can tell their story or talk about certain

green industry subjects. You could also include a monthly test where one could answer questions related to green industry topics. It would be a good way for you to get a handle on what users know and don't know. I am generally satisfied with what I find on other green industry web sites, however, it is difficult to search for specific things. By the time I find something I'm interested in, I have spent too much time looking. Some links in your web site to other web sites would be great.

Blake Moore, Utah

Omission noted

The December disease control article only listed Daconil (chlorothalonil) as the product to use for various turf and ornamental disease control problems. Echo chlorothalonil fungicides—which compete directly with Daconil—were not mentioned. I ask that you add a supplemental note or article in your future editions recognizing our Echo products.

A.C. Assad, business manager, Sostram Corporation.

(LM regrets any inconvenience caused by the omission.

Look for a thorough disease control article in May. ed.)

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TURF-TYPE PERENNIAL
RYEGRASS

They're hot, they're here!

Exciting new product releases promise to help make turf and landscape management more efficient and productive.

by GARY BURCHFIELD

Most of you will feel the budget squeeze again in 1997. That's why you're always looking for ways to handle tasks faster, easier, more economically and still please homeowners, commercial clients and golfers.

Check out these products before the season really gets underway. You may find something among these new offerings that's going to make a big difference in your operation for 1997.

Insect control advances

Mach 2 will make grub and caterpillar control easier. It's a product of RohMid LLC, a marketing company formed by

American Cyanamid and Rohm and Haas. Dr. John Thomas, Mach 2 marketing manager, says the new product has three major advantages:

- ▶ preventive as well as curative effect on susceptible pests. Existing products typically do one or the other, but not both;

- ▶ control of two major insect classes, the coleopterins (grubs and chafers) and the lepidopterins (sod webworms, cutworms, armyworms);

- ▶ outstanding environmental and health safety profile. The EPA is reviewing Mach 2 under the "reduced risk" fast-track process.

Mach 2 will be available in liquid formulation this season, granules and Mach 2-fertilizer combinations in 1998.

DowElanco's Conserve SC (suspension concentrate) is also on the EPA's "reduced risk" fast track and is expected to be labeled for the turf and ornamental market by the third quarter of 1997.

Mark Urbanowski, new product marketing manager, says Conserve SC tests, under its Experimental Use Permit label in 1996, led to "very positive feedback" from users.

Primary markets for Conserve, Urbanowski says, are golf courses for control of cutworms and armyworms, and the

lawn care industry for control of sod webworms and armyworms. It will also be used to control up to a dozen different pests on ornamentals.

Conserve SC is in a new chemical class called "spin-osyns" which kill insects through ingestion or on contact. It has the properties of a biological control product, with the efficacy of a synthetic.

Low use rate, wide control

Golf course superintendents and sod growers will welcome a new fungicide, Heritage, about to be released by Zeneca Professional Products.

The active ingredient in Heritage is azoxystrobin, a compound patterned after a natural fungicide discovered in mushrooms in Europe.



Thomas: no watering in with Mach 2.

Rogers Innovative sprayer shroud cuts chemical drift.





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Manage provides 'one dose' nutsedge control, says Monsanto.

Zeneca's Dr. Dave Ross says Heritage:

- ▶ provides broad spectrum control of brown patch, *Pythium*, anthracnose, take-all patch, summer patch and snow mold;

- ▶ has an extended use interval of 14-28 days;

- ▶ has a low use rate: 2- to 4-ounces of product per 1000 sq.ft.;

- ▶ will gain EPA registration under "reduced risk" status.

Spray drift reducer

Rogers Innovative, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is expanding marketing efforts for its Windfoil front-mount sprayers. The Windfoil unit replaces the mower deck with a spray tank and boom unit which covers 5-foot spray swath or up to 12-ft. 6-in. swath with the wing model. Rogers Innovative also offers a 15-ft. spray boom unit for use on golf courses, as well as hose-fed walking booms in widths from 30- to 80-inches.

Bio control via irrigation

Eco Soil Systems of San

Diego, Calif., developed an on-site "fermentation vessel" and piping to inject control bacteria into the golf course irrigation system. Superintendents lease the system from the company, which services the tank monthly to re-inoculate the system with fresh bacteria cultures and replenish the media.

Doyle says the company has licensed a special strain of bacteria—*Pseudomonas*

aureofacean—from Michigan State, which is showing good control of *Pythium*, summer patch, dollar spot and anthracnose. Other bacteria cultures are available for combatting nematodes and other turf disease problems.

Weed and feed

Commercial turf managers who like the action of DowElanco's Confront broadleaf weed control, but prefer granular application, can opt for O.M. Scott's 30-5-5 Fertilizer Plus Confront. Confront has proven effective against the common broadleaves, plus giving good control of clover, oxalis and spurge. The Scotts formulation is the only one which offers Confront in granular form.

Scotts is introducing two additional granular fertilizer/herbicide combinations. One will be a 14-0-14 formulation, the other 0-0-15, both with Monsanto's Dimension pre-emergence herbicide for crabgrass, goosegrass, foxtail and barnyardgrass control.

DowElanco's Team Pro—an improvement over the company's Team product—is used to manage broadleaf weeds, such as spurge and oxalis in warm- or cool season turf.

Monsanto's Manage, for yellow and purple nutsedge is available this year in "one dose" water soluble packets. Manage can be used on any turfgrass, including sod or seeded areas

once they are well established.

Riverdale Chemical Company has readied two broadleaf herbicides—Cool Power and Horsepower. By combining the DowElanco active triclopyr with a phenoxy herbicide and dicamba, the strengths of three different chemistries are used to control broadleaf weeds.

Cool Power and Horsepower combine MCPA, tri-

Seed more resistant

Turf-Seed is bringing out five new perennial ryegrass varieties, says Tom Stanley, director of marketing. They are: Cataline, Manhattan 3, Citation III, Roadrunner and 2M3. Two tall fescues, Matador and Tar Heel, are also new, along with Opti-Green bluegrass and Discovery hard fescue, Tiffany chewings fescue and Sea Breeze slender red creeper.

Jacklin Seed Company has two new bluegrass varieties this summer, Award and Nuglade.

"These new grasses may well make bluegrass fairways feasible again," says Jacklin's Dr. Doug Brede say. "They tolerate low cutting height and heavy use, but don't thatch up their first year or two like A34 or Touchdown."

Built-in insect control!

Brede says Jacklin also is working on a new endophyte fungus strain they located in Asia, which is being tested in one of their new bluegrass varieties. "If the tests continue to go the way they have so far, within two or three years we may be offering a Kentucky bluegrass with built-in control for cutworms, webworms and armyworms, along with resistance to fungus such as dollar spot, and with high drought tolerance."

Besides relocating their corporate headquarters to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Lofts Seed is coming out with a new billbug resistant Kentucky bluegrass this year, called Eagleton. Vicki Wallace, Lofts technical agronomist, says Eagleton showed up well in Rutgers University trials and NTET tests.

"It's a Mid-Atlantic type bluegrass, but it's widely adapted across the country," Wallace says. Lofts also is introducing two new perennial ryegrasses in 1997: Palmer III and Prelude III.

Low maintenance buffaloes

Buffalograss is a way to lower the cost of turf care inputs. For the first time, commercial quantities of seeded buffalograss are available. Using materials developed by Dr. Terry Riordan at the



Stanley: five new perennial ryegrasses.



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clopyr and dicamba for improved performance on hard-to-control weeds such as clovers, spurge, oxalis, wild geranium and wild violet.

Cool Power is an ester formulation, designed for greater efficacy in cool weather. The amine Horsepower can be used in warmer temperatures.

Turf 'booster'

Turf managers this year have a new "biostimulant" product to boost grass performance. The

product, BioEdge WSP is marketed by Terra Industries in water soluble packets for easy tank mixing with other fertilizer and/or pesticides.

Bob Yarborough, Terra's northern division professional products

manager, says BioEdge enhances soil microbial activity, promotes increased root growth and includes nitrogen-fixing and phosphorus-solubilizing bacteria that enable plants to better utilize nutrients.

"It's a proven combination of humic acids, cold water kelp, natural sugars and amino acids, along with beneficial bacteria," Yarborough says.

BioEdge is available in two formulations: BioEdge WSP 0-0-12 and BioEdge WSP (Fe) 0-0-3, with 10 percent chelated iron. "The initial market has been golf courses, but we expect more professionals to use it on other turf areas this year," says Yarborough.



Yarborough: expects wider use for product.

Terra also intro-

University of Nebraska, the **Native Turf Group** is offering two varieties of seeded buffalograss: Cody and Tantaka. According to Dave Stock of Stock Seed Farms, Murdock, Neb., the new varieties are based on research begun in 1988, with the goal of developing true turf-type buffalograss that develops thicker sod, greener color and which greens up faster in the spring.

Stock says there is growing interest in buffalograss, especially in areas where water is a critical factor. "Of course, with seed, cost of establishing buffalograss is greatly reduced. Seeding will run \$1,000-\$1,300 per acre, whereas putting in plugs can run up to \$10,000 per acre."

For those who need or prefer vegetative buffalograss, Rordan says the new turf-type varieties show improved quality, thicker sod development (both to reduce weed growth and improve harvesting capabilities for sod producers), more tolerance for low mowing height and better cold tolerance.

G.B.

duces a golf course mapping program to help superintendents make more precise fertilizer and pesticide applications. It's known as Precision in Turf.

Save time, costs

Ciba's Primo continues to gain popularity with turfgrass managers. Dr. Joe DiPaolo, Ciba Turf & Ornamental Products, says Primo reduces mowing time by slowing grass growth, but it's also an excellent product for improving overseeding and sod establishment.



DiPaolo: Primo helps sod establishment.

"Applying Primo one to five days before overseeding slows turf growth, giving the new seed a better chance to germinate and get established. We've seen increased 'seed catch' of 50 percent to 100 percent. Likewise, putting it on sod two weeks before harvest slows top growth, promotes tillering and enhances color and density,"

says DiPaolo.

Roadsides an easy mow

The Polecat, from TK Industries in Laramie, Wyo., is the brainchild of Bob Kenison, a former mining engineer. It mows around poles and on both sides of guard rails, fences, barriers or mail boxes.

Units are in use in California (where roadside herbicides are banned) and around Denver's new airport.

Looking for a versatile digging machine in 1997? Consider the **The Dingo**

Digging System, "a hydraulic power plant on wheels," with more than 30 attachments to choose from. Dingo reports that most attachments can be changed in less than a minute by one person. Dingo is headquartered in Fort Mill, S.C. **LM**

—Writer Gary Burchfield is based in Lincoln, Neb.



The Polecat mows around poles and on both sides of roadside structures. They're already being used in California and Colorado.