



## ORNAMENTAL PROTECTION PLAN

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Always read and follow label directions.

*How do I manage wild garlic and onion weeds in lawns? We have difficulty managing them with our regular program. We have used Trimec 899/3-Way with sporadic results. Appreciate your comments.*

—MICHIGAN

Wild garlic and onion are difficult to manage. However, repeated applications of herbicides such as 2,4-D ester should help manage the weeds. 2,4-D ester is a selective, post-emergent herbicide. This means the target weeds, such as garlic and onions, must be actively growing. This product will not help manage the weeds as a pre-emergent. A common problem is timing. If you apply herbicide treatments when the weeds are not present, your application will not have any effect.

Use caution when applying products such as 2,4-D ester herbicides near non-target desirable plants (vegetable garden plants, flowering plants, etc.). Ester formulations can volatilize and drift to nearby plants and cause injury. Avoid use in windy conditions.

Read and follow label specifications for best results.

*How do I know if a tree needs mycorrhizae fungus? If it does need mycorrhizae fungus, how do I determine which one?*

—NEW YORK

A representative from Plant Health Care, Inc., the manufacturer of several mycorrhizae containing products mentioned the following, which might help answer your question.

Mycorrhizae is actually a symbiotic association of fungi and tree roots. There are two types of mycorrhizae: *ectomycorrhizae* which are basically on the external surface of the roots and *endomycorrhizae* which are inside the roots. Most plants have some sort of mycorrhizae fungal association.

It is difficult to determine whether or not a tree actually needs mycorrhizae. It is also difficult to tell how much mycorrhizae is in the soil associated

with a particular tree without studying and analyzing it scientifically. If the growing soil/site is good, and if there are a number of other trees growing nearby, there should be adequate mycorrhizae. If the tree is under stress or growing in poor soils, such as subsoil from a construction site, it may respond to the addition of mycorrhizae.

The table below indicates the specific mycorrhizae for different plant species. **LM**



**BALAKRISHNA RAO**  
*Manager of Research and  
 Technical Development  
 for the Davey Tree Expert  
 Company, 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.

### Ectomycorrhizal

#### Trees

Aspen (Populus)  
 Basswood  
 Beech  
 Birch  
 Chestnut  
 Chinquapin  
 Douglas-Fir  
 Fir  
 Hemlock  
 Hickory  
 Larch  
 Linden (a basswood)  
 Madrone  
 Oak  
 Pecan  
 Pine  
 Populus (True Poplar)  
 Spruce

### Both Ecto & Endo Plants

Arborvitae  
 Alder  
 Casuarina  
 Cedars  
 Cottonwood  
 Cypress  
 Eucalyptus  
 Willow

### Endomycorrhizal Plants

Acacia  
 Ailanthus  
 Apple  
 Ash

Bay  
 Blackberry  
 Blackberry  
 Boxelder  
 Buckeye  
 Carrotwood  
 Catalpa  
 Cherry  
 Chinaberry  
 Citrus  
 Crabapple  
 Crape Myrtle  
 Cryptomeria  
 Cycads  
 Dogwood  
 Elm  
 Gingko  
 Gums  
 Grapevine  
 Hackberry  
 Hawthorn  
 Hibiscus  
 Holly  
 Hophornbean  
 Horsechestnut  
 Hydrangea  
 Juniper  
 Leyland Cypress  
 Ligustrum  
 Lily  
 Locust  
 London Planetree  
 Magnolia  
 Maple  
 Melaleuca  
 Mesquite  
 Mimosa  
 Mulberry  
 Monkey-Pod

Olive  
 Osage-Orange  
 Palms  
 Paulownia  
 Persimmon  
 Pittosporum  
 Raintree  
 Redbud  
 Redwood  
 Rose  
 Russian Olive  
 Sassafras  
 Serviceberry  
 Sequoia  
 Silverbell  
 Sourwood  
 Sumac  
 Sycamore  
 Tree-of-Heaven  
 Tupelo  
 Viburnum  
 Walnut  
 Yellow Poplar  
 Yew  
 All shrubs and foliage plants (except laurels, rhododendron, & azalea)  
 All berries (except blueberry, cranberry & lingonberry)  
 All nut trees (except pecan)  
 All flowers  
 All vegetables  
 All grasses  
 All fruit trees

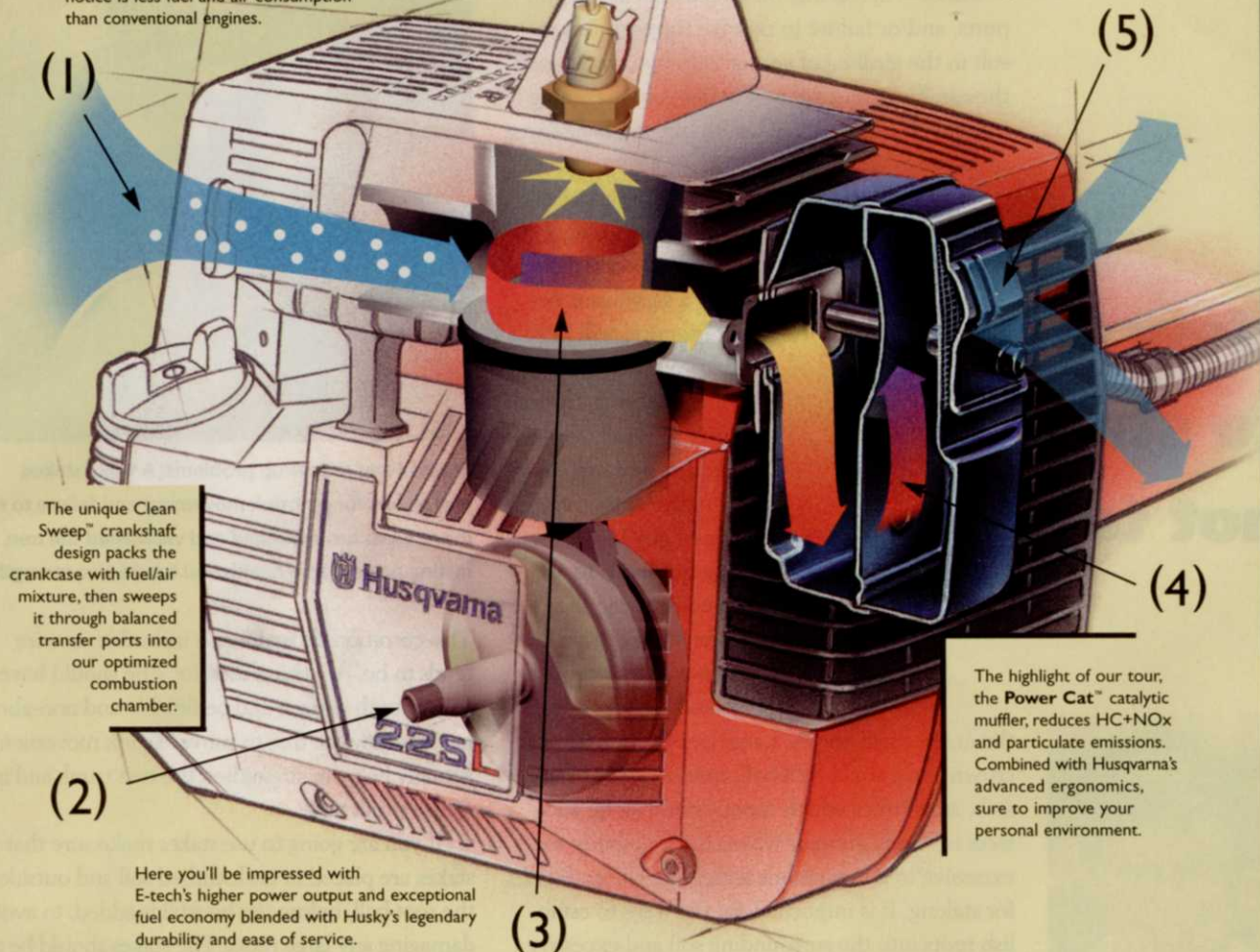


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## New trees: to stake or not to stake



**NANCY STAIRS**  
Technical Editor

**T**he tree is in the ground, are you going to stake it? Staking a tree for support is a common practice. Nearly as common is injury to trees as a direct result of staking. Incorrectly installed supports, and/or failure to remove supports can result in the girdling of young trees by compressing the cambium and killing the tree, or weakening it (not just weakened tree health but weakened tree structure as well).

In some instances, small trees appear to be staked in order to keep them from escaping.

Triple guy wires tightened to a significant degree of tension will indeed keep a tree from moving, however, the majority of small trees do not require any staking let alone to the extent of tightened guy wires.

The questions to ask when considering the need for staking trees are:

**Does the tree need to be staked?** In some cases

the answer will be yes. Large trees with a heavier crown and a small root ball, trees in wet or sandy soils, small trees which cannot stand alone and trees in windy areas or where the possibility for excessive tree movement is high are all candidates for staking. It is important for the trees to establish roots into the surrounding soil and excessive movement will impair that. Tree stability is a valid reason for staking.

**Will the manpower and time required for stake removal be scheduled in a timely manner?** More often than not, the answer is no. Most supports can and should be removed after one growing season. If this commitment cannot be met, the supports will very likely remain on the tree until the tree is wounded by the stakes or girdled by the ties. Follow-up is essential when staking is used.

**Are suitable materials available for staking?** Repeat after me: "Wire inside an old garden hose is NOT suitable tie material." If you don't think you can remember that, write it out 100 times.



**Method and follow-up problems:** A triple staked tree allows for no trunk movement and failure to remove wires has wounded and weakened the tree, affecting present tree health and future tree strength.

This common tie material is inflexible, as wire tends to be. Anything used for a tie should have a flat, smooth surface and be flexible and non-abrading, to allow the tree to move. Trunk movement actually helps to strengthen the tree trunk and increase trunk taper.

If you are going to use stakes make sure that the stakes are placed in undisturbed soil and outside the root ball, before the backfill is added, to avoid damaging any large roots. The stakes should be positioned so that the tree will not be blown into the stakes by the prevailing wind. A single stake can be located on the side of the prevailing wind so that the tree is blown away from the stake. Double stakes should be positioned perpendicular to the prevailing wind. Don't forget to remove the stakes and ties after the first growing season. And definitely don't remove the ties and leave the stakes.

Tree planting is an investment of time and money, but to see the payoff, pay attention to post-planting care. **LM**

Agree/Disagree? Comments/Questions? Column Suggestions? Let Nancy Stairs know at 440/891-2623. Fax: 440/891-2675. E-Mail: [nstairs@advanstar.com](mailto:nstairs@advanstar.com).



# *“Joining ALCA was the best investment I ever made.”*

“When I started in this business in 1978, I had a lot of business questions no one was answering,” says Judson Griggs, senior landscape architect at Lied’s Landscape in Sussex, Wis. “That’s when I joined ALCA.”

“By networking with ALCA members from around the country, attending marketing and technical seminars and using the Operating Cost Study to estimate projects, I have helped my company to achieve record sales revenues of more than \$10 million dollars.

“If you are serious about growing your landscape business, ALCA is the best resource in the country. Through their meetings, videos and publications, I learned cutting-edge techniques that I applied immediately to various projects which ultimately helped the company evolve and sustain its leadership role in the marketplace.”

**Join ALCA today and meet people like Judson Griggs.**

If you are an exterior, interior or landscape maintenance contractor, or simply want to see the landscape industry grow, call (800) 395-ALCA, or (703) 736-9666 for more information, or write: ALCA, 150 Elden Street, Suite 270, Herndon, VA 20170. Fax (703) 736-9668.



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# LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT wins big at TOCA for second year

**CLEVELAND**— For the second straight year, LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT magazine made a strong showing in the Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) writing/photography/design competition, taking home a total of six awards for writing and graphic design.

The awards, presented at the TOCA annual meeting in May, were the most awards won by any lawn and landscape or grounds maintenance-targeted publication.

Managing Editor Ron Hall won two first place TOCA awards in the categories of "Feature Writing" and "Product Information Article."

Graphic Designer Lisa Bodnar swept the key design award categories for the second year in a row, winning:

- ▶ first place in "Feature Design"
- ▶ first place in "Cover Page Design"
- ▶ first place in the most impressive design category of "Overall Magazine Design"
- ▶ merit award for "Cover Page Design"

"LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT's showing at this year's TOCA Awards are more meaningful than last year, because many more entries were submitted by Green Industry magazines," said Terry McIver, LM

editor-in-chief.

"This speaks volumes about our ability to stand tall and proud in a very crowded and competitive Green Industry publishing arena" said McIver. There were a total of 149 entries in all categories.

Hall's "Feature Writing" award was given for "A Championship Maintenance Facility," which highlighted the efforts of the equipment maintenance team at Prestonwood Country Club, Raleigh, NC (Aug. 1997).

A second award was given to Hall in the category of "Product Information Article," for "Rubber to the Rescue," a look at crumb rubber used as a soil amendment (Jan. 1997).

"The author uses description well to paint a picture for the reader," wrote the writing judge about the Prestonwood story.

"Hall carries the description technique throughout the story, while telling the story of the Prestonwood Country Club's maintenance program. This was a fine job of writing."

"Ron Hall has long been a leading Green Industry editor, reporter and writer, and Lisa Bodnar's talents have consistently shined through in LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT covers and feature designs," said McIver.

"Our mission is to serve the Green In-

dustry with the best-written, best-presented information," McIver said, "and we are grateful to be recognized in this way by an independent panel of judges." □

## AgriBioTech gets bigger in seed

**LAS VEGAS**—Add the Las Vegas Fertilizer Co., Inc., (LVF) and Rothwell Seeds of Lindsay, Ontario to the list of turf or forage seed companies acquired by AgriBioTech, Inc.

Las Vegas Fertilizer has revenues of about \$16 million a year, and sells turfgrass seed and ancillary products to golf courses and lawn and garden products to home improvement centers, mass merchants and independent nurseries in Nevada, California, Utah, Idaho and Wyoming.

On April 28 AgriBioTech, Inc., completed the acquisitions of Zajac Performance Seeds, Inc., and its Oregon affiliate, Kinder Seed, Inc.; Van Dyke Seed Co., Inc.; and Ohio Seed Company on April 28. The four companies have combined annual sales of about \$30 million.

"Zajac is an excellent turfgrass company which specializes in providing proprietary turfgrass varieties to independent wholesale distributors under private label," said Dr. Johnny R. Thomas, CEO of AgriBioTech. Kinder is a forage and turfgrass distribution company located in the northeastern U.S.; Van Dyke is a production company involved with forage crops such as

cont. on page 19







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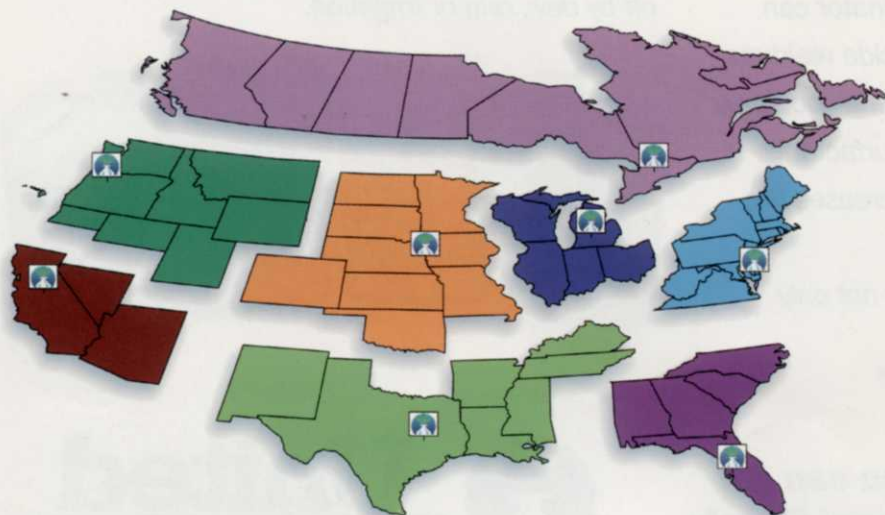
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red and crimson clover; Ohio Seed is a distribution company with about 60 percent turfgrass seed and 40 percent forage seed with sales primarily in Ohio and Michigan.

AgriBioTech is buying J&M Seed Company in Kentucky and Oseco Inc., Ontario, Canada, including all its seed and seed coating operations, Canadian Seed Coaters, North Battleford, Saskatchewan and Precision Seed Coaters, Inc., Yuma, AZ. The two companies have combined sales of about \$17 million.

AgriBioTech has completed 23 acquisitions since January 1, 1995 and claims annualized net sales of about \$426 million, including the previously announced pending acquisitions of Willamette Seed Company, Peterson Seed Company, Inc., Geo. W. Hill & Co., Inc., Fine Lawn Research, Inc., Geo W. Hill of Indiana, Inc., J&M Seed Company, and Oseco, Inc. □

## TOCA / Terra to award best Green Industry communicator

The Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association (TOCA) has officially announced the start of the *Environmental Communicator of the Year Award* Program.

Sponsored by Terra Industries, Inc., Sioux City, Iowa, the award will be given annually to an active Green Industry member for outstanding efforts in communicating the benefits of environmental stewardship. The award will build awareness among turf and ornamental communicators of the need to

provide informative and education information to their audiences on environmental stewardship issues;

"Environmental stewardship began in the Green Industry many years ago, but it has never been fully appreciated, due to distractions from another brand of environmental activists, and media bias against pesticides and the profit motive," says Terry McIver, editor-in-chief of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* magazine, and a TOCA director.

"The *Environmental Communicator of the Year Award* is TOCA's way of acknowledging people whose literary tal-

ent and environmental concern has helped tell the truth about how the Green Industry benefits the environment," says McIver.

The award competition is open to anyone in the Green Industry. Nominees must be a TOCA member or be nominated by a present TOCA member.

Applications must arrive in the TOCA offices by January 15, 1999.

Any member may nominate himself for the award.

The award carries a \$500 cash stipend, which will be presented to the winner at

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## LM adds technical editor to staff



Nancy Stairs, LM's new technical editor

Nancy Stairs, B.Sc.F., has joined *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* to serve as technical editor.

Previously employed by the Davey Tree Expert Company, Kent, Ohio, as an urban forester, Stairs brings a wide variety of arboriculture-related experience to the technical editor position. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from the University of New Brunswick, NB, Canada, has a diploma in horticulture, specializing in urban forestry and is a certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture.

Stairs has extensive writing, research and field experience. She has carried out tree inventories and has written management plans for cities, parks and golf courses, has authored technical bulletins and urban tree plans, and has conducted arborist consultations at golf course sites.

"Nancy Stairs is a fine addition to the *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* editorial team," says Editor-in-Chief, Terry McIver.

"Having a technical editor on staff significantly raises the level of our in-house technical expertise," says McIver, "at a time when many of our readers want and need more technical information on all turf, ornamental and tree care topics."

Stairs will write a monthly column, "Arbor View", and will contribute articles on a variety of Green Industry topics.

"Joining *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* opens the door to a whole new set of challenges for me," says Stairs. "I am hoping that with the phone, fax and e-mail accessibility we have that the readers will help direct that process by asking questions about specific tree and turfgrass issues. We then can answer them in a timely and useful way in our articles."

If there is a specific tree care topic you'd like to see covered in the pages of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT*, write to Nancy Stairs at: [nstairs@advanstar.com](mailto:nstairs@advanstar.com) □



# Community heros, how you can qualify!

*By being a 'contributor' to your community, you can make great things happen for your neighbors, your organization and yourself.*

By RONALD HALL/Managing Editor

**S**urprise, Mr. Green Industry Pro, the public doesn't seem to know how important you are. It is not aware of the positive role that your company or golf course plays in your community.

Why should it? What have you done for it lately? Have you spoken out?

If you've been letting others be the business or environmental heros in your community, get off your duff. You'll discover that the rewards for participating in your community (apart from just doing business in it) are enormous. You'll meet and get to know other business and civic leaders. You'll generate good will for yourself and your operation. You may reap some positive publicity too, the kind you

help improve that long-neglected community ball park? How about that shabby garden in front of the elementary school? (Ask to put a plaque with your company name at the site.)

And there's always a charity looking for sponsors. A student career day that needs speakers. The positive ways to involve yourself with the public are unlimited.

Ron Keefer admits that his heart always melts a little when a neighborhood youngster looks up at him and, wide-eyed, asks if he's going to have his Halloween hay ride again in the fall.

"That's really all the reward I need," says Keefer who owns and operates the Clean Lawn application company. "I say, 'of course, we're going to have the hay ride again.'" For 20 years he's said that. So, every Halloween he converts his yellow tanker work truck into a hay wagon, and makes the rounds in and around his Pennsylvania neighborhood. When the truck bed is packed with costumed youngsters (and a few parents as chaperones) Keefer takes the noisy group from house to house, making sure that everybody gets candy—lots of it.

This is just one way that a green industry professional reaches out to his community. There are many, many more. For instance, Keefer also allows the American Red Cross to use his truck as a billboard on wheels at local blood drives. While his support of the Red Cross is sincere, he says, "when you have a lawn care truck parked inside a mall or in front of a church, people are going to notice it."

The Groundskeeper is one the largest landscape firms in the Southwest. When it offered to help beautify a quarter-acre park and adjoining entrance to the Tucson City

Dale Woulf, Northwest Grounds Maintenance, below, helped make this youth ballpark a reality.



can't buy at any price. But, best of all, you and your employees will build a growing satisfaction and pride in yourselves, and in the communities that you serve. These are great payoffs no matter how you figure it.

Where to start? How about something that will show immediate and lasting results? Can your expertise