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EDITORIAL STAFF

Sue Gibson **Executive Editor** (440) 891-2729
E-mail: sgibson@advanstar.com
Ron Hall **Managing Editor** (440) 891-2636
E-mail: rhall@advanstar.com
Nancy Stairs **Technical Editor** (440) 891-2623
E-mail: nstairs@advanstar.com
Vernon Henry **Group Editor** (440) 826-2829
Lisa Lehman **Art Director** (440) 891-2785
Lisa Bodnar **Graphic Designer** (440) 891-3101

Visit us on the World Wide Web at: www.landscapegroup.com

READER ADVISORY PANEL

Jerry Coldiron **Boone Links / Lassing Pointe G.C.** Florence, Ky.
Larry Iorii **Down to Earth Landscaping** Wilmington, Del.
Rick Kier **Pro Scapes** Jamesville, NY
David Mellor **Milwaukee Brewers** Milwaukee, Wisc.

BUSINESS STAFF

John D. Payne **Group Publisher** (440) 891-2786
E-mail: jpayne@advanstar.com
Brenda Dunlap **Administrative Coordinator** (440) 891-2734
Karen Lenzen **Production Manager** (218) 723-9129
Debi Harmer **Production Director** (218) 723-9325
Karen Edgerton **Circulation Manager** (218) 723-9280
Candy Hausauer **Green Book Coordinator** (218) 723-9175

ADVERTISING OFFICES

Patrick K. Toal **Eastern Sales Manager**
P.O. Box 1308
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004-1308
(904) 280-4205 Fax: (904) 280-4206
E-mail: ptoal@advanstar.com
Tom Galligan **National Sales Manager**
3901 52nd Ave.
Kenosha, WI 53144-1830
(414) 653-9523 Fax: (414) 653-9524
E-mail: tgalligan@advanstar.com
John Kieseewetter **Western Sales Manager**
859 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 338-0022 Fax: (541) 338-0044
E-mail: [jkieseewetter@advanstar.com](mailto:jkieewetter@advanstar.com)
Gene Homan **Account Manager**
7500 Old Oak Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44130-3369
(440) 891-2772 Fax: (440) 891-2675
E-mail: ghoman@advanstar.com
Bill Smith **Classified / Market Showcase** (440) 891-2670;
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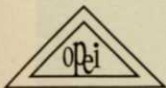
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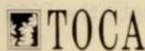
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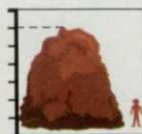
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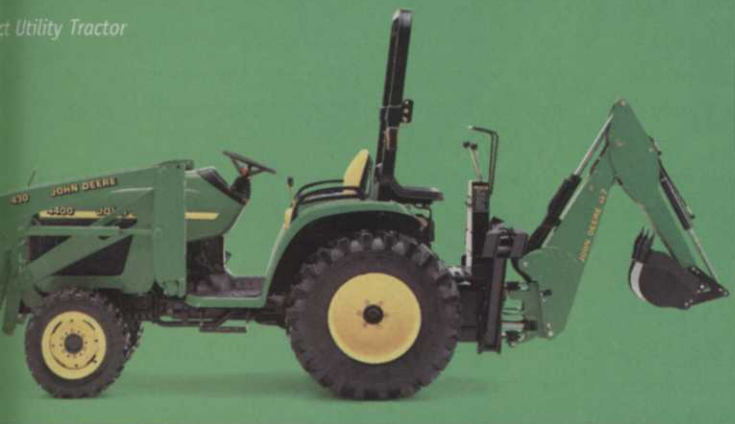
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Nothing Runs Like a Deere®

My column concerning certification in the Oct. 98 issue of LM riled a few of you. It got your dander up and you let me know it. Some of you let me know that you agreed with what I wrote.

Thanks for your comments, both pro and con.

"Certifying landscapers should be used as a tool to separate informed, quality-minded companies from the rest of the competition," wrote Rick Poro, owner Cutting Edge Landscape, Hampton, VA, in response to the column. *"What gets us is the amount of 'scab' landscapers who don't register with the city, pay withholding, state and federal taxes, and on and on. Because of this they can lowball jobs, bringing down prices and quality."*

Jim Park, grounds manager for Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA, likewise feels that certification is a good tool against unscrupulous workers. *"This industry is long overdue for a way to measure the degree of competency of people working in this field,"* he wrote, in

part. *"I think certification is a great idea. It's good enough for most industries—why not ours?"*

Jones C. Abernethy III, a licensed landscape architect and contractor, added these thoughts: *"Protection of the public health, safety and general welfare is the primary goal of any licensure or certification program. The alternative to licensure and certification is that anyone can get \$25 worth of business cards printed and say that they are a 'professional' (fill in the blank) and go out and infect themselves on the public."*

"Any profession that does not wholeheartedly support certification and licensure as minimum requirements for practice is a profession not worthy of the name. Regarding education? Everyone gets educated a little bit every day as they go about their jobs. Just who is responsible for educating the jack-

legs, fly by nights and incompetents? The customers, inspectors, landscape architects? I don't think so.

"Certification is not 'a gate to keep competitors out.' Certification is one way to protect the public from incompetent practitioners. The success of an industry is to have people doing good work and satisfying their customers."

We appreciate all of your comments and plan to explore the issue of certification in more depth in future issues. **LM**

Agree? Disagree? Contact Ron at 440/891-2636; fax 440/891-2683; e-mail rhall@advanstar.com

You speak out loud and clear



Ron Hall

RON HALL

Managing Editor

[PEOPLE & PROJECTS]

Janssen heads Stiles Landscape


Joseph E. Janssen, CLP, took over as president of Stiles Landscape Service Co., Fort Lauderdale, FL. Janssen, the former owner of his own landscape firm also served as a regional manager for ISS during his 15 years in the industry. Stiles Landscape Service is a division of Stiles Corporation, a full-service commercial real estate development and investment company.

Vollmer Associates lands East Boston project

Vollmer Associates is providing the engineering and landscape architectural services for the rehabilitation of Constitution Beach, a 28-acre recreational breach facility in East Boston, MA. The project involves rehabilitating the beach with 3,7600 cu. yds. of clean sand, replacing a pedestrian bridge and developing a small urban park. The \$4.5-million project should take about 18 months.

Gardener's Guild honored

Gardener's Guild, Inc., San Rafael, CA, earned a 1998 Waste Reduction Award for its program to recycle grass clippings and landscape waste. President and CEO Linda Novy said the company made "great strides in converting our waste stream to resource recovery" with help from its 200 Bay area clients.



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Spruce spider mites

We are having some problems in managing spruce spider mites. What would be the strategy or program we should practice?

— MINNESOTA

Spruce spider mites can present a serious problem if not managed properly. This cool-season mite is active in the spring and again in the fall when the temperatures are cool. However, most people notice the damage during summer and often treat at that time with mixed results. During summer, when the temperature is 80°-90°F or higher, mites will go dormant or undergo diapause (in effect, resting or inactive). At this time treatment response will be poor.

Reports indicate that some mite activity can occur during summer if the temperatures are cooler. In these situations, thoroughly check the suspect plants for mite activity. This requires shaking the spruce branches, which show the mite feeding symptoms of stippling, over a white cloth or paper. If mites are found, provide proper management as needed.

Treatment timing and rotation is the key for a successful mite management program. Often multiple applications of miticides may be needed throughout the season. The following mite management program guidelines should work in your situation.

Apply a fall or winter application of horticultural oil to manage the adult, nymphs and

overwintering eggs. Remember that oil does not have any residual. It can be a hit-and-miss operation so make sure to provide proper coverage, following the label guidelines.

Miticide products such as Morstan, Kelthane, Hexagon, Avid, Talstar, Dursban, Orthene soil injection and insecticidal soap can be applied in April-June.

Since the residual effect of some of these products may vary from a few days to three to four weeks and the economics and regulatory requirements vary from product to product, you will want to consider which product is best for you.

Inspect the suspected spruce plants for mite activity during summer. If found, treat as needed. If the mites are inactive, treatment performance may not be satisfactory at this time.

Mite activity may peak during fall so consider treating again with any of the above listed products during the September-October period.

Be aware that horticultural oil treatments will remove the blue color from blue spruce by removing the whitish coat. However, subsequent new growth will have the blue coloration.

Review the product label and other pertinent literature regarding economics, safety, efficacy, and environmental concerns. Use the chosen products on a rotation basis to avoid possible resistant population buildups. Read and follow label specifications for best results.

Needling Austrian pine

What causes the banding on Austrian pine needles? We see some browning of the needles. Is it related to a disease? What is the best control?

—WISCONSIN

Based on the description of the problem and symptoms you are describing, the problem is likely to be a needle blight disease caused by *Dothistroma pini*. This fungus can produce dark spots or bands on one-year-old needles. The problem begins to show up in late summer. Often the infected portion may be swollen and the needle section above this site turns light brown and dies. The tree may drop needles prematurely under severe disease incidence. As a result, the tree may have a thin canopy.

To control this disease, consider applying fungicides such as Bordeaux mixture, Cleary's 3336 or other copper fungicides in late April or early May. Provide the second application approximately three weeks later to help manage the needle blight disease.

Read and follow label specifications for best results. **LM**



BALAKRISHNA RAO
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