

**F**inding tree information on the Internet is pretty easy. But, finding the information you want is harder. I know there are lots more sites out there, but here are just a couple of my favorites.

You can usually get a couple of ideas or opinions from these pages.

▶ Arboriculture Trees and Timber, [www.arborists.com/WORLD/USA/home.html](http://www.arborists.com/WORLD/USA/home.html), has many links including Arborists Forum and Discussion

▶ The International Society of Arboriculture, [www.ag.uiuc.edu/~isa](http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~isa), has discussion pages

▶ The Davey Tree Expert Company, [www.davey.com](http://www.davey.com) will take questions to be answered by its technical advisors

**Good info**

Many Extension sites are very good, including Nebraska and Minnesota.

▶ St. Paul Field Office, <http://willow.ncfes.umn.edu/ucfpubs/ucfpubs.htm>

▶ Community Forestry Georgia Extension, [www.forestry.uga.edu/subjects/community.html](http://www.forestry.uga.edu/subjects/community.html)

**Labs**

▶ Diagnostic Labs, <http://plants.okstate.edu/plantdoctor/labs.htm>, lists

the labs for states and provinces plus any links

**Links**

▶ Treelink: The Community Forestry Resource, [www.treelink.org](http://www.treelink.org)

▶ Arboriculture-ForestryNet Links, <http://forestry.about.com/msubarbor.htm?pid=2820&cob=home>

**Diseases and fungi**

▶ Common Tree Diseases of BC, from the Canadian Forest Service, [www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/health/td\\_web/Diagnose/SignHost/fbspores.htm](http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/health/td_web/Diagnose/SignHost/fbspores.htm)

▶ plant disease facts, from Penn State, [www.cas.psu.edu/docs/CASDEPT/PLANT/ext/fact.html](http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/CASDEPT/PLANT/ext/fact.html)

▶ disease management recommendations for trees and shrubs, [www.mes.umn.edu/Documents/D/G/DG6659.html](http://www.mes.umn.edu/Documents/D/G/DG6659.html), from Minnesota Extension

▶ OSU and Virginia Tech Species, Pests and Diseases, [www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/hcs/TMI/TR2/pmTOC.html](http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/hcs/TMI/TR2/pmTOC.html), lets you search in various ways

**Tree hazards**

▶ "Diseases That Create Hazards," Penn State

▶ The St. Paul site links to the hazard tree webpage, including "How To Recognize Hazardous Defects In Trees."

▶ Natural Path's website has some very good information on communities and risk of hazard, I recommend it, [www.naturalpath.com/forum.htm](http://www.naturalpath.com/forum.htm)

**Pruning**

▶ Plant Amnesty has an interesting take on bad pruning practices, [www.plantamnesty.org](http://www.plantamnesty.org)

▶ "How to Prune Trees," St. Paul

▶ "Trees and Shrubs, Problems and Care," from Colorado Extension, has some good information [www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/TRA/PLANTS/tree.html#treepruning](http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/TRA/PLANTS/tree.html#treepruning)

**Tree species info and photos**

▶ ISU Forestry Tree ID is an interactive key, [www.exnet.iastate.edu/Pages/tree](http://www.exnet.iastate.edu/Pages/tree)

▶ species images can also be found on OSU and Virginia Tech Species, Pests and Diseases

▶ this site promotes a CD, but you can find lots of information on Ornamental Plants Plus, [www.msue.msu.edu/msue/imp/modop/masterop.html](http://www.msue.msu.edu/msue/imp/modop/masterop.html)

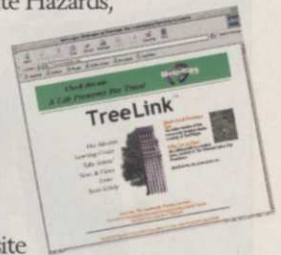
**Other interesting info**

▶ "Tolerance to Construction Damage" and "Identification by Wood Characteristics," from Georgia Extension

▶ "Trees and Ice Storms," <http://spectre.ag.uiuc.edu/~vista/abstracts/aicestorm.html>

▶ "Vegetation Management Guidelines," [www.inhs.uiuc.edu/edu/VMG/VMG.html](http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/edu/VMG/VMG.html)

▶ "Salt Tolerance and Plants," Colorado, [www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/TRA/PLANTS/stable.html](http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/TRA/PLANTS/stable.html)



# Prune the web down to size



*Nancy Stairs*

NANCY STAIRS  
Technical Editor

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)



**A Posi-Track crawler conquered the landfill's 3-to-1 slope and saved more than 1,000 hours of handwork as it laid big-roll sod over a towering Florida landfill.**

ture's Keepers. "There were about five of us offering up ideas, but no real solutions came out of it. Even our idea wasn't the greatest."

**Hey, it's an idea**

Nature's Keeper's original proposal: A bulldozer would climb the slope carrying pallets of sod to a team of workers, who then would painstakingly pull the seams together.

And, even then, the rain might very well ruin all that hard work. And so the county continued to search for an answer, as did Nature's Keepers.

Finally, the solution came when Nature's Keeper bought an HD4500 Posi-Track all-purpose crawler built by ASV Inc. of Grand Rapids, MN. A relatively new category of work machine, the all-purpose crawler, with its rubber tracks and light footprint (3.0 psi), seemed to be just what the St. Lucie County landfill needed.

In addition to a variety of landscaping tasks, Nature's Keepers was having success with its new machine laying out big rolls of sod — as a result, they were achieving amazing results and saving a remarkable amount of time.

**Much faster than hand work**

By using a sod-rolling attachment fitted to the front of the machine through a quick-attach system, the company was working several times faster than by hand, said Feketa. The attachment grabbed the sod by extending rotating cones into both ends of the tube at the center of the roll. With the roll in front of the driver, the sod could then easily be laid directly along the seam. Moreover, as the machine rolled over the sod, it actually pressed the seams together and helped the sod stay in place — with no damage done.

But could the crawler work on such a steep slope? "There is not a wheeled machine made that would go on that 3-to-1 slope," said Feketa.

**T**he St. Lucie County landfill, situated along I-95, near Fort Pierce, FL, had a problem. When it covered its 100-ft. high, 100,000-sq.-ft. mound of trash with a couple of feet of soil, nothing seemed to keep Florida's torrential rains from washing the dirt away.

"We tried just about everything, but had little luck," said Leo Cordeiro, solid waste manager for St. Lucie County. Even sodding the 3-to-1 slope with squared sections didn't work.

"We'd get a two-hour rain and the sod would wash right down that slope," said Cordeiro.

Covering the dirt with rolls of netting and then seeding the hill wasn't the answer, either. Again, rain simply took away the dirt, netting and seeds.

Finally, Nature's Keepers Landscaping of Fort Pierce entered the picture. Eventually, they developed a solution for which everyone was searching. But at first, the 31-man operation was as stumped as everybody.

"We went to a bid meeting a couple of years ago," said Stewart Feketa, vice president of Na-

# Crawler tames sod job from hell

By JAY LEMKE

If the all-purpose crawler could, Feketa knew rolling the sod would make the job not only faster and easier, but better.

**Big rolls the answer**

"Big rolls were certainly preferable to pallets," said Feketa. "On a 400-sq.-ft. pallet, there would have been 560 joints to join, yet with two 200-sq.-ft. rolls, there were four joints with a biodegradable mat under it to help hold the sod to the ground. On a hill where the sod doesn't want to be there anyway, that's significant."

It took only a quick demonstration of the machine easily climbing the loose soil on the slope to convince the county to give Nature's Keepers a shot.

Feketa had two men on the hill and one in a forklift. He handled the all-purpose crawler himself. With a big roll of sod attached to the front of the rubber-tracked machine, Feketa laid the sod as he angled his way up the slope. When the sod ran out, he returned to the base of the mound, where the forklift would feed him another roll. Meanwhile, the men on the side of the hill pulled the seams together. The job was completed in a day and a half.

"The Posi-Track glided up and down the hill all day long, and there was no raking to clear up its tracks because it left none thanks to the low ground pressure; we had a great day," Feketa said. "It would have taken eight men working five 10-hour days, at best, with any other method."

**Rolled sod the only way**

"It was an impressive operation, the way the machine ran up those slopes and in the amount of time it took," said Cordeiro. "The rolled sod is clearly the way to go. It stays on the hill and stops the water from uncovering the trash. We'll be doing all of our sodding with big rolls from now on."

According to Feketa, the Posi-Track seems to be ideally suited to laying out big rolls of sod.

"You can certainly attempt to lay big rolls of sod with a wheeled machine, but it's not as stable and it's difficult to go in a straight line to keep the seams tight," Feketa said.

"I think that's why some landscapers don't use big rolls, because they tried

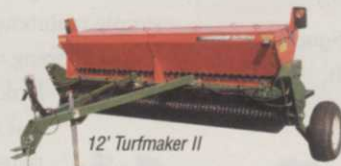
using a machine that's not suited to the task." **LM**

About 25% of Nature's Keepers' business is now sodding with big rolls.

—The author is with Carmichael Lynch Spong, Minneapolis, MN.



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Genie Industries TMZ is based on a patented Z configuration. It has a working height of 40 ft. with a 19 ft. outreach.

# GET A RISE OUT OF YOUR EQUIPMENT

By CURT HARLER/ Contributing Editor

Equipment owners and fleet managers in the tree-care industry are looking for products that reach high into the sky yet have simple designs. And, they want products that require low maintenance to keep costs down.

Larry Petrasek, the fleet manager for The Davey Tree Expert Company in Kent, OH, uses products by Aerial Lift Inc., Altec and Hydra-Tech Inc. to meet all of these needs.

He says utility contracts are requiring more and more height all the time.

"The height requirement seems to be creeping up," Petrasek said. "Fifty-five-footers are now more common."

Over-center capability is also important to Petrasek, who said the ability to maneuver without moving a truck a lot makes operators more efficient.

Bucket and aerial lift manufacturers are responding to the need for height and flexibility. But there is more to lifts than height.

How long does it take to access key components to perform simple maintenance tasks like lubricating fittings, changing filters or topping off fluids. Ease of adjustment often is overlooked. Can it be done handily in the field? Are special tools or blocks required? Is it a one-person or a two-person job?

Look at the gauges provided. Extras, like hour gauges and oil pressure gauges, do add cost, but they can pay back their expense if they avoid just a single maintenance problem. If you opt for a unit with gauges, be sure that they are readily visible from the driver's seat.

**Aerial Lift Inc.**  
800/446-LIFT  
[www.aeriallift.com](http://www.aeriallift.com)

Aerial Lift makes the Mini-Foot, Rear Mount product with working heights from 38 to 75 ft. The vehicle is compact and can maneuver in tight spaces. The upper boom is made of molded fiberglass reinforced plastic for dielectric quality when used near energized power lines. The product is available with saddle boxes, tool and rope boxes and more.

Circle No. 250



MTI Insulated Products Inc. says its MTI 55 tree trimmer has up to 60 ft. of working height. Rectangular booms give it strength.

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**Altec Industries Inc.**  
800/958-2555  
www.altec.com

Altec's LRV52/LRV55 Overcenter Aerial Device has a working height up to 60 ft. and a working side reach to 42 ft. The product has a lifetime upper boom drive system and low operational costs. Key features include a walking link and cylinder, upper boom drive and lifetime components.

Circle No. 251

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**AmeriQuip**  
800/824-9776  
www.mobiletool.com

The trailer-mounted Eagle lift provides 360° continuous rotation and proportional hydraulic controls



**AmeriQuip's Eagle lift**

at the bucket and the base. The full line includes the T40. All units are cost-effective to purchase, license, insure and maintain. Each is backed by a nationwide network of staff service technicians.

Circle No. 252

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**CATERPILLAR**  
www.CAT.com

A new access platform for Cat Telehandler models allows the operator to control all boom functions from the platform. This eliminates the need for someone else in the cab. It can be used with outrigger-equipped TH63, TH83 and TH103 models and is well suited to tree trimming work. Two speed controls let the operator precisely position or maneuver the platform. It has a 550

lb. lift capability, measures 4x3 ft. and is 4 ft. high.

Circle No. 253

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**Genie Industries**  
800/536-1837  
www.genielift.com

Genie's new TMZ 34/19 is a trailer-mounted lift that is towed behind a truck. Based on the patented Z-configuration introduced by Genie, the product has a working height of 40 ft. with 19 ft. outreach. The boom incorporates a 4.5 ft. jib for increased range of movement and easy positioning.

Circle No. 254

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**Lift-All**  
219/747-0526

Lift-All by Hydra-Tech Inc. makes the LAOC unit, which is an over-center machine that allows 270° of articulation. The product is available with working heights up to 58 or 60 ft. with a reverse mount. Maximum horizontal reach is 46.25 ft. over-center. With the LAOC-55 model, an operator can fully extend the boom to 46.25 ft. in one direction

and use the overcenter feature to reach 41.5 ft. in the opposite direction. The bucket capacity is 350 lbs.

Circle No. 255

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**MTI Insulated Products, Inc.**  
219/747-1631  
www.mobiletool.com

The MTI S5 tree trimmer aerial device has up to 60 ft. of working height and 46 ft. of side reach. The product has lower boom articulation to 138° and upper boom travel to 210° allowing the operator to position easily in difficult areas. The MTI S5 features side-by-side rectangular booms for strength, an easy-to-operate one-handle platform control and boom actuation without chains or cables for low maintenance.

Circle No. 256

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**Polecat Industries Inc.**  
800/876-5322

The Polecat PC266 is a self-propelled, lightweight, highway speed towable lift. It has a single, proportional joystick that provides drive/steer and raise/lower functions in one controller. An ergonomic



**Polecat Industries Inc.**

platform control station minimizes fatigue, maximizes productivity and makes the operator training easy. Most of the product's components are "off the shelf." The PC266 runs all day on less than seven gallons of gas. It can be towed from site to site by a pickup truck, maximizing productivity and reducing job costs.

Circle No. 257

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**SNORKEL**  
816/364-0317  
www.snorkelusa.com

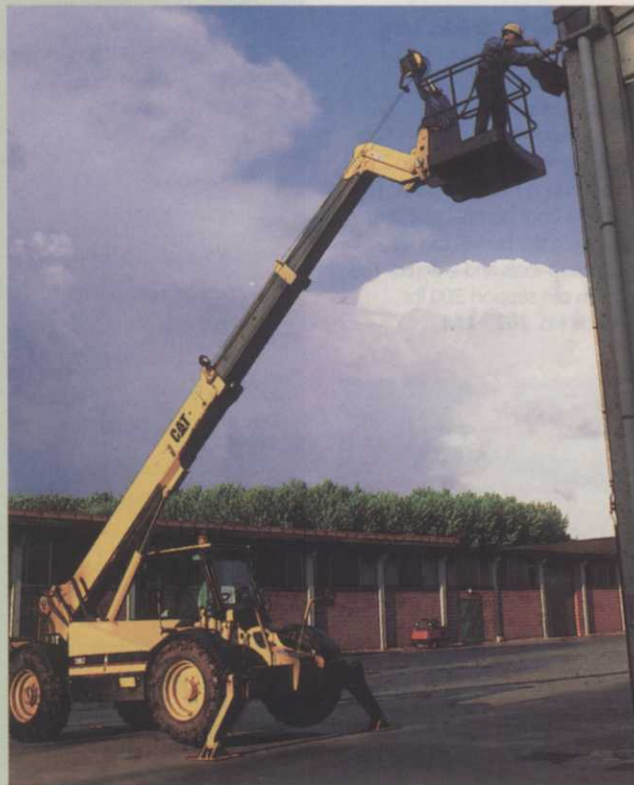
Articulating riser boom allows for up-and-over work on the ATB 60 from Snorkel. One of six families of lift available, the 60's telescoping main boom gives extra horizontal and vertical reach and the 6-ft. articulating jib boom gives added horizontal reach. Main boom reaches 43 ft. for a total work height of 66 ft. Comes in 2-wheel or 4-wheel drive models.

Circle No. 258

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**SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT**  
800/722-6543  
www.specialtylift.com

The Leguan Plus is a flexible aerial work platform with 36-ft. working height, 17-ft. reach and 298-lbs. platform capacity with telescoping boom extended, 474 lbs. retracted. Made by Specialty Equipment, it is powered by a 13-hp Honda engine with optional LPG or electric power. It has zero-degree turning radius for easy maneuvering and its 34-in. width allows easy moving through gates. It weighs just over a ton, so it is easy to transport.

Circle No. 259



**Access platform for Caterpillar Telehandler simplifies operation.**

**Terex-Telect Corp.**  
605/882-4000

The Hi-Ranger XT-5 Series for tree trimming has a working height up to 60 ft. and horizontal reach up to 44.9 ft. Standard equipment in-



**Terex-Telect Corp. Hi-Ranger has horizontal reach of 44.9 ft.**

cludes 24 x 24 x 40 in. one-person side mount platform, a safety belt with attached lanyard and individual lever, full pressure platform controls.  
Circle No. 260

**Versalift by Time Manufacturing Company**  
254/399-2100  
[www.versalift.com](http://www.versalift.com)

Versalift's new VO-350/355-MH1 is an overcenter aerial device with material handling capabilities. It has a working height up to 60 ft. and horizontal reach up to 46 ft. 11 in. The product has a platform capacity



**Versalift by Time Manufacturing Company has articulation of 210°.**

up to 400 lbs. The upper boom has articulation of 210° and the lower boom has 100°.  
Circle No. 261

**Van Ladder by Brinks Mfg. Co. Inc.**  
888/887-5847  
[www.vanladder.com](http://www.vanladder.com)

Van Ladder's new 2921-T1 has a telescoping side reach up to 21 ft. and a working height of 35 ft. The unit has a front bumper platform from which the bucket can be loaded with tools and entered. The platform can support 300 lbs.  
Circle No. 262 LM



**Van Ladder by Brinks Mfg. Co. Inc.'s platform supports 300 lbs.**

# Events

## JULY

**19-20 PLCAA Legislative Day on the Hill & Arlington Renewal and Remembrance Project**

Holiday Inn Capitol, Washington, DC; 800/458-3466; [www.plcaa.org](http://www.plcaa.org)

**21-23 Turfgrass Producers International Summer Convention & Field Days**

East Lansing Holiday Inn, MI; 847/705-9898; [www.turfgrassod.org](http://www.turfgrassod.org)

**23-25 Masters in Management for the Landscape Industry Seminar**

Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport; ALCA, 800/395-2522; [www.alca.org](http://www.alca.org)

**24-26 International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo**

Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville; 502/562-1962; <http://EXPO.mow.org>

**24-28 American Nursery & Landscape Convention**

Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel, Philadelphia, PA; 202/789-2000; [www.anla.com](http://www.anla.com)

**25-31 Perennial Plant Symposium & Trade Show**

Lansing Convention Center, MI; 614/771-8431; [www.perennial-plant.org](http://www.perennial-plant.org)

**27 Midwest Regional Turf Field Day**

West Lafayette, IN; 765/494-8039; [www.purdue.edu](http://www.purdue.edu)

**27-29 Penn Allied Nursery Trade Show**

Fort Washington Expo Center, Fort Washington, PA; 717/238-1673; [www.pantshow.com](http://www.pantshow.com)

**29 Iowa Turfgrass Field Day**

ISU Horticulture Research Station, Ames, IA; 800/605-0420

## AUGUST

**1-4 International Society of Arboriculture Conference**

Stamford, CT; 217/355-9411; [www.ag.uiuc.edu/~isa](http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~isa)

**2 Nebraska Turfgrass Field Day & Equipment Show**

Agricultural Research and Development Center, Mead, NE; 402/472-8619

**6-8 TAN-MISLARK Nursery, Garden, Landscape Supply Show**

Dallas Convention Center, Houston; Texas Assn. of Nurserymen, 800/880-0343; [www.growzone.com](http://www.growzone.com)

**9-12 Florida Turfgrass Association Conference & Show**

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; 800/822-6721

**18 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day**

Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing; 517/321-1660

**18 Univ. of Rhode Island Turfgrass Field Day**

Kingston Campus, RI; 401/874-2481

**20 ALCA Environmental Improvement Awards deadline (Exterior)**

ALCA, 800/395-2522; [www.alca.org](http://www.alca.org)

**26 Turf & Landscape Research Field Day**

U.C. Bay Area Research and Extension Center, Santa Clara, CA; 510/639-1271 LM



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**Century Rain Aid** opened new branches in Florida: Bunnell, Cape Coral, Mangonia Park, Palmetto and St. Augustine. In addition, new branches opened in: Huntsville, AL; Macon, GA; Noblesville, IN; Swansea and Woburn, MA; Clarkson, MI; Manchester, NH; Mooresville and Wilmington, NC; Bedford Heights, Columbus and Dayton, OH; and Greenville, SC.

**Hunter Industries** introduced the Hunter Preferred Contractor Program to help irrigation professionals gain the tools, office equipment and development funds needed to expand their business. For the next three years, professionals will earn points from Hunter pur-

chases which can be redeemed. [www.HunterIndustries.com](http://www.HunterIndustries.com)

Myra Potts joined **Medalist America** as turf specialist for the southeast U.S. Alan Mark is turf specialist for OH, IN, MI, western PA, WV and KY.

Howard Fertilizer Inc. is the sole distributor of Par Ex IBDU in Florida which is licensed by **Lebanon Seaboard Corp.**

**National Seed Company**, a division of Jacklin Seed, appointed Dan Biddick sales representative for WI and MN.

**Pennington Seed Inc.** appointed Roger Tucker western division turfgrass manager for

its Professional Turfgrass Group.

**Profile Products LLC** promoted Sam Stimmel to national sales manager and named Mark Fields, CGCS, Gulf regional sales manager. Larry Lennert is midwest regional sales manager and Paul Salmon, CGCS, is southeast regional sales manager.

Dr. Jeffrey Higgins is the director of marketing for **Pursell**



Dr. Jeffrey Higgins



Andrew Semple

**Technologies Inc.** Andrew Semple is regional sales manager for the northern U.S. and Canada.

Mike Tentis was named product manager for the Professional Products Division of **Simplot Turf & Horticulture**. Tentis is responsible for sales of Jacklin and Medalist America grass seed products in the western U.S. and western Canada, as well as the new proprietary Best brand of grass seed.

Mark Sargent joined **Spec-trum** as director of sales and technical services for professional products.

EPA approved three **Valent** products for use in Colorado: Orthene® Turf, Tree and Ornamental, Spray 97, Distance® Insect Growth Regulator and Orthene® PCO Pellets. In NY, Pinpoint® 15 Granular Insecticide has been approved by the state for use as a broadcast treatment. [www.valent.com](http://www.valent.com)

Buddy Camors has been named business director of

**Zeneca Professional Products**, taking over the pest control, turf and ornamental business from Kee-  
lan Pullium.



Buddy Camors

[www.zenecaprofprod.com](http://www.zenecaprofprod.com)

## Info center

VIDEOS AND LITERATURE FOR THE GREEN INDUSTRY

**COMICS AND IRRIGATION ...** combine in the new quarterly newsletter from Irritrol, "The Amazing Irritrol-Man." The irreverent, colorful approach is an interesting take on product information. If you'd like to see Irritrol-Man and Rex, his faithful companion (a Scottie, complete with tartan cape) you can call Mike Ochoa, marketing manager, at 909/785-3623.



**SOIL INFORMATION ...** is available from the world's leading soil-testing laboratories, MDS Harris. On their website, [www.mdsharris.com](http://www.mdsharris.com), a new section called Agri-Knowledge currently has 19 technical articles on nitrogen (4), phosphorus (3), potassium (3), soil pH (5), as well as zinc and manganese.

**UPDATED PGMS GUIDES ...** Grounds Estimating Guide, Grounds Maintenance Management Guidelines and Grounds Management Forms & Job Descriptions Guide have been fully updated simultaneously. Presented together in a 0.5-in. binder, the guidelines are available at a savings of \$15 for the set, for the remainder of 1999. Contact PGMS, 410/584-9754, fax 410/584-9756, [www.PGMS.org](http://www.PGMS.org)





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\*NTEP data available upon request.

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