Hit more ringers.

Crabgrass

When it comes to preventing the broadleaf and grassy weeds that most often plague your customers' turfgrasses, PRE-M® preemergent herbicide is right on target. Why pay more for other products when, time after time, university trials prove that PRE-M offers you better overall performance combined with unmatched value?

Superior performance made PRE-M the leading* preemergent herbicide. Superior value widens the gap. PRE-M is everything you'd expect from LESCO*, the leading supplier in the professional turf care industry.

Ask your LESCO professional or call 1-800-321-5325 to learn how you can earn generous rebates for your PRE-M purchases.

Get behind the leading edge.

PRE-M®
The Leading Edge.





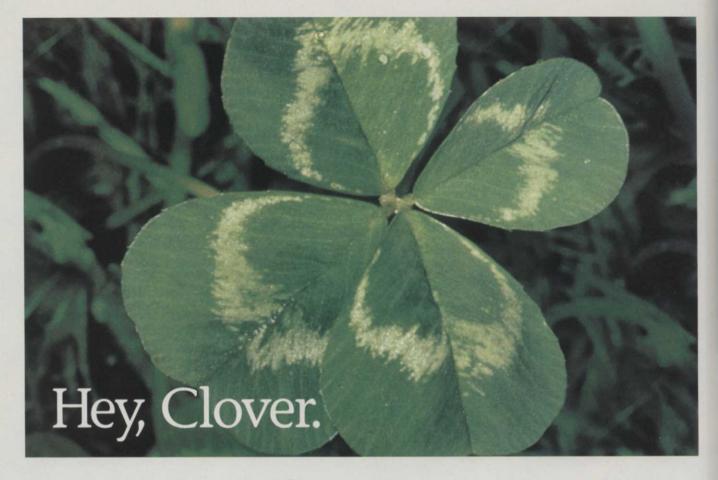


*Source: Kline & Company report, US Acre Treatments by Turf Management.

Always read and follow label directions.

© 1999 PRF-M® and LESCO® are registered trademarks of LESCO. Inc.





Your luck has just run out.

That goes for all of your broadleaf buddies, as well.

Finally, a new postemergent broadleaf herbicide that truly advances the science of weed control for ornamental lawns and turf grasses.

Millennium Ultra is uniquely formulated to provide the most effective, broad spectrum broadleaf weed control available. At the center of this leading edge chemistry is Clopyralid for superior control of clover and all legumes. It's joined with 2,4-D and Dicamba for rapid response and outstanding effectiveness against dandelions, spurge, oxalis and other woody species.

This exclusive state-of-the-art formulation annihilates hard to control weeds in a single treatment. The results are fewer callbacks, happier customers and a product that's easier on the environment.

Millennium Ultra's low volatility amine formulation makes it tank mix compatible with liquid fertilizers or liquid iron all summer long.

For ultimate performance, get Millennium Ultra.

Riverdale

The Formulation Innovators

(800) 345 3330

Circle No. 106 on Reader Inquiry Card

Millennium Ultra



contents

SEPTEMBER 1999 / #9 / VOLUME 38

features

cover story

24. LM 100

Are you on the list? Who are the industry's big money makers? The best small firms? The pioneer firms? We profile 100 of this year's more interesting people and landscape operations.

BY: LM'S STAFF

design/build center

43. Plant warranties made easy

Get your customers into the loop on installation and simple care routines and you might not even need warranties.

BY: DANIEL WEISS

maintenance center

OPERATIONS NOTEBOOK

49. Aphids create a sticky situation

BY: KRISTI EVANS

AWARD WINNING LANDSCAPE

54. 411 East Wisconsin Center

MANAGE YOUR MAINTENANCE

58. Renovate 'tired' commercial landscapes

Office, commercial and industrial property owners need landscapes that enhance, not strain their images. Renovation may be the ideal answer.

BY: KARMA L. GROTELUESCHEN





ABOUT \$4,000 A YEAR.

That's how much you'll save in maintenance costs annually

Less
on every 260Z* All thanks to 260Z exclusives like our

Shee
maintenance-free Gravely XL Spindles™
and Tungsten™ carbide coated blades.

Less downtime, more mowing time. What's it to you? Sheer profit. Visit your Gravely dealer today.

Or call **800.GRAVELY** to get your free 260Z video.

WE KEEP YOU CUTTING™

Saves an estimated 100 hours of maintenance annually (\$40 an hour average labor rate)

Circle No. 113 on Reader Inquiry Card

© 1999 Ariens Company

VISIT US ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT: www.landscapegroup.com

Editorial staff

SUE GIBSON / 440/891-2729 / sgibson@advanstar.com **Executive Editor** RON HALL / 440/891-2636 / rhall@advanstar.com **Managing Editor** Associate Editor FRANK H. ANDORKA JR. / 440/891-2709

fandorka@advanstar.com

KARL DANNEBERGER, PH.D. / danneberger1@osu.edu Chief Science Editor

VERNON HENRY / 440/826-2829 Group Editor LISA LEHMAN / 440/891-2785 Art Director

Sr. Graphic Designer LISA BODNAR / 440/891-3101 / Ibodnar@advanstar.com

Reader advisory panel

The Good Earth Inc. / Mt. Pleasant, SC JERRY GAETA HIDSON GRIGGS Landscape Design & Development / Sussex, WI DWIGHT HUGHES Dwight Hughes Nursery / Cedar Rapids, IA LARRY IORII Down to Earth Landscaping / Wilmington, DE Pro Scapes / Jamesville, NY RICK KIFR LOU KOBUS, JR. Village Turf, Inc. / Mount Vernon, VA TOM RICCARDI The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. / Akron, OH

JACK ROBERTSON Business staff

JOHN D. PAYNE / 440/891-2786 /jpayne@advanstar.com **Group Publisher DANIELLE ZARYCKI / 440/891-2734** Admin. Coordinator **Production Manager** KAREN LENZEN / 218/723-9129 **DEBI HARMER / 218/723-9325 Production Director** KAREN EDGERTON / 218/723-9280 Circulation Manager Green Book Coordinator ANGELA PEARSON / 218/723-9418

Jack Robertson Lawn Care / Springfield, IL

Advertising staff

Regional Offices

7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130-3369 Cleveland Headquarters

Eastern Account HEATHER M. FOX / 440/891-3168 Fax: 440/891-2675 Manager

Midwest Account GENE HOMAN / 440/891-2772 Fax: 440/891-2675 Manager ghoman@advanstar.com

ANTHONY LAVDAS / 440/891-3118 Fax: 440/826-2865 **Account Manager**

LESLIE ZOLA / 440/891-2670; 800/225-4569 x670 Classified Showcase

Directory Sales JESSICA HENDRICKS / 800/736-3665 ext. 104

Group Sales Director TOM GALLIGAN / 414/653-9523 Fax: 414/653-9524 3901 52nd Ave., Kenosha, WI 53144-1830

JOHN KIESEWETTER / 541/338-0022 Fax: 541/338-0044 Western Sales

859 Willamette St., Eugene, OR 97401

GRETCHEN WAGNER / 760/837-3734 Fax: 760/837-3785 74563 Pepper Tree Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92260

Marketing services

MARCIE NAGY Reprints (100 minimum) / 440/891-2744 JOE GILLIAM Circulation List Rental / 800/225-4569, ext. 773 **ADVANSTAR** Microfiche/film Copies 800/598-6008 218/723-9477/ 888/527-7008 TAMMY LILLO International Licensing 218/723-9539 Books, directories, back issues, photocopies 800/598-6008; 218/723-9180



ROBERT L. KRAKOFF Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

JAMES M. ALIC Vice Chairman

DAVID W. MONTGOMERY VP/Finance, CFO and Secretary

SKIP FARBER WILLIAM J. COOKE,

ALEXANDER S. DEBARR **ERIC I. LISMAN** ADELE D. HARTWICK

Vice President & General Counsel Vice President-Controller & Treasurer

Executive Vice Presidents

Executive Vice President, Business Development

contents

departments

columns, news & more

9. On the Record

New Landscape at LM

10. Events

Who, what and when

12. My Way

Where are the 'good' people? Bill Hoopes says we'll find them when we fix our own image.

18. Hot Topics

Drought, CD-Rom, LA schools and more

67. Landscape Management's Corporate Capabilities Brochure

special insert

The 1999 Snow Guide

tech center

94. Job Talk

Reinventing stump grinding

96. LM Reports

Score a zero, win at mowing BY CURT HARLER

102. Ask the Expert

Maple in trouble, pest management basics, ornamental fungus

105. New Products

108. Supplier News

108. Info Center

Hose reel, calcium chloride, Web sites

ending notes

112. Grab bag

Keep the Joneses. Add the Add the Browers Roberts Add the **Nadlers** Add the Fraiolis Add the Walters



sistered trademarks of Novartis. Alamo Quarts are not registered for use in

Longer-lasting
Barricade® keeps
your current
customers satisfied
and helps you to
add new ones.



To keep your current customers and build your business, you need a herbicide that performs year after year. Only Barricade provides the longest lasting, most consistent control of Crabgrass, Spurge, Knotweed, Purslane and 25 other weeds, virtually eliminating breakthroughs. Even in tough weather years. This longer-lasting residual also allows you to apply Barricade earlier in the Spring with complete confidence that your weed control will last all season long.

With its low solubility, Barricade will stay put in the weed germination zone and won't move, even on slopes and hillsides. Plus, Barricade eliminates the staining problems encountered with some other preemergence herbicides. Which makes it easy to keep the Joneses and add the Roberts, McIvers and all the new customers you can handle.

For more information on Barricade and the rest of the Novartis line of lawn products, call 1-800-395-TURF for the name of your Novartis Sales Representative. Or you can visit our website at www.cp.us.novartis.com





Alamo°
Avid°
Award°
Banner° MAXX°
Barricade°
Primo°

Subdue®MAXX™

Barricade is the cornerstone of the Novartis Lawn & Landscape Partners Program, the system of leading-edge products designed to help you grow your business.

Honda Proudly Announces Some Dramatic Reductions.

No, this isn't a closeout sale. It's the Honda UMK Series, 4-stroke trimmer/brushcutters.

Thanks to some dramatic reductions, now you really can do more with less. Noise Reduction

Honda's UMK trimmers take advantage of their 4-stroke engine's combustion format to

dramatically decrease noise. Emissions Reduction 4-stroke engines are well

known for producing fewer emissions than comparably sized 2-stroke engines, making

them very environmentally friendly. In fact, Honda's trimmers meet all EPA and CARB

emission standards. Maintenance Reduction Honda's trimmers use straight

gasoline, eliminating the hassle of mixing gas and oil. And they can run two times longer

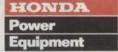
than comparable 2-stroke engines on the same amount of fuel! Effort Reduction

The engines also suppress spark plug carbon buildup and carburetor clogging, main-

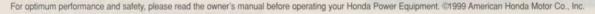
taining like-new starting ease. Price Reduction Starting under \$320,

Honda's hard-working, durable string trimmers are some of the

most efficient and cost-effective string trimmers available.



For a free brochure and location of the Honda Lawn & Garden Dealer nearest you call 1-800-426-7701.



on the record

BY SUE GIBSON / EXECUTIVE EDITOR

New landscape at LM

get bored doing the same old things day after day. If my work repeats itself, it gets old real fast. You're probably like that, too. Your operation is never the same any day, I imagine. If you design or install landscapes, it might be the only time you work on a property. If you do scheduled maintenance, changing weather conditions keep things interesting. If you do renovations, you probably thrive on change. So do we.

Mind you, we're not changing Landscape Management just for the sake of it, but to keep things fresh and to make it more helpful to you. Our new logo, cover, contents and column layout are just the start. Like landscapes that you install in phases, we'll be phasing in the completed look in the next few issues. We're focusing on operations and expanding coverage of:

- design/build business;
- smooth maintenance operations;
- be the best in grounds management; and
- marketing chemical lawn care.

And we're expanding coverage of news, trends, technical subjects and innovative products.

It's LM100 time again

Since this issue marks our annual LM100 article, you may notice some changes there, too. It's fun to focus on the industry leaders, but there are so many other great companies getting overlooked when we concentrate only on big, bigger, biggest. After all, the average size firm in our industry probably makes less than \$500,000 in revenues per year.

This year's LM100 does list leaders in landscape contracting, lawn care and grounds management. But

we also go a step further and highlight some worthy pioneers, women-run operations and just plain neat smaller companies. They deserve recognition too, because it's companies like this that make up the backbone of the industry. Is your operation LM100 material? Contact us. We love to hear from you.

To highlight how wonderful and diverse the landscape management industry is, we've also included 10 high-profile landscapes visited by millions of people each year. Each is a showcase that calls attention to high quality work done in challenging circumstances, and each reflects well on your own profession.

Want to sound off? Here's your chance

Finally, we're introducing a new column this month, entitled "My Way" (page 12). Our first features Bill Hoopes, who talks about finding good employees. As director of training and development at Scotts Lawn Service, Bill works with all kinds of employees entering our industry, as well as their managers. Do you think we can't get good employees anymore? Bill thinks we can.

Each month, we'll have a practicing landscape professional share his or her insights, opinions or ideas. If you want to participate in "My Way," give me a call or email. Please let me know what

you think of these changes and the others to come in the next few months. I need the feedback!

Sue Gibson

sgibson@advanstar.com

It's fun to focus on the industry leaders, but there are so many great companies getting overlooked when we concentrate only on big, bigger, biggest. –SG



October

6-7 Ornamentals Plant **Materials Conference**

Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK; 405/744-5405. mas@okstate.edu

8-9 ALCA Masters in **Management Seminar** Hartford, CT; 800/395-2622; www.alca.org

16 Illinois Landscape **Contractors Association's Certified Landscape Technician Retake Exam** Joliet, IL 630/472-2851.

20 Western Nursery & Garden Expo Las Vegas. 202/789-5980, ext. 3006.

20-22 Southwest **Turfgrass Conference** & Show Ruidoso, NM; 505/275-2576

November

Eastern Regional Nurserymen's Association Expo '99 Atlantic City, NJ, 800/376-2463

4-6 Tree Care Industry Expo Indianapolis, IN: National Arborist Association, 800/733-2622; www.natlarb.com

International Irrigation Expo & Conference Orlando, FL; Irrigation Association, 703/573-3551; www.irrigation.org

9512 New York State **Turfgrass Association Conference & Show** Syracuse, NY; 518/783-1229; www.nysta.org

IIIIInois Landscape Contractors Association's Semi-Annual Landscape **Equipment Auction, Powers Auction Service** Crystal Lake, IL. 630/472-2851.

13-16 Green Industry **Expo (PGMS, ALCA, PLCAA)**

Baltimore, MD; 770/973-2019; www.plcaa.org

29-Dec. 2 North **Central/Illinois Turfgrass** Foundation Expo St. Charles, IL; 312/201-0101; www.turf.uiuc.edu

December

6-9 Ohio Turfgrass **Foundation Conference** & Show Columbus, OH; 614/760-5442

7.9 New Jersey Turfgrass Expo Atlantic City, NJ; 732/821-7134; www.njturfgrass.org

January 2000

Great Lakes Trade Expo

Lansing, MI 202/789-5980, ext. 3006.

Minnesota Nursery & **Landscape Association Convention and Show** Minneapolis. 202/789-5980, ext. 3006.

NYSTA Northeast **Regional Conference** Albany, N.Y. 800/873-8873

Landscape Association Trade Show Kansas City, MO; 202/789-5980.

VISIT US ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT: www.landscapegroup.com

Proud supporter of these green industry professional organizations:























Associated Landscape Contractors of America 150 Elden Street, Suite 270 Herndon, VA 20170 (703) 736-9666 www.alca.org

American Nursery & Landscape Association 1250 I St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005 (202) 789-2900

Independent Turf and Ornamental **Distributors Association** 25250 Seeley Road Novi, MI 48375 (248) 476-5457

The Irrigation Association 8260 Willow Oaks Corporate Dr. Suite 120 Fairfax, VA 22031-4513 www.irrigation.org

National Arborist Association The Meeting Place Mall, P.O. Box 1094 Amherst, NH 03031-1094 (603) 673-3311 www.natlarb.com

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation 1100-H Brandywine Blvd., PO Box 3388 Zanesville, OH 43702-3388 (888) 683-3445

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute 341 South Patrick St. Old Town Alexandria, Va. 22314 (703) 549-7600 opei.mow.org

Professional Grounds Management Society 120 Cockeysville Rd., Suite 104 Hunt Valley, MD 21031 (410) 584-9754

Professional Lawn Care Association of America 1000 Johnson Ferry Rd., NE, Suite C-135 Marietta, GA 30068-2112 (770) 977-5222 www.plcaa.org

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment 1156 15th St. NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 872-3860 www.acpa.org/rise

Sports Turf Managers Association 1375 Rolling Hills Loop Council Bluffs, IA 51503-8552 (712) 366-2669; (800) 323-3875 www.aip.com/stma

Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association New Prague, MN 56071