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JOHN DEERE

Circle No. 134

solutions center

continued from page 60

says. "The grass had tip burn. Add foot traffic to that, and you know you'll wear out a field fast."

Besides the poor results in the grass he was trying to grow, Ervie was getting less than desirable crabgrass control. "We were lucky if we got 50 to 70% control," he says. "More often, it was 40%." Plus, he had as much as six to eight months of residual activity with this herbicide, so he had to wait up to eight months before he could reseed — regardless of how the field looked.

The solution: let 'em show themselves first

The solution for Ervie was to use a post-emergent herbicide. He used BASF's

Drive 75 DF postemergent.

"We can get grass up and going before we apply the herbicide, so we know what we're up against when it comes to weeds," says Ervie.

Ervie also reports that the post-emergent product is more flexible to use. He can make an application as soon as the crabgrass germinates — even in temperatures as low as 50 to 60 degrees. And when he applies it to weeds early, there's normally no need for reapplication.

"Now, we're in a maintenance phase, and we only have to put down a half-application each year or do a spot application, as needed," says Ervie. The lack of residual activity with product is



The new school soccer field is one of the nicest in the Kansas City area, green and weed free.

another plus. "Most people with high-profile sports turf don't want a preemergent because of residual," Ervie says.

The effectiveness of the treatments resulted in significant savings to Ervie's budget. "It cost us about \$700 an acre to use our previous herbicide when I took into consideration all the equipment costs, labor and product costs," says Ervie. Using the post-emergent product he figures the cost is about \$150 to \$200 per acre." **LM**

The author is a freelance writer who lives in Chicago. Email: frankxallen@yahoo.com

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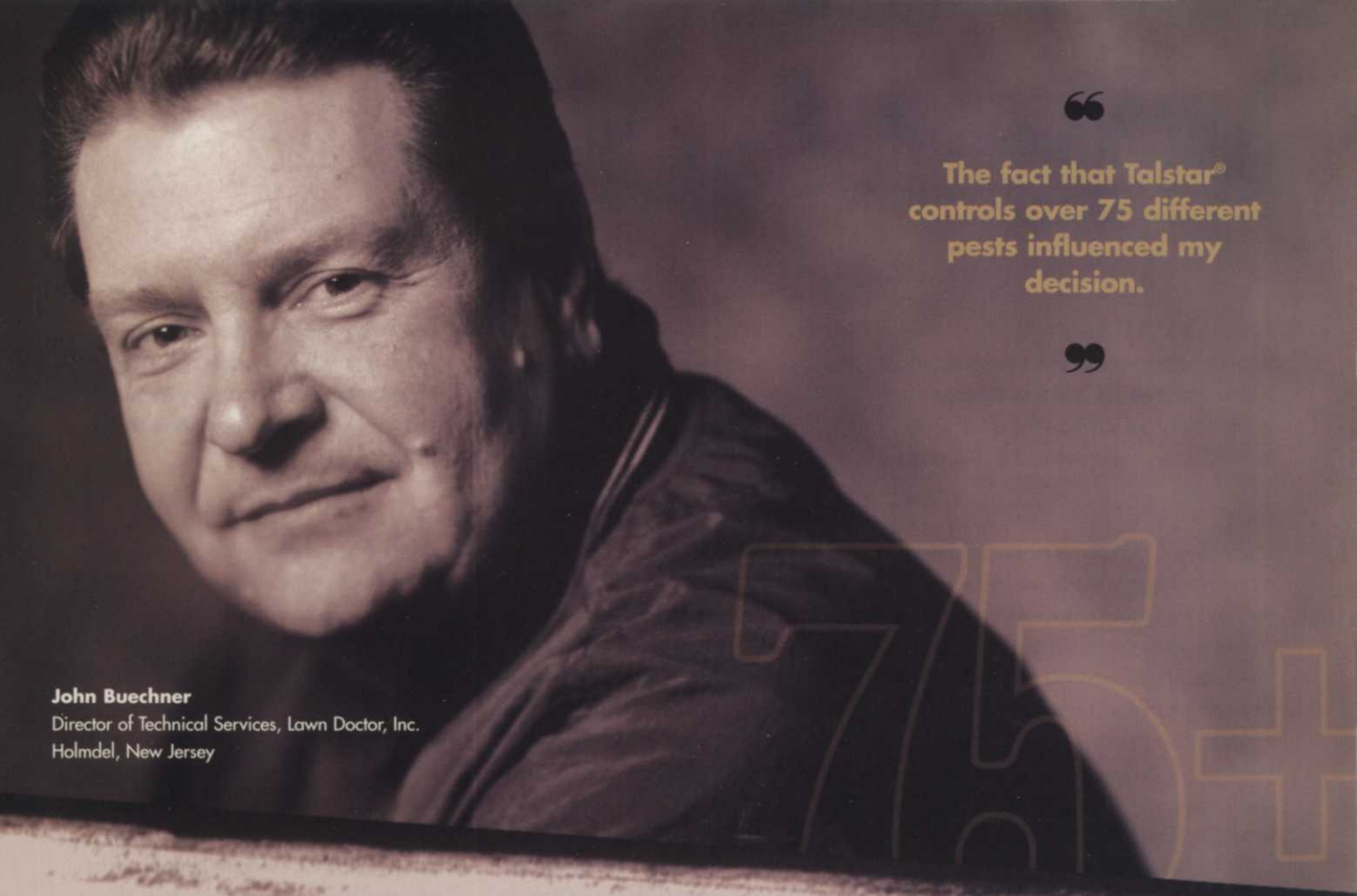


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“

The fact that Talstar® controls over 75 different pests influenced my decision.

”

John Buechner

Director of Technical Services, Lawn Doctor, Inc.
Holmdel, New Jersey

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Lawn Doctor is the largest franchise lawn-care company in the United States. John Buechner, Director of Technical Services, has been with them for 18 years. "With 415 franchises in thirty-eight states, I need an insecticide I can count on. The fact that Talstar controls over 75 different pests influenced my decision, but I selected Talstar because it won't harm sensitive turf and ornamentals."

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John Buechner has recommended the new granular formulation for use at all Lawn Doctors. "Talstar EZ will be popular with the

franchisees, because it enables us to offer services we can be proud of and helps us deliver on our promise of quality." Lawn Doctor's trained and licensed staff care for more than a billion square feet of America's turf. They are a proud supporter of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), and we at FMC couldn't be prouder to support their great work with our great products.

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*See Guarantee Program Guidelines for details. This guarantee does not apply to termiticide products.

ask the expert

BY BALAKRISHNA RAO

Falling berries

Many of our customers planted holly trees because of their red leaf and fruit color in winter. Why are some of the trees' holly berries remaining green and falling off?

— VA

Study the affected plants on site for any potential environmental soil and/or root related problems such as exposure to extremes in moisture and/or temperature, abnormal or dysfunctional roots resulting from poor growing conditions and soil type.

Also, consider the possibility of a holly berry midge problem. The adult midge is a small, mosquito-like insect 1.6 to 2.3 mm long. The larvae are 1 mm long and yellow. Look for brown pupal cases protruding from the berries.

The midge has one generation per year and over winter as larvae. Adults emerge when holly plants produce flowers; females lay eggs in the young fruit while the petals are still on the flowers. Adults emerge from the berries around May, fly short distances of two to three feet and hide under leaves or other protected places. When the infestation is severe, affected fruit berries fail to turn red because of the holly berry maggot, so the trees don't look as pretty.

Weevil woes

White pines in our area are showing 2-ft. long terminal dieback. They tend to bend into an inverted "U" shape. What do you think is the problem? Any suggestion to manage this?

— OH

From your description of the symptoms, the problem appears to be related to white pine

weevil insect damage. This insect is a common pest of white pine in landscaping and forest areas, and can also attack spruce trees.

White pine weevils attack the terminal new growth of white pines. Affected plant parts discolor and show dieback, curled into the shape of a shepherd's crook. Upon closer examination, you can see minute holes the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen. Remove the browned-out bark from the affected area and look for larval tunneling and lots of sawdust-like frass. You may find yellowish larvae (1/3-in. long) if the life cycle isn't completed.

The larvae feed on inner bark, the sapwood of leading branches and terminal shoots of the main trunk. The affected leader will be killed and the subsequent branches growing in that area will be distorted or killed. The larvae pupate in wood chip cocoons and emerge as adults. The beetles begin to emerge in late July to late August, leaving distinct emergence holes in the bark. The adults feed on the bark of terminals before dropping to the litter to overwinter. On warm spring days, adults move to treetops to mate and lay eggs in the bark.

To manage the problem, prune and destroy all infected branches in early spring. Applications of insecticides such as Talstar or Astro might help manage the adults. Treat leaders in spring when overwintering beetles appear, about mid-April to mid-May. Valuable plants also should be treated again between mid-August and mid-September.

Mowing in the rain

Our athletic field maintenance crews won't mow in the rain because they say

it will tear the grass and compact the ground. If this is the case, why do I see landscapers out all the time in rain showers? Is there a cutoff point? What is the criteria?

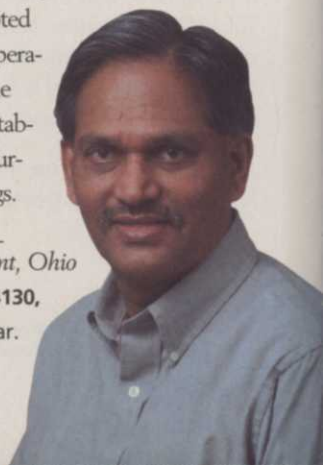
— PA

If you have a choice, avoid mowing in the rain or when it's too wet. Landscapers are sometimes so busy, however, that they don't have a choice and must mow when they can. In a situation like that you could mow during light rain. Avoid mowing in pouring rain as visibility is bad.

Adjustments can be made to deal with mowing in the rain. Keep the rpm higher and blades sharper, and run the blades faster to prevent turfgrass clippings from accumulating in the mower deck. When you're finished mowing, wash off the clippings and clean the deck.

It's also important that the mower wheels not follow the same tracks with each mowing. This is particularly important when the soil is wet as it tends to cause compaction. For example, there's a tendency to edge or border an area in the same manner each time, which would put the wheels in the same track. To minimize compaction during edging, you could offset the wheel track by using only a portion of the deck of a mower that had multiple reels or making a half swath with a single reel. Also, you should mow the open areas in different directions each time.

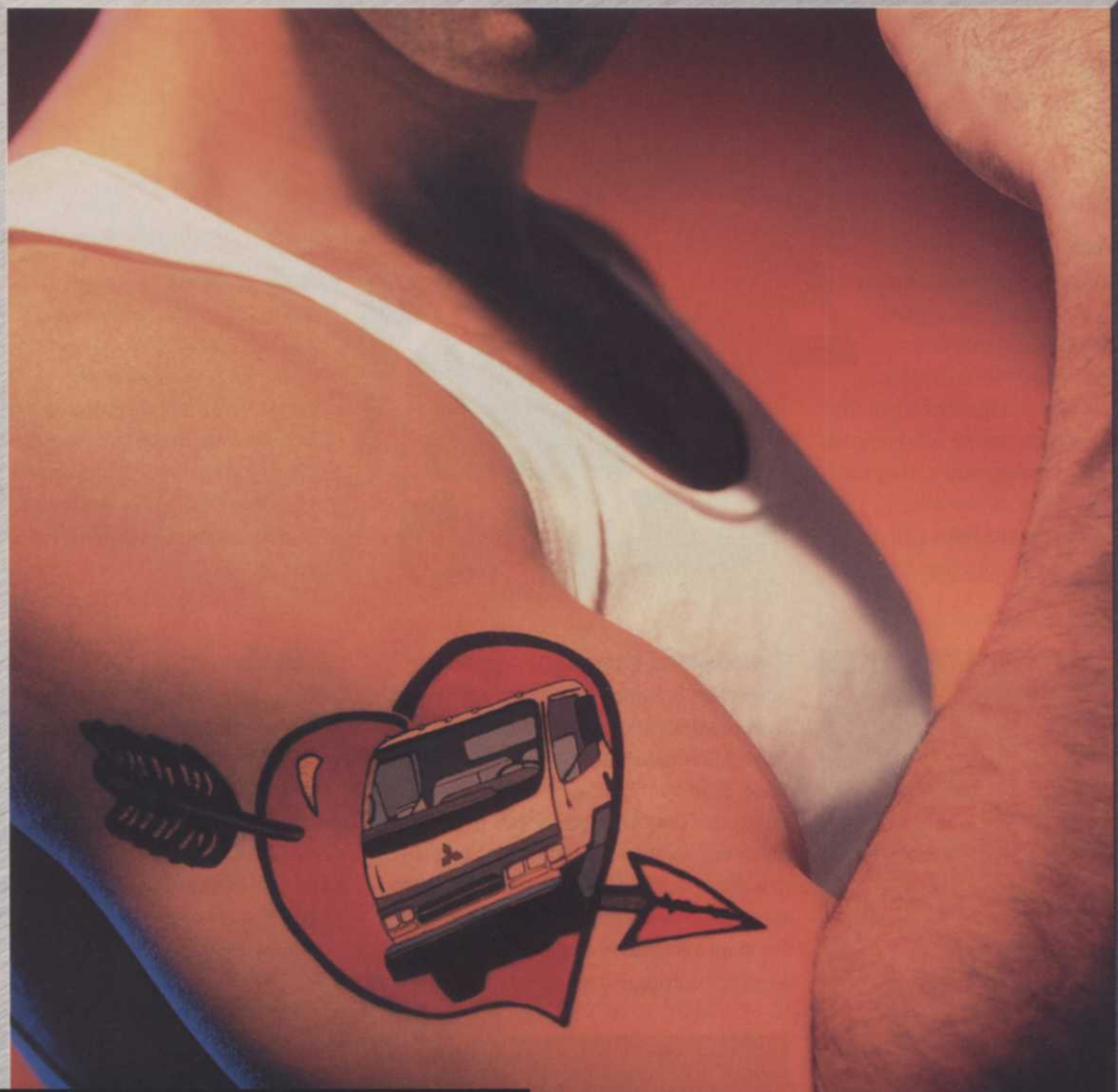
Make sure the turfgrass in these areas is adapted for the mowing operation. Wait until the turfgrass is well established to avoid injuring young seedlings.



Manager of Research and Technical Development for the Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: "Ask the Expert" Landscape Management; 7500 Old Oak Blvd.; Cleveland, OH 44130,

or e-mail: jstahl@advanstar.com. Please allow two to three months for an answer to appear.



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products

TECH CENTER

Grip it good

Fiskars' loop handle hand pruners feature a Softgrip upper handle that adds padding against friction and keeps hands from slipping. The loop handle allows hands to relax without having to put the tool down. The precision-ground steel blades are fully hardened to withstand years of cutting duties. They can cut branches up to 5/8 in. in diameter.

For more information contact Fiskars at 800/500-4849 or www.fiskars.com / circle no. 250



Fork it over

Precision Farm Machinery's new multi-purpose fork bucket for skid-steers is suited for digging, picking, loading, leveling and grapple-type work. It features a grated bottom to allow dirt to escape. The reel system is operated by a simple hydraulic cylinder for minimum downtime and maintenance.

For more information call 877/736-2226 / circle no. 253



Trim it high

John Deere's EH2659 extended-reach hedge trimmer has a 59-in. boom and 22-in., double-sided, double-reciprocating blade that allows trimming up to 12 ft. high.

For more information contact John Deere at 800/537-8233 or www.johndeere.com / circle no. 251

Leader of the pack

Simplot announces a new line of soluble fertilizers called SoluPack, composed of nine formulations: Bermudagrass Special, High Potash Formula, Potassium Special, SP All-Purpose, SP Bentgrass Formula, SP Rapid Green, SP Root Enhancer, Summer Aid, and Super Cal Formula. A number of these products will incorporate the UMAXX stabilized nitrogen technology.

For more information contact Simplot at www.simplotpartners.com / circle no. 254

Kill the ants

Oakfield Apparatus' new fire ant probe enables the user to apply insecticide directly into a fire ant mound. The probe is 30 in. high, made of steel, and features four holes at the tip through which a powerful burst of insecticide is delivered.

For more information contact Oakfield at 920/583-4114 or www.soilsamplers.com / circle no. 256

Punchin' holes ▼

BlueBird's TA 10 aerator is designed to be towed by a 16-hp or larger tractor. It has an aerating width of 36 in. and aerating depth of up to three in. for coverage up to three acres an hour. Two independent tine rotors with 32 interchangeable, 1/2-in. closed spoon tines provide good maneuverability around corners and tight areas.

For more information contact BlueBird at 800/808-2473 or www.bluebirdintl.com / circle no. 257

continued on page 68

Get in deep

Rain Bird's new root watering system series combines deep root aeration and irrigation in a single package. Products consist of an irrigation retaining cap and a 36-in. long tube that allows nutrients to reach deep root systems directly. It can be ordered with pre-installed irrigation components that include a swing assembly, check valve, riser and Rain Bird 1401 bubbler. It's also designed to accommodate drip tubing and emitters as an alternative installation.

For more information visit Rain Bird's Web site at www.rainbird.com / circle no. 252



One wide cut

Howard Price Turf Equipment introduces its new 360Z-80 floating wing mower featuring a 80-in. cut with cutting capacity of up to 6.46 acres per hour at 8 mph. It also features maximum flotation for dips and knolls with wing operating to 20 degrees up and 12 degrees down.

For more information contact Howard Price at 636/532-7000 / circle no. 255



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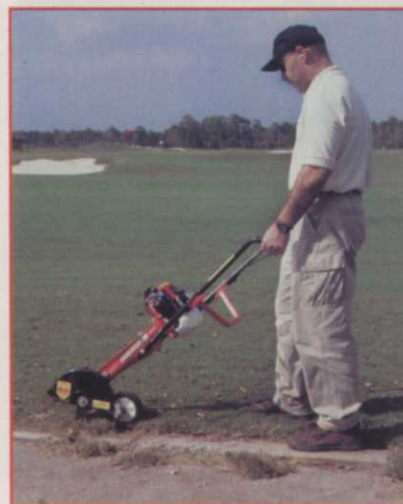
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Circle No. 138

products

continued from page 66

In control

Myron L Company introduces the 720 Series II pH and ORP monitor controllers. The company claims their advanced isolated circuitry eliminates potential ground loop issues associated with non-isolated circuitry. Only 6 in. by 4.8 in., their sensor preamp allows longer distances between sensor and monitor/controller.

For more information contact Myron at 760/438-2021 or www.myronl.com / circle no. 258



Bright lights

Hessamerica's new high performance outdoor indirect area luminaire features the company's advanced secondary reflector technology, which eliminates glare while effectively illuminating paths and public areas.

For more information contact Hessamerica at 704/471-2211 or www.hessamerica.com / circle no. 259



Take the curve

RedMax's HEZ2500F edger has a curved shaft for hard-to-reach areas and is powered by a 25.4cc strato-charged

two-cycle engine that the company claims will give operators a 34% fuel savings, 73% fewer exhaust emissions and 10% noise reduction.

For more information call 800/291-8251 / circle no. 260

Wrestle weeds

PBI/Gordon Corp. announces the addition of Blade selective herbicide to the Gordon's Professional Turf and Ornamental product line. The active ingredient in Blade, metsulfuron, is used primarily in the south to control bahiagrass, ryegrass and foxtail. The company claims it's effective at very low rates, ranging from 0.125 to 1.0 dry oz. of product per acre, yet has an extremely low toxicity to animals.

For more information contact PBI/Gordon at 800/821-7925 or www.pbigordon.com / circle no. 261

Go blue

Becker Underwood claims its Admiral Liquid controls the growth of algae and aquatic vegetation in lakes, ponds and other bodies of water while adding a beautiful, natural-looking blue. Used as an integral component in a lake and pond management program, Admiral is one of only two products of its kind on the market to receive EPA registration. Available in

What the hay

Goossen's straw blower feeds one to two bales per minute covering one acre per hour. Options include a 13-, 16- or 18-hp gas-powered or PTO-driven three-point operation. The rotor contains a pre-balanced hex shaft and discharges through a 6-in. by 30-ft. wear-resistant discharge hose.

For more information contact Goossen at 800/835-1042 or www.goossen.com / circle no. 262

the following package sizes: 4x1-, 5-, and 30-gal. drums.

For more information call 800/232-5907 / circle no. 263

Treat a tree

With its Wedgle tree injection system and tree care products, ArborSystems claims turf care pros can treat a tree in less than three minutes and generate from \$25 to \$65 of revenue per tree. A free CD-ROM provides all the details.

For more information contact ArborSystems at 800/698-4641 or www.arborsystems.com / circle no. 264

Time to excavate



The 314C Cr hydraulic excavator from Caterpillar features a compact radius design that makes it ideal for urban contractors and others who work in space-restricted applications. It weighs as much as 32,590 lbs. depending on how it's equipped, and produces 90 net hp. Maximum digging depth is 19 ft., 6 in., and tail swing radius is 4 ft., 10 in.

For more information call 877/736-2226 / circle no. 265

Make trees stand tall

Roy Enterprises' Tree Trainer is a self-supporting tree brace that helps straighten crooked-growing trees. It comes in two sizes: a small unit to fit tree calipers up to 1 in., and a large unit that fits tree calipers of 1 to 2 in. Straps are



Wash it away

Landa Water Cleaning Systems' new line of hot water pressure washers with a vertical burner design and cleaning power of up to 5 gpm in flow rate and 2000 psi in pressure. A trigger gun with variable pressure wand allows remote operation of the spray and low-pressure application of the soap. Tubed, pneumatic tires allow for easy maneuvering in all terrain. **For more information contact Landa at 800/547-8672 or www.landa.com / circle no. 266**

polypropylene and are impregnated with an ultraviolet inhibitor to protect against sun rot. **For more information call 660/485-6768 or visit www.treetrainer.com / circle no. 267**



Fenced in

T.C. Manufacturing and Powder Coating's new Architectural Fencing System (AFS) has a linear wire design that allows creative solutions that enhance landscaping. ITC's "no tag" coating formula is graffiti resistant. Panel sizes come 4-8-in. wide, with 2-ft. x 6-ft. standard welded grids. **For more information contact ITC at 800/567-6592 or www.itcmfg.com / circle no. 268**

Hear the thunder

New handheld Thunderbolt Storm Detector detects and tracks thunderstorm activity from 75 miles, determining storm severity, approach speed, and estimated time of arrival. Upon detection, warning information appears on Thunderbolt's LCD display, along with flashing LEDs and audible alarm. **For more information call 877/738-7330 or visit www.spectrumthunderbolt.com / circle no. 269**

How stimulating

J.F. Oakes Sales & Marketing's Konsume is an insect feeding stimulant that the company claims, when mixed with any insecticide, will increase the control of insects and reduce the rate of active ingredients being applied. **For more information call 800/844-9296 / circle no. 270**

Dig a little ▶

Kobelco's new SR-2 Series of compact excavators features zero-tail-swing for working in tight areas, rubber tracks for minimizing damage to paved sidewalks and driveways, and single and bidirectional auxiliary hydraulic valves and piping as standard equipment. **For more information call 281/240-4800 or visit www.kobelcoamerica.com / circle no. 271**



For more information call 800/297-9905 or visit www.rollrite.com / circle no. 274

Rake it in

The new Harley Power Box Rake for tool carriers and small pay-loaders enhances the amount of work a contractor can do with the Harley rake. The tool carrier allows the Harley to grade and reshape drainage ditches, as well as rebuild road shoulders. Use the tool carrier rake for roadside landscaping. **For more information call 800/437-9779 or visit www.glenmac.com / circle no. 272**

It's a visual thing

Help your customers visualize their dream landscape with Individual Software Inc.'s Total 3D Home Deluxe and Total 3D Landscape Deluxe. Designed for Microsoft Windows XP, the software creates realistic 3D renderings of landscaping ideas for a variety of buildings. **For more information call 925/734-6767 or visit www.individualsoftware.com / circle no. 273**

It's a coverup

Roll-Rite offers a wide variety of tarp systems for various truck and trailer applications, available in both automatic and semi-automatic for 1-ton and light duty applications. The Tarp-Stretcher, Roll-Rite's new electric gear motor for side tarping, comes standard. Several system variations are available and may feature either single front arm with rear bungee operation or dual-arm operation.

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Circle 137

events

WHAT, WHEN & WHERE

June

19 Turf Research Field Day / South Deerfield, MS; Sponsored by the Umass Extension Turf Program; 413/545-3066

19-23 Retail Roadshow / Chicago, IL; Sponsored by the National Garden Center Organization; 202/789-2900; www.anla.org

20-22 ITODA Summer Meeting / Los Gatos, CA; Sponsored by the Independent Turf & Ornamental Distributors Association; 810/229-9405

July

11-14 ANLA Convention & Executive Learning Retreat / San Diego, CA; 202/789-2900

15-16 Summer Express Short Course / Chattanooga, TN; Sponsored by the Chattanooga Association of Landscape Professionals; 423/886-8874

17-18 OPE Dealer Convention / Louisville, KY; 800/558-8767

17-19 Turfgrass Producers International Summer Convention and Field Day / Ft. Collins, CO; 800/405-8873

19-21 International Lawn, Garden & Power Equipment Expo / Louisville, KY; 800/558-8767

22-23 PLCAA's Legislative Day on the Hill & Arlington Renewal Project / Washington, DC; 800/458-3466; www.plcaa.org

23 Midwest Regional Turf Field Day / West Lafayette, IN; 765/494-8039

23-25 Penn Allied Nursery Trade Show / Fort Washington, PA; 717/238-1673

30-31 Virginia Turf Council Field Day / Blacksburg, VA; 540/942-8873

31 Rutgers Lawn & Landscape Turf Research Field Day / Freehold, NJ; 732/932-9400, ext. 339

August

2 Southern Nursery Association 2002 / Atlanta, GA; 770/953-3311; www.sna.org

7 Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Summer Field Day / Hampshire, IL; 630/472-2851

9-11 ALCA Maintenance Symposium / Atlanta, GA; 800/395-2522; www.alca.org

13 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day / Lansing, MI; 517/321-1660

15-16 Northern Plant Symposium / Eastlake, OH; 440/350-2583

17 Certified Landscape Technician Exam / Joliet, IL; 630/472-2851

25-1 International Garden Centre Tour / Amsterdam-Maastricht, Netherlands; 202/789-5980, ext. 3010

September

12-13 Southwest Horticultural Trade Show / Phoenix, AZ; 480/966-1610

16-18 Florida Turfgrass Association Annual Conference and Trade Show / Tampa, FL; 800/882-6721