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Fire ant control.

continued from page 80

insect growth regulator classified as a molting-accelerating compound that mimics ecdysone, a hormone responsible for initiating growth and molting activities, causing insects to undergo a premature molt. It works by ingestion and is effective on cutworms, sod webworms, armyworms and grubs. Halofenozide is supposed to provide two to three months of residual activity; however, this depends on soil type and moisture. This insecticide is most effective against smaller grubs than larger grubs possibly due to the extended length of time that grubs spend in the third larval stage. Halofenozide tends to kill when larvae molt to the next stage.

The timing of application may influence the level of control obtained with insecticides. Insecticides may be applied either



The holes in this damaged lawn were made by starlings probing for white grubs.



Damage on this bluegrass lawn was caused by a raccoon digging for white grubs.

preventatively or curatively, based on the turfgrass insects being targeted for control.

There are a number of management strategies, both cultural and insecticidal, that can be used to "de-bug" your turfgrass; however, it is important to consider that the success of controlling both aboveground and belowground turfgrass

insect pests involves using these strategies in unison, which will help to retain the quality of the turfgrass. **LM**

— The author is associate professor and extension specialist in ornamental entomology/integrated pest management Kansas State University, Department of Entomology. He can be reached at [rcloyd@ksu.edu](mailto:rcloyd@ksu.edu).

PHOTOS BY DAVID J. SHETLAR

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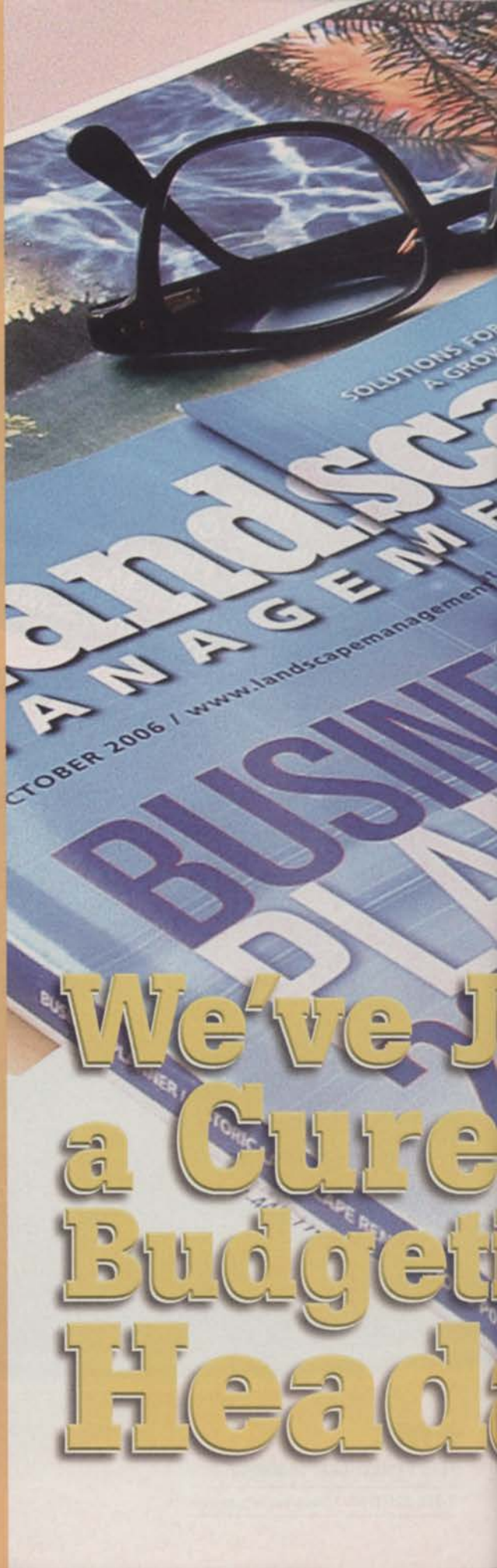
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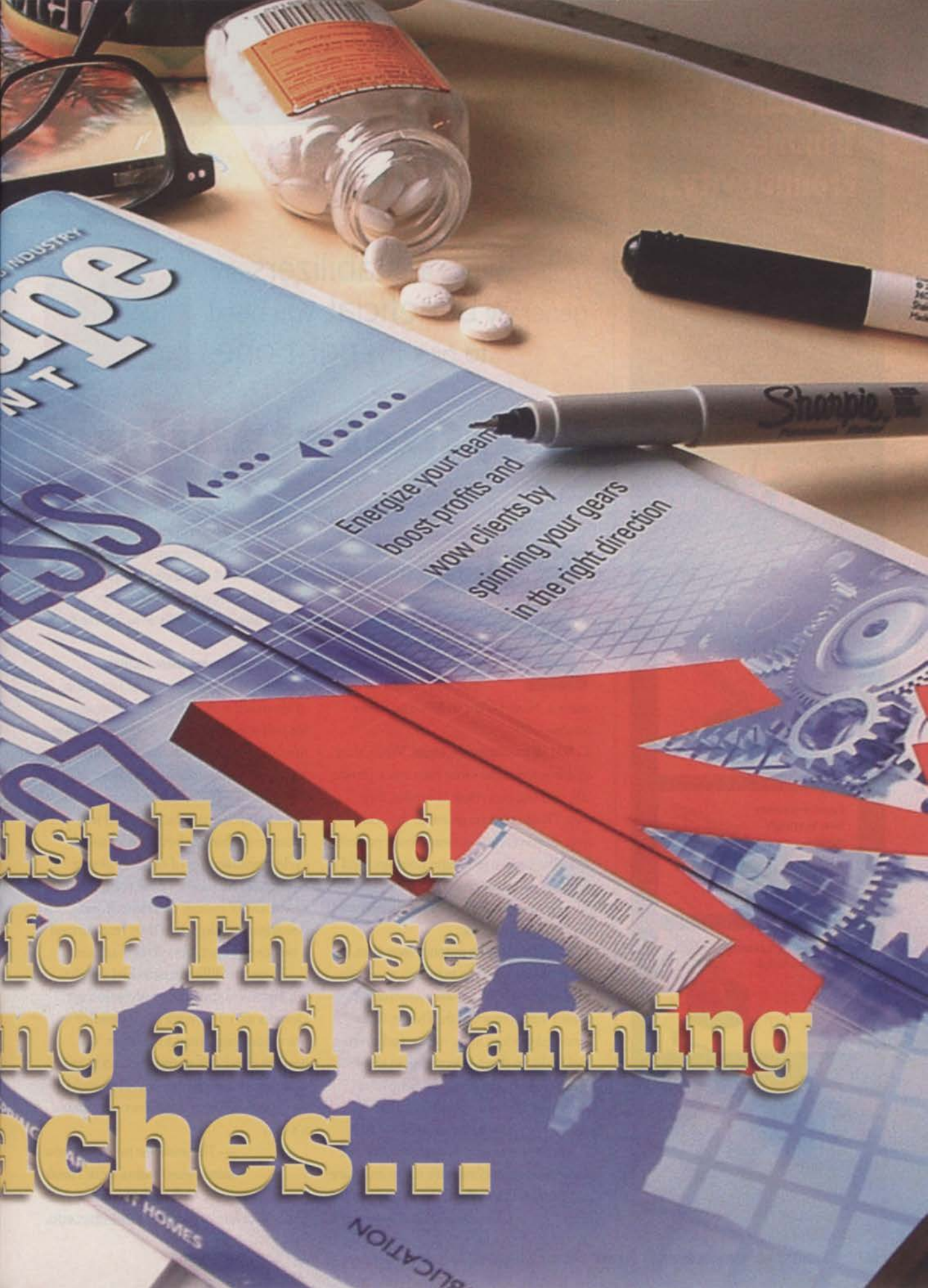
# BUSINESS PLANNER 2008

**T**his October, *Landscape Management* presents you with its one-of-a-kind issue designed to make the budgeting and planning process pain-free. You'll be relieved when you read the relevant editorial including coverage on marketing techniques that work, setting sales expectations, adding new money-making services, recruiting and training, and getting working capital to grow your business.

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We've Just  
a Cure  
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Headaches

A collage of business-related items. At the top, a clear pill bottle lies on its side with several white pills scattered on a light-colored surface. To the left, a pair of black-rimmed glasses is partially visible. In the center, a grey Sharpie marker and a black marker are positioned. Below them, a blue magazine with a technical, grid-like background is the central focus. The magazine features the word 'MEMBER' in large, bold, white letters. A red 3D arrow points towards the right across the magazine. The main headline on the magazine is in large, bold, yellow letters with a drop shadow. The background of the magazine includes a grid, dotted lines with arrows, and a gear mechanism on the right side.

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## Get a Grip

TECHNOLOGY

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While all stabilizers are generally beneficial, you need to pick the right one.



## Yes, fuel stabilizers

BY ALLEN SPENCE

**F**uel stabilizer: What is it and why is it important to me? You have read several articles where I have mentioned fuel stabilizer and told you that you should be

using it. Now I want to give you some reasons why.

**1. Not all gasolines are equal.** While they all come from the same base stock (crude oil), and the end result is similar, they vary. These differences are in the additives. Some additives clean; some protect; and others serve as octane boosters. And all these additives change to other compounds over time. Fuel stabilizer prevents that from happening.

**2. Gasoline loses its potency over time.** Old gasoline tends to turn into a varnish-type substance that coats everything it comes into contact with. This leads to gummed-up fuel lines, valves, carburetors, fuel tanks, in short, everything in the fuel system. I have seen equipment where every one of those items had to be cleaned or replaced because of old fuel.

**3. Moisture and corrosion are prevented.** Some service stations have more moisture in their fuel than others. Some moisture is caused by condensation. This is worse in

some areas than others. Moisture leads to corrosion and improper engine operation. Fuel stabilizer will counteract the effects of moisture. Most handheld equipment with 2-stroke-cycle engines can be adversely affected by as little as 5% contamination.

**4. Most equipment manufactures recommend it.** As a matter of fact, most of them sell it. A quick Internet search for fuel stabilizer shows every major manufacture recommends the use of fuel stabilizer. Most of them offer it for sale from their Web stores. Marine equipment to motorcycle manufactures and just about everything in between 2- and 4-cycle manufactures of outdoor power equipment included. These companies spend lots of money on research and development. So, when they recommend a certain product, I heed their advice.

There are differences in fuel stabilizers. Some are stabilizers only; some are cleaners also. There is a big difference in price from one brand to another. You need to check the emissions laws in your state before purchasing any. This could prevent purchasing a product you shouldn't use.

— The author is turf equipment management instructor at Hinds Community College in Raymond, MS. Contact him at [haspence@hindscc.edu](mailto:haspence@hindscc.edu).

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We believe creating a beautiful lawn goes beyond weed and insect control. That's why we continue to innovate and develop products like Headway fungicide that allow you to provide an ever-increasing level of service and performance.

## Death by fungi

BY BRUCE MARTIN

**T**he value of healthy lawns goes beyond aesthetics. In addition to pleasing the eye, they provide erosion protection, noise reduction and maintain or increase property values. In stressful environments, diseases can take their toll on lawns. Many companies offer disease control services along with other lawn care activities, such as fertilization, weed control and insect control.

A multi-faceted approach, including the use of fungicides, is often your best disease management strategy.

Fungicides work best when turfgrasses are cultured properly within their limits of adaptation. Turf managers must recognize the limitations of sites for culture of the turfgrasses and modify the sites for optimal growth, including selecting the best-adapted turf for the site, and managing it for optimal health. This could include eliminating trees, selective pruning, proper grading for drainage and/or the installation of supplemental drainage. Even with proper care, disease may occur if weather conditions and other factors are right.

**When disease turns a healthy lawn into a blotchy brown mess, one part of the solution may include a fungicide.**



Fungicides can help treat southern blight (above), which causes large crescent-shaped bare patches and dollar spot, named for its round coin-sized depressions.



When this occurs it's time to consider the judicious use of proven fungicides.

### Lawn care disease control

Both cool-season and warm-season turfgrasses can be plagued with a variety of diseases and disorders. Major cool-season grasses used in lawns include Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and tall fescue. Warm-season turf-

grasses include St. Augustine, centipede, zoysia and Bermudagrass. All of these are affected by one or more important diseases, and are harmed most by disease when environmental conditions favor the pathogen (usually a fungus) and disfavor the optimal growth of host plant.

The most common damaging diseases include brown patch in cool-season grasses,

large patch in warm-season grasses, dollar spot and leaf spots (caused by *Bipolaris* and *Drechslera* species). Kentucky bluegrass is also prone to summer patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) and can also be damaged by stripe smut, leafspot and melting-out diseases (*Drechslera poae*). St. Augustinegrass, tall fescue and perennial ryegrass can be troubled by gray leaf spot (*Magnaporthe grisea*) in