

On the Grow

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Ownership & Common Traits

by Geoff Proffit, President & Southeast Director, Hedge Above LLC



As my business enters its sixth year, I sit in the office I had to tunnel through the snow to get to, and reflect on the past five years. I think of the challenges, both large and small, of the excitement and anticipation mixed with the great unknown as I took that step from the secure environment of employee to entrepreneur. I think we can all agree the majority of our members in IPLCA are owners, and as I sit here I think to myself, "Well what makes us tick?" Are there common denominators that bind us all together?

In casually doing an Internet search I continually found myself thinking wow! That's me. I want to mention a few commonly shared traits that I personally identified with while looking up this information.

Most business owners describe themselves as dreamers, that didn't excel in academics during their High School years. In fact they often state they were often thought of as one of those that just did not "have it". Most owners didn't apply themselves in an educational environment until they began attending college. As a result of this, many owners responded they felt an overwhelming desire to prove their former classmates wrong. Later in life, some common traits identified were independence, a willingness to take calculated risks, but they did not view themselves as gamblers. Many

describe themselves as competitive by nature. The majority describe themselves as fulfilled, even with all the stresses associated with ownership.

Along with these traits I personally have taken great satisfaction from having the "best seat in the house" while watching the evolution of my own business. I feel as though I have simultaneously watched and built my business brick-by-brick. I enjoy all the challenges that come with the territory, large and small. I truly love doing what I do and I believe that is reflected both in my working life, as well as my personal.

There are other traits many of us share, I'm certain. I will simply sum it up by stating we are a unique group of people that seem to possess a spirit and determination that many others do not, or are unwilling to tap into. As we move forward into 2010 let's think of how we, as a group can harness our abilities to continue to build the IPLCA organization into not just a group we can all be proud of, let's also make this an opportunity to strengthen our ability as an organization to educate and inform. I intend to close this column each month by asking each member to invite another owner to join today or sign up your employees. Let's make 2010 a year of significant growth for IPLCA and solidify our position as stewards of good business practices and regulatory educators.

PLANET Day of Service

by Terry Griffith, Treasurer/NE Director, Agrium Advanced Technologies



The Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association is supporting the PLANET Day of Service on April 22, 2010. The PLANET Day of Service is a national project promoted by the national organization, Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA).

The project chosen by the IPLCA Board of Directors allows members of the IPLCA to provide a service

to families serving in the Iowa National Guard. These families have members serving military tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Potential services offered to these families would be lawn cleanup, fertilization, and broadleaf weed control.

Members of The Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association are doing this to say thank you for the overseas service our Iowa Guard families are providing for all of us in Iowa and America.

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2010 IPLCA Gun Raffle

by Kevin Johnson, At-Large Director, All American Turf Beauty

As a board, we discussed different ways that we could raise funds for our association during our November meeting. Your board decided to revive the shotgun raffle that would be promoted during the 2010 Iowa Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show.

Terry Griffith graciously agreed to obtain the shotgun that would be raffled. This, due to legal technicalities, was a huge commitment on his part. Board members made the decision to promote the event through sales prior to the conference and during the conference. Terry obtained a Benelli Nova 12 gauge pump shotgun that would be promoted.

Needless to say, the raffle was a spectacular success. The raffle generated \$2150 in ticket sales. After taking out the expense for the gun, our raffle generated approximately \$1750 for your association. This was by far the most successful raffle/promotion that has ever been conducted by your association. Thank you to all the vendors, conference attendees, and general public who purchased raffle tickets to support our association.

2010 Shotgun Raffle Winner Ken Trytek with Terry Griffith, IPLCA Board Member



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IPLCA Spring Seminar - Central Wrap-up

by Brian Heater, At-Large Director, Heater Lawn Care, Inc.



I would like to compliment Jeff Wendel of the Iowa Turfgrass Institute, Dr. Dave Minner of Iowa State University Extension, and Mark Lohafer of the Iowa Department of Agriculture Pesticide Bureau on the IPLCA 2010 Spring Seminar they gave on February 25th in Ankeny. For the first time

in several years I was able to attend... or maybe I should say took the extra time to drive a little farther than usual to obtain my CIC's.

The recorded Applicator Training programs are very good and are certainly educational, but I found it refreshing to hear Dr. Minner, Mark, and Jeff speak and take questions. The interactive nature of live presentations really helped everyone in attendance. There was a good deal of conversation among the presenters and the attendees and it was nice to be able to get an 'instant' answer to questions.

The meeting kept the crowd involved, while reminding us of important safety issues, covering product updates, laws & regulations and PPE. They found interesting

ways to remind us of a lot of the "same old stuff," and we all need to be reminded of it from time-to-time.

Dr. Minner gave goggles and ear protection as prizes for audience participation and Jeff gave chocolate as prizes for PPE 'Jeopardy.' A special thanks goes to Marcus Jones of Iowa State University for sharing his PPE Jeopardy PowerPoint. This was the first time I can remember that segment moving fast, and it was impressive to see how much knowledge the people in our industry have. The presenters ran out of chocolate!

It is also very helpful to hear the personal experiences and lessons learned from the industry professionals in the audience. Sometimes hearing one story will make something stick in your mind and may prevent the next accident from happening. Working safe is certainly something that all of us in the Lawn & Landscape 'biz' agree on. Keep yourself and your coworkers safe!

The certification meeting and a meal for \$35 is a great deal and I would encourage all IPLCA members to attend one next year.

SMARTER WAYS TO GROW™

Agrium Inc. improved business operations by recently reorganizing its professional products division, known as CPS Professional Products, a national distributor in the United States and is now operating as Agrium Advanced Technologies Distribution.

Agrium Advanced Technologies (AAT) Distribution is a national distributor of green industry products of all the key manufacturers that supply fine products to the golf course, lawn care, and sports turf, and ornamental markets throughout Iowa and the United States. Supported by unsurpassed customer service, AAT Distribution offers access to an extensive proprietary line of premium quality plant protection and fertilizer products, as well as proudly continue to distribute for: Arysta, BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Cleary Chemical, Diamond Pro, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont, FMC, Loveland Products, NuFarm, PBI Gordon, Seed Research, Syngenta, Valent and many more. For additional information on Agrium Advanced Technologies and its full line of products and services, call a AAT Distribution sales representative or visit www.AgriumAT.com.

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The Importance of Reading the Pesticide Label

by Marcus Jones, Graduate Research Assistant, Iowa State University



The temperatures are rising and the snow is melting; another growing season is right around the corner. Although I'm sure everyone is ready for winter to be over, the down-time does provide an opportunity to plan for the upcoming season. Part of this planning involves ordering fertilizer and plant protectants. Do you take the time to review the label each time you use a product? What about if it's a product you have used many times in the past?

I recently read the results of a survey of green industry professionals that gauged their behaviors and perceptions when it came to the information found on the labels of plant protectants. The participants were asked a series of questions and responded using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = never, 3 = sometimes, and 5 = always. One particular question asked, "When you use a pesticide product for the very FIRST TIME, do you typically read the pesticide label prior to using the product?" Participants responded with mean value of 4.8 out of 5 indicating that reading the label before using a product for the first time was a common practice. However, when asked if they read the label when using a product they have used

in the past the mean value dropped to 3.4 out of 5 (the complete survey can be viewed at: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2009december/iw4.php>).

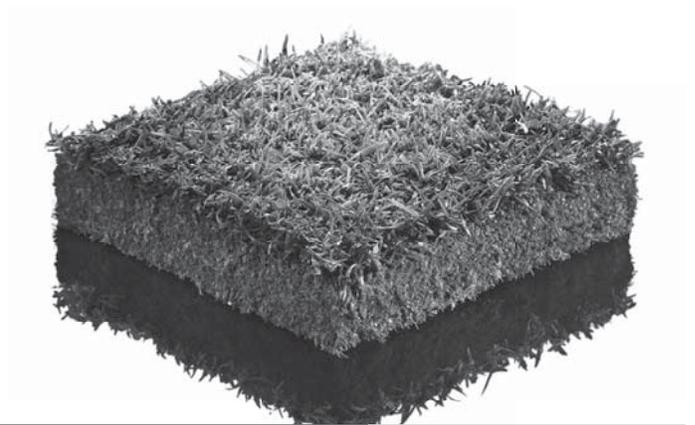
Labels contain a wealth of information about how to get the most benefit out of the product while providing safety to the applicator and the environment. It is important to read the label prior to each use as the information on the label does tend to change over time. Labels are written according to a wealth of data that has been accumulated through various scientific studies. As more research is conducted the manufacturer of the product may revise the label as new uses for the product are discovered. Reading and following the label results in efficiency and efficacy of the product as it is currently formulated. Up-to-date labels can be found at <http://www.cdms.net> or <http://www.agrian.com>.

Properly following product labels can save time, money, unintended environmental consequences, and legal trouble. It is our responsibility to demonstrate to the public that professionals in the green industry are educated concerning the safe use of plant protectants. Reading and staying current with product labels is a good start.

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The CAN-SPAM Act

by Jeff Wendel, Executive/Communications Director, Iowa Turfgrass Institute



The CAN-SPAM Act sets the rules for commercial email and gives recipients the right to have you stop emailing them. The Act also sets tough penalties for violations. There are ‘extensive’ rules that are beyond the scope of this article, but let me try to get the basic message out. You can

find a “The CAN-SPAM Act: A Compliance Guide for Business” on the Federal Trade Commission web page at: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/business/ecommerce/bus61.shtm>

What matters most is the purpose of your message. If your message contains “Commercial content – which advertises or promotes a commercial product or service, including content on a website operated for a commercial purpose,” it must comply with the requirements of the CAN-SPAM Act. If it contains only “Transactional or relationship content – which facilitates an already agreed-upon transaction or updates a customer about an ongoing transaction” it can’t contain false or misleading routing information, but is otherwise exempt from most provisions of the CAN-SPAM Act.

There is an extensive set of rules and related exceptions, but here is the basic stuff, again I must stress that this is just basic info, please do your research to make certain you are in compliance. The most important item for our members is that the sender of a “Commercial content” e-mail must; “Use a footer in emails that allow for opt out

of future emails.” The IPLCA listserv has this type of footer. It reads simply; This email was sent to jeff@iowaturfgrass.org by jeff@iowaturfgrass.org. Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy

It is also a good idea to maintain a companywide DO NOT EMAIL list and to faithfully honor request to NOT use an Email address.

If you are receiving messages from Mona Bond of IaAEC through her ‘Constant Contact’ list serve you also see there is an ‘opt out’ message in the footer; commercial list hosting companies will require CAN-SPAM compliance and will make certain your messages fit within the rules. Many of these types of service are amazingly inexpensive, Iowa GCSA and ISTMA both use a company called ‘A-List Hosting’ and IPLCA and IaAEC use Constant Contact.

The Iowa Turfgrass Office gets a number of e-mails and telephone calls regarding the issue of ‘solicitation’ e-mails. Electronic communication is critically important to business and we know that our industry partners need to contact customers using electronic methods. Please make sure all those communications comply with the CAN-SPAN Act, your customers will appreciate it and your concern for their time and privacy shows your commitment to good customer relationships.

PLANET Announces New Partnership with NIOSH

by Heather Finney, Professional Landcare Network

The Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have formed a collaborative partnership to improve occupational safety and health conditions at workplaces throughout the United States.

Working together, PLANET and NIOSH will use their efforts and expertise to advance the protection of workers, promote best practices, and encourage employers to develop and utilize occupational safety and health programs with effective prevention strategies and technologies to reduce the risks for injuries and illnesses in the green industry.

The organizations will work cooperatively to provide outreach, communication, and professional expertise

regarding safety and health by:

- Promoting programs that address health and safety issues.
- Participating at conferences, meetings, and other key events where there are occupational safety and health issues of mutual interest.
- Developing articles for publications that highlight occupational safety and health topics.

For more information about the PLANET/NIOSH partnership, visit LandcareNetwork.org, e-mail Cheryl Claborn, or call PLANET at (800) 395-2522. PLANET is the association of members who create and maintain the QUALITY OF LIFE in communities across America.

Winter's Snowy Blanket Leaves Lawns Needing Some Help

by David Minner, PhD, Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Iowa State University



Winter's wrath has left a few challenges for lawns this spring; snow mold, snow equipment scars, de-icing products, moles and voles, and flooding. The last time I can remember this much snow was 2001-02 when we had about 90 days of continuous snow cover for parts

of Iowa. The spring of 2010 followed 100 days of continuous snow cover for most of Iowa. It was a good year to supplement your lawn care operation with snow removal. I guess I should clarify that a bit; a good year if you charged per removal vs. a flat seasonal fee. Here is another opportunity to promote your service, because lawns are going to need some help this spring. The extended snow cover protected some lawns and damaged others. Be ready to offer new customers lawn renovation options that normally are reserved for the fall.

Snow Mold

The first snow came at the beginning of December 2009 and occurred on unfrozen ground. In fact, winter sampling on golf courses showed that frost seldom reached below 3 inches and most of the time there was no frost in the ground. The insulating effect of the snow and lack of ice cover protected grass from desiccation and most types of temperature related winter injury. On the flip side, the same snow cover created a perfect climate for snow mold. We have isolated both pink (*Microdochium nivale*, <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-102-W.pdf>) and gray (*Typhula* spp.,



Close-up of gray snow mold.

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-101-W.pdf>) snow mold. They are easily confused, because they both can have a tan, bleached, white to gray appearance. Pink snow mold sometimes has a dark purple, water-soaked border when very wet or a pinkish cast when it produces spores. Gray snow mold is much more prolific under snow cover and as the snow subsides there is a matted white to silver gray appearance. Gray snow mold has been prolific this year and probably makes up over 60 percent of the affected turf this spring. With a good magnifying glass or camera zoom you can see the reddish brown to black sclerotia of gray snow mold that are imbedded in, or resting on, dead leaves. Pink snow

mold does not require snow cover, while gray snow mold does require snow cover. Pink and gray snow mold can occur together in the same lawn. The matted leaves of grass are actually stuck together by the fungal mycelium. In the best case scenario this occurs on the grass blades in the upper half of the canopy with less fungal injury to the lower portion of the plant. Scrape away the dead stuff on the surface and look for some green lower shoots and living crowns. The presence of green tissue in the lower half of the canopy means that those plants will likely produce new shoots as soon as normal green up occurs. Water-soaked and mushy tan shoots near the base and crown indicate that the whole plant has probably died.

Pull a few plugs of damaged grass and put them on the window sill to see how the grass will actually recover in the next two weeks. On



Silver gray patches of mycelium from Gray Snow Mold 24 hours after snow has melted.

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Grass flattened by snow and gray snow mold. Notice the 6 inch band of green grass just to the right of the sidewalk that was not affected by gray snow mold because the snow was routinely removed during the winter.

a golf course you can almost draw a line between the areas that were treated with a preventative fungicide before snowfall, compared to non-treated areas.

What Can You Do?

Snow mold usually does not occur frequently enough or severely enough in home lawns to warrant preventative fungicide applications in the fall. Even though lawns look completely matted down and straw brown, most will survive. However, I have seen lawn areas that are dead and need help to recover. Fungicide application this spring is not recommended since the damage has already been done. Help the lawn dry and breathe a little by “fluffing” it up. Rake the matted grass to stand it upright allowing air and sun to reach the living plants. This warms the surface on sunny days and speeds lawn green-up. The matted grass shades the surface, reduces soil warming, and impedes new growth and lawn recovery.

While dethatching and soil coring are generally recommended in the fall, this year severely damaged lawns may need any combination of verticutting, dethatching, slice seeding, and coring to help them recover this spring. Lawn areas that have been especially damaged occur where drainage is poor or snow was piled. Shaded grass already stressed by low light and wet leaves may be completely killed by snow

mold leaving, the ground barren and prone to spring runoff. Gouged turf from snow plows, blowers, and sweepers may need re-seeding or sodding. Where ground is completely bare, double your seeding rate in the spring for faster cover, less runoff, and fewer encroaching weeds. Seed Kentucky bluegrass at 3 to 5 lbs/1000 sq.ft. compared to the normal seeding rates that recommend 1.5 to 2.5 lbs/1000 sq.ft. under ideal conditions. Perennial ryegrass or tall fescue can be seeded up to 12 to 18 lbs/1000 sq.ft. to compete with weeds and provide quick cover.

Snow Removal Equipment Scars and Sand

Sand application and plowing is necessary in the winter, but it can cause a remarkable build up of sand in grass near sidewalks and parking lots. I don't really have a good practical answer for this problem and I would like to hear if you have a suggestion. Although cumbersome, it is best to remove the sand when possible. Compost,

aerification, and tall fescue may help manage these dry and sandy areas that often succumb to quackgrass or weeds. I contacted the City of Ames for more information about their snow removal policy. They indicated that they use the minimal amount of sand because it clogs the storm water drainage system. The excessive height of sand also impedes sidewalk drainage and created ponds that freeze in the winter.

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The simple act of raking up the grass helps it dry out, stops fungal growth, warms the surface, and speeds growth and lawn recovery.

Winter's Snowy Blanket Leaves Lawns Needing Some Help

by David Minner, PhD, Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Iowa State University



Moles made tunnels and mounds during a hundred days of snow cover in Iowa.

Deicing Product Injury

The continuous snow and constant temperatures below freezing required frequent use of ice melt products. Shrubs and turf near sidewalks and steps could be injured if excessive amounts of product or brine run off occurred. The spring moisture will help remove some of the salts. In our ice melt trials, calcium chloride was the best ice melt product with the least amount of turf injury. Even when high rates of rock salt (NaCl) were used, we were able to re-establish grass by intense coring and seeding.

With all the snow cover it is very unlikely that we will see any winter desiccation injury, however I have noticed some knowl areas showing tan to orange grass that looks similar to wind blow winter desiccation on berms. Because of the early snow on unfrozen ground, grass may not have been completely hardened off. On berms where the snow was often thinner and less insulated, lower temperatures and ground freezing may have injured grass that was not completely winter-acclimated under the snow.

Moles and Voles

The extended snow cover and unfrozen ground this year provided a winter haven for two completely different critters; moles and voles. Mounds of dirt and heaved tunnels are easily identified as mole damage. Unlike the mole runs I see in the summer, some of the mole tunnels were shallow and exposed under the snow and could have been mistaken for vole runs. In fact the

unfrozen ground and snow cover allowed moles to tunnel and feed on worms and other insects during the winter. Voles sometimes use runs made by moles, but voles are not soil moving diggers. Meadow voles make runways just above the soil surface and within the thatch and lower parts of tall grass. They are confined to non-mowed grass areas keeping them hidden from avian predators. When snow leaves, voles retreat to protected areas and there is no need to try and control them.

I expect the mole activity to be early and heavy this spring. Rake or drag the mounds of dirt to smooth the surface, and flatten the tunnels with the wheel of a riding mower or your foot. Plant the bare areas with seed or divot mix.

Forget about all the gimmicks you might hear about, such as, gum, poison peanuts, wind mills or other lawn ornaments that vibrate, castor beans, drain cleaners, car exhaust, etc. Regardless of the claims, they are not an effective means of getting rid of moles. Talpirid is bromethalin bait that looks like a candy worm and can be placed subsurface in the runs to kill moles. If you can't assure that pets will not come in contact with the pesticide then don't use it. Follow all label directions. I have used Talpirid on home lawns with some success. You never really know if the moles just left or if they were killed by the pesticide.

My preferred method of mole control is trapping, so call me if you are not having success. I always get my mole. Consult these guides to help you develop a plan <http://www.themoleman.com> and <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/pm1302b.pdf>. The harpoon and scissor trap are the only effective way to get rid of problem moles. I used the harpoon trap for several years with good success, but switched to the scissor trap and had even better success. The keys to both are tending your traps on a daily basis, selecting an active and straight section of the run, and making sure the trap is set properly. I prefer the scissor trap because it is a sturdier device and is seldom set off without catching the mole. The harpoon trap can sometimes push itself out of the ground or miss if the spears do not reach deep into the tunnel. Experiment with placing the harpoon or scissor trap in the mole run. Dig out a small section of the run to expose the actual mole tunnel. You should be able to see and feel the tunnel that is about two fingers wide. Notice the depth of the tunnel and realize that the harpoons or

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Vole runways made in the grass and thatch above the soil and under the snow.

the scissors will need to be placed deep enough to impact the moles run. It takes practice to properly set both types of traps. With the harpoon trap, work the spring mechanism up and down several times so that the harpoons make a clear channel to enter the ground when the mole sets off the trigger paddle. Otherwise the spears only go into the ground an inch and then force the trap out of the ground without catching the mole. After arming either trap use a stick or long screw driver to trigger the trap and see if it would catch the mole. A five gallon bucket loaded with a cinder block will keep small children out of the trap. Remove traps when the field is in use. Use caution. I've caught over 100 moles and only went to the emergency room once, and that was before I learned to use a stick to practice setting off the traps.

Sites near wooded areas are more prone to moles, because they thrive under the forest floor. Getting rid of grubs will not get rid of moles, because they eat many other soil creatures, especially worms. Moles are solitary except when mating in the spring, so it is usually only one or two moles causing damage in an area with distinct runs. When the ground gets too hard and dry for moles to dig they go deeper where there is better food and moisture. Set traps on a straight section of the run and avoid sharp curves or mounds of pure soil where they clean the

tunnel. Check your traps daily and plan on catching a mole on the same day that you set a trap in an active run. Traps set by 9:00 am can catch moles by 3:00 pm. If you are ever faced with a live mole do not pick it up with bare hands, since they have sharp teeth and know how to use them. Over time you will begin to think like the mole and on occasion you will see one actually working the surface in a tunnel. That usually triggers a surface assault with any weapon I have at hand; shovel, pitch fork, or my trusty dull buck knife that has spent most of its life being jabbed in the ground anyway. Consider your customers before you try this maneuver. Bill Murray is a funny guy, but "Caddyshack" is not the professional image we want for the lawn care industry.

Each spring is a little different and this one has started out with rapid melting of a record duration for snow cover. Generally snow cover acts as an insulator that protects the grass from desiccation and hard freezing. But, this year the extended snow cover has produced a bumper crop of snow mold and a few critters that leave many lawns needing a good lawn care service company to get them on the road to recovery.

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Moles tunneling near the surface and under the snow should not be confused with vole runways.

PLANET'S Legislative Day, Washington DC

by Heather Finney, Professional Landcare Network

In today's politically charged climate, conservative columnist Cal Thomas and liberal Democratic strategist Bob Beckel, authors of *Common Ground: How to Stop the Partisan War That Is Destroying America* and of the USA Today column "Common Ground," demonstrate that even people with strikingly different political views can reach agreement on contentious issues, using civility and humor. The Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) encourages members to come be inspired by this remarkable duo, who will deliver the keynote address, July 19, 2010, to kickoff PLANET's Legislative Day on the Hill events in Washington, D.C., July 18-20.

Before visiting the Hill offices of their representatives and senators to discuss issues of vital importance to the green industry, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Renewal & Remembrance at Arlington National Cemetery event, Monday, July 19. Each year, this events draws hundreds of landscape and lawn care professionals from across the country to Arlington National Cemetery to spend the day mulching, cabling and installing lightening protection for trees, pruning, planting, liming more than 200 acres, and aerating the soil.

The Key Bridge Marriott at 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia, will once again be the center of action for this year's Legislative Day on the Hill. Just four miles from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and within three blocks of the D.C. Metro system, the Key Bridge Marriott gives guests easy access to some of the city's most famous landmarks, including the Iwo Jima Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon, the Kennedy Center, and Georgetown. Hotel reservations can be made by calling (703) 524-6400 on or before

June 25, 2010, and asking for the PLANET rate or by going online to Marriott.

For more information about Legislative Day on the Hill and Renewal & Remembrance, please contact Betsy Demoret at (800) 395-2522.

PLANET is the association of members who create and maintain the QUALITY OF LIFE in communities across America. With more than 3,500 member companies and affiliates, these firms and their employees represent more than 100,000 green industry professionals. Some of these professionals have taken the extra step of becoming certified through PLANET and bear the distinction of being known as Landscape Industry Certified.



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PBI/Gordon Corp. Joins in Ag Container Recycling Effort

by Mary Ellen Scheib, PBI/Gordon Corporation

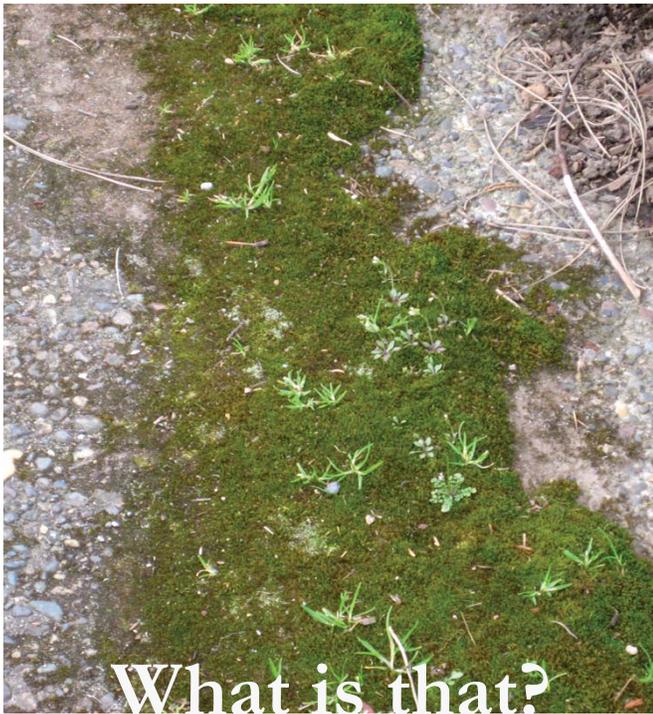
PBI/Gordon Corporation, a manufacturer of products for the turf, landscape and golf course markets, has recently joined the Ag Container Recycling Council. "Our goal is to promote the safe and responsible use of pesticides and helping to fund the programs that ACRC promotes is a key part of meeting that goal," said Tom Hoffman, Senior Vice President and General Manager of PBI/Gordon Corporation.

Recycling has become a part of the corporate culture at PBI/Gordon. Each year, the company headquarters collects several tons of mixed recycling, including paper, plastics and metals. Recycled paper is used for printing needs as much as possible. The company also has collection boxes throughout the offices to collect aluminum cans for Habitat for Humanity. "Extending our individual passion to the company's policies seemed natural," stated Mr. Hoffman. "Our desire is to move into the future with products and policies that benefit the world around us," he concluded.

The Ag Container Recycling Council's mission is to "facilitate the collection and recycling of one-way rigid

HDPE plastic agricultural crop protection, specialty pest control, micronutrient/fertilizer, and/or adjuvant product containers through member funding of cost effective programs that foster public health and safety, environmental protection, resource conservation and end user convenience". Since the Council's inception they have aided in the collection and recycling of over 100 million pounds of containers that would otherwise be directed to landfills. In addition, they educate consumers about appropriate treatment of these containers, including triple-rinsing containers and disposing of the rinsate in areas that will not be harmed. More information about ACRC can be found at www.acrecycle.org.

For more information visit pbigordon.com. PBI/Gordon Corp. specializes in pesticides, fertilizers and other niche products and is a 100% employee-owned company based in Kansas City, MO. The company is currently celebrating its 63rd year of operation in agricultural, professional turf and lawn/garden chemical sales and manufacturing, as well as manufacturing and sales in the pet health market.



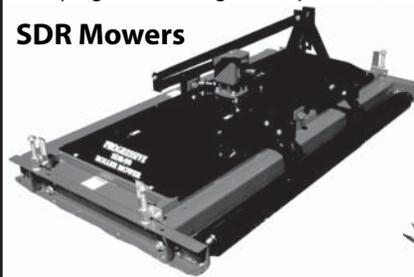
A picture of *Poa annua* growing in the moss on a sidewalk in Portland, Oregon.

Submitted by Jeff Wendel, CGCS

Progressive's three point hitch roller mowers employ the same deck design as the Tri-Deck Roller mowers. These mowers can be used for maintenance mowing, municipal grounds, estates, sports fields and many other lawn and turf applications where a quality cut is desired.

The mowers cut as low as 1/2" and provide an even cut without scalping. Like all Progressive products, the mowers are a heavy

SDR Mowers



duty design for superior strength and durability. The SDR mowers are available in 65" and 90" cutting widths, and can be either rear or front mounted.



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About the Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association

The Iowa Professional Lawn Care Association was founded November 22, 1983. The original Board of Directors consisted of: Gerald Boulton, Daniel Corrigan, Alan Duey, Patrick Freemire, Michael Grooms, Norman Hummel, Dayl Inglett, Daryle Johnson, Richard Mulder, Dennis Pennington, and Doug Tyrrell. Dennis Pennington acted as the first President. IPLCA became a very active professional group in 1987 with the Ground Water Act. IPLCA joined with the Iowa Turfgrass Institute for the purpose of increasing educational opportunities in 1995. IPLCA has earned the respect of regulators and legislators in working to maintain fairness in public policy. In 1987, IPLCA awarded Daryle Johnson, of All American Turf Beauty, the Distinguished Service Award for his service to the lawn care industry. In 1995, IPLCA moved its office to Ames in association with the ITI, Iowa GCSA and ISTMA. IPLCA is committed to serving its membership and advancing the professionalism of lawn care specialists throughout the State of Iowa.