



*Resplendent in the afternoon sun, Dodger Stadium, home of the Los Angeles Dodgers, plays host to another record setting crowd.*

## Grounds for Ransomes.



The condition of the playing field contributes as much to major league performance as the consummate skills of the ballplayers. Dodger groundskeepers choose the Ransomes Motor 180 to provide the superb finish needed for a true bounce, a consistent roll and the sure footing required for championship play. Precision mowing at cutting heights from  $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 3" offers the flexibility to accommodate varying weather conditions and the 71" cutting width makes short work of grooming the power alleys. And that's grounds for seeing your Ransomes Bob Cat distributor. Or, call Ransomes, Inc., One Bob Cat Lane, Johnson Creek, WI 53038, (414) 699-2000.

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It's kid proof



## Denser, darker green Manhattan II takes the bruises for your athlete

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Improved Manhattan II perennial ryegrass has a built-in cushion developed through genetic improvement. The greater tiller density of Manhattan II takes the punishment athletes dish out, then springs back to retain its great-



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"Fall on the leader"

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# sportsTURF

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VOLUME THREE, NUMBER FOUR

APRIL 1987

## MAIN EVENTS

### 14 QUALITY BASEBALL DIAMONDS COME FROM CARING

An in-depth look at the two winners of the first Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards: Heritage Park in Albany, NY; and Fitton Field at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA. John Liburdi cares for the municipally owned Heritage Park as if it were Yankee Stadium. In fact, it is the home field for the team's double-A Albany-Colonie Yankees and is also the site of many events normally held at major professional stadiums. Jim Long and his crew at Holy Cross have proven that a baseball field can be maintained to professional standards within the budget and manpower restraints of a small college.

### 20 SUPERINTENDENT WORKS OVERTIME FOR BETTER TURF

Louis Miller, superintendent of Louisville Country Club, Louisville, KY, was prepared when high temperatures and humidity caused a serious outbreak of pythium throughout the Ohio Valley last summer. During 19 years at the club, Miller has rebuilt every green, reconstructed many of the holes, and instituted maintenance practices to guard against such an occurrence. He has also generously contributed his time to golf organizations and area schools to help others improve the quality of their turf. It all adds up to many 80-hour weeks for Miller, but he enjoys every minute.

## LINE-UP

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**COVER:** Ron Guidry pitches before an overflow crowd at Heritage Park in Albany, NY.

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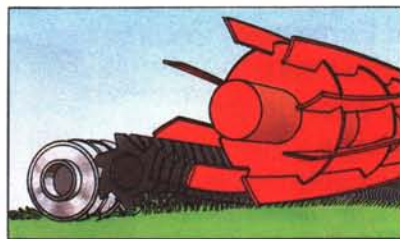
## Stroke for stroke, the best in the business.

### Greens King® IV Diesel.

Now, you can approach the green with the finest tournament-quality triplex greens mower and cut your fuel costs virtually in half. Because the innovative Jacobsen Greens King family introduces another industry first: *Diesel*.

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By cutting horizontal runners and removing thatch, the patented Turf Groomer™ attachment creates faster, truer and healthier greens *without* lowering height of cut.

If you prefer a gas engine, both 14-hp. and 16-hp. models are available. Giving you the broadest selection of riding greens mowers in the industry. With more options, to help you meet your greens care needs more precisely.

Like the revolutionary, patented Turf Groomer™ attachment for faster, truer greens. *Without* lowering height of cut.

And, the unique *performance monitor* which digitally displays all speeds, including cutting frequency, so the operator can evaluate mowing performance, instantly.

What's more, every Greens King is backed by the most extensive support network in the industry. So, contact your Jacobsen distributor to arrange a free demonstration. And see for yourself why the Greens King family is the best in the business.

Lease and finance plans available. Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc., Racine, WI 53403. Telex: 264428.

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Circle 103 on Postage Free Card



Before

These "Before" and "After" pictures were sent to us by a user in Texas. The turf was very chlorotic, obviously dry, and had not responded to prior fertilizer and water treatment. Ferromec was applied in split applications of 5 ounces per 1,000 square feet.



After

The initial response in 48 hours was very dramatic and, as the "After" photo demonstrates, chlorosis was eventually eliminated. Don't you have a spot where you would like to test a sample of Ferromec?

# Turf, Shrubs, Plants Green Up in 48 Hours With **Fe<sup>++</sup>RROME<sup>®</sup> Iron**

Let us send you a sample of Ferromec so you can see for yourself how fast, easy, and economical it is to change the color of your world (and perhaps your wallet) from a weak chlorotic yellow to a strong, vibrant green.

**Everett Mealman, President**  
PBI/GORDON Corporation



Thousands of turf and landscape professionals, as well as countless nurserymen, used Ferromec for the first time in 1986, and to summarize their response in one sentence...

*"...Thanks! I needed that!"*

Ferromec causes green up virtually over night in some instan-

ces. It speeds up the activity of herbicides. It reduces the tendency to over-fertilize in an effort to produce fast color. It provides a quick therapeutic shot of iron ...and it does all this so easily and economically that the practice of using expensive, slow-working chelated iron will never be the same again. Nor will the practice of over-fertilization.

No wonder we are so eager to get a sample of Ferromec in your hands!

## The Facts About Ferrous Iron and Ferromec

Perhaps you are interested in knowing why it is that Ferromec is able to produce such a superior response. It's because of a patented process that enables us to actually bond a ferrous iron molecule to a molecule of urea, so that the iron is stabilized in the ferrous state.

As you know, only iron that is in the ferrous state can be utilized by a plant. But *ironically*, untreated ferrous sulphate turns to the non-usable ferric state almost immediately when it is applied.



These side-by-side containers of Manhattan Euonymus, pictured at a nursery, show what Ferromec can do for the nurseryman. The plant on the right was as chlorotic as the one on the left before it was sprayed with Ferromec.

Before

After

Trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plantings will respond to Ferromec as dramatically as turf, when they are deficient in iron. These before-and-after pictures show how Liriope greened up when Ferromec was applied in August of 1986.

Thus it is that scientists devised chelating to fix the iron molecule in the ferrous state. If chelating is properly done it is effective, but it is very expensive and is so slow to release that it takes a long time to produce a significant color change.

Ferromec, on the other hand, works right now! The PBI/Gordon patented process of bonding ferrous sulphate to the urea molecule not only keeps the iron stable, but also speeds up the process of plant intake.

Because plants have such a voracious appetite for nitrogen, they ingest Ferromec right now via foliar intake to get the urea, and presto-chango...they ingest the iron right along with the urea, and it's green-up time in your world.

### New Formulas for Multiple Tank Mixing and Soil Deficiencies

Amid last season's applause for Ferromec were several friendly tips for making it even better.

First of all, some lawn care companies wanted enhanced iron mixing compatibility for multiple tank mix situations containing an amine herbicide. To fill this need we have developed Ferromec AC.

Others wanted an amine compatible Ferromec containing manganese, and for them we developed Ferromec MAC as well as Ferromec M. Still others wanted a Ferromec to use in situations where there are multiple micronutrient deficiencies, and for them we have developed Ferromec MZ.



Ferromec® is a registered trademark of PBI/GORDON Corporation.  
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\*Offer expires June 1, 1987.

### If You Have Questions About Iron, Talk to Ironman Himself.

Iron is definitely established as an essential micronutrient required by all plants. Yet, the amount required can vary dramatically depending on the pH of the soil, the composition of the fertilizer that is being used and the plant that is being fed.



To help you better understand how to use iron in your turf program, we invite you to visit with Neal Howell, our Plant Nutrition Product Manager. He is a leading authority on iron and is as near as your telephone when you have questions.

You'll like Neal. He lives, eats, and sleeps iron. Talk to him for a few minutes and you'll know why everybody calls him *Ironman*.

For your FREE SAMPLE\*, or the answer to questions about Ferromec, call:

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# Fe<sup>++</sup> FERRROME<sup>®</sup>C

LIQUID IRON 680-use

# FROM THE PUBLISHER



Recently, the Milwaukee Sentinel ran a story which referred to the speculation that there might be an association between the organic fertilizer, Milorganite, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS - or Lou Gehrig's disease.) Needless to say this was shattering news. If true it could destroy a business that took six decades to build. With all the controversy our industry has encountered with the pesticide sensitivity problem, this latest outburst becomes very costly in terms of reputation.

Speculation about Milorganite grew out of the discovery of a cluster of ALS victims, three San Francisco 49ers football players who played together on a field where Milorganite was used. Public health officials, including representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have examined the issue and concluded that the so-called association was no more than speculation. There is no hard evidence that Milorganite may have been part of the turf maintenance program, along with other fertilizers and pesticides.

Patrick Marchese, executive director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District says, "We stress 'may' because even that is unclear. There is no hard evidence that Milorganite has been around for 60 years and many users feel strongly about the product being destroyed. Public health officials, including representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have examined the issue and concluded that the so-called association was no more than speculation. There is no scientific evidence exists linking Milorganite to the disease. Some time later, after the damage was done, health officials gathered at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics for a meeting prompted by the news reports. At that meeting, federal and state epidemiologists criticized Benjamin Brooks, an ALS researcher at the University of Wisconsin- Madison, for the comments he made. Alfred Rimm, an epidemiologist with the Medical College of Wisconsin, told Brooks at that meeting: "I sort of feel that you have found a product guilty of murder, and it's totally innocent." Henry Anderson, a chronic disease epidemiologist with the State Division of Health, told Brooks: "Associating the disease with Milorganite was premature and speculative." But the damage was done.

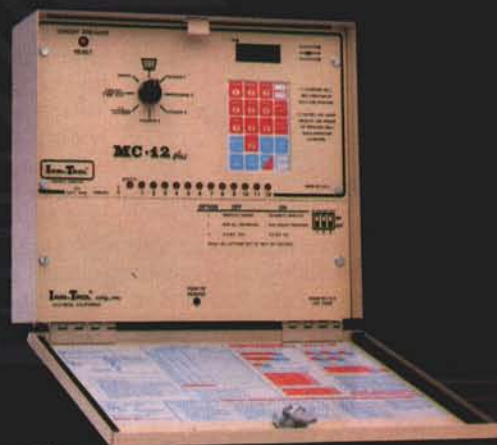
I am disturbed to think that newspapers, politicians, environmental groups and researchers make statements without back up. The media picks it up and the product in question is immediately put on the defensive. Sales drop radically. The company that markets the particular product now has to defend itself. It is later revealed that the product was not the cause, however, the cost of having to overcome the negative publicity becomes enormous. It may take years for that product to reach the level of sales it had just prior to the adverse publicity. We can't control what people say, certainly there is a case for research, but I wish the media wouldn't pick up on it so fast and throw a scare into the public. We should not "shoot first and ask questions later."

I believe we all have a duty to protect human life, but do we have to destroy the livelihood of people who are employed by business that sells product before all the evidence is in? If the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District did not respond as quickly as it did, Milorganite might be history. I believe their quick response saved the day and will help protect their markets. Other companies are going to have to respond as quickly should their products come under attack. If you have used Milorganite in the past and it's done well by you, by all means ask the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District for more information about this. You will find you can continue to use it and feel comfortable about its safety.

***Not just an improvement...  
it's a breakthrough!***

# **MC** *plus*

***New microchip innovations, developed by Irri-Trol, have made it possible for the MC plus to advance beyond current irrigation controller technology. Although it can be programmed in the same manner, and to perform the same functions as the popular MC Series Controllers, the MC plus gives you more control, more flexibility and even more "user-friendly" responsiveness.***



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***MC plus is available in 4, 6, 8, 12, 18 & 24-Station Models. For complete information, ask your Irri-Trol representative or contact us directly.***

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