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VOLUME SIX, NUMBER TEN

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## MAIN EVENTS

### 14 SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE WORKPLACE: OUR \$100 BILLION NIGHTMARE

The abuse of illegal drugs, prescription drugs, look-alike drugs, synthetics, and alcohol on the job cost our nation's economy over \$100 billion in 1988 through lost productivity, accidents, health and medical expenses, and theft of property. It's time to address this national plague.

### 21 THE ADVANTAGES OF LATE-SEASON FERTILIZATION

Late-season fertilization not only improves turf density and color, it enhances spring green-up and makes turf maintenance more effective the following year. Susan Young with O.M. Scott & Sons conveys the company's recommendations for timing, nutrients, and rates. If your turf will experience traffic early next spring, follow these guidelines for late-season fertilization.

### 24 TURF VEHICLES REACH A NEW LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE

When Ransomes purchased Cushman last year, manufacturers and distributors of utility turf vehicles and related attachments took notice. The acquisition was a signal to the turf industry that multi-use utility turf vehicles were reaching a new level of importance in the maintenance of golf courses, parks, schools, and other large turf areas. This article explains why turf managers should pay attention to changes in utility vehicles in the coming years.

## LINE-UP

6 FROM THE PUBLISHER

11 FRONT OFFICE

11 EVENTS

12 REBOUND

30 CHALKBOARD

32 ROOKIES

34 SCOREBOARD

**COVER:** Ed Bacon's personal field of dreams in Salem, OR.  
See story on page 29.



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# FROM THE PUBLISHER



One of the most significant social issues of this generation is the subject of our feature story, "Substance Abuse In The Workplace." It is not without controversy.

I have to admit that we agonized over whether we should even attempt to do a story of this kind. First, it is extremely controversial. Secondly, does it really have anything to do with golf and sports turf? Each time we brought it up, we tabled it until the next issue.

Yet, I had lost a number of employees because of substance abuse. Our editor, who wrote the story, had lost a number of close friends to drug abuse. Some died. Others a number of hospitals as they spend checking in and out of hospitals, which is

continue to experience emotional stress checking in and out of hospitals, which is their lives in clouded misery. They are of no good to themselves or to society, which is picking up the tab for their hospitalizations.

Finally we decided to publish this controversial article. We did it because I feel it is our obligation as a professional trade publication to keep our readers informed not only of what is happening on the technical side of the market, but also on the business end of the business.

That brings us to the second question we asked ourselves: Does this pertain to turf management? You bet it does! It pertains to every craft, every skill, every profession, and every organization. In fact, it really pertains to people - all people.

I'm sure every one of us has met someone who uses drugs or alcohol. What many of us don't realize is the extent to which they use them. In researching this story, we found several points of interest. One is that many use substances on a limited basis. We call them casual users. We discovered that many casual users don't think of themselves as abusers. It was interesting to learn that we don't read about a drunk driver who was the cause of a fatal accident. Yet these drivers do not classify themselves as habitual users of alcohol.

Hardly a week goes by that we don't read about a drunk driver who was the cause of a fatal accident. Yet these drivers do not classify themselves as habitual users of alcohol. How much time is lost because substance abusers cannot function to a point where they can work effectively? How many more cannot even make it to work at times? And how much does all of this cost? As you read our cover story, you will see it is in the high billions of dollars annually.

A number of years ago we had a salesperson who was a heavy drug user. Although he made in excess of \$100,000 a year, he was always broke. I confronted him with my suspicions on many different occasions. Of course, he always denied that he was an addict. I can't calculate how much harm he did, nor how much he cost us in hard dollars.

Finally I had to let him go, and he eventually went in for treatment. Sure, it took a year. But today he is clean. More importantly, he is making his contribution to society. Today he is trying to help others who are in the same position he was in.

We had another salesperson who began to show the symptoms of cocaine abuse right after she was hired. Her nose was always red, her eyes were teary. She lasted less than three months. During this time, she was often late for work. On at least eight occasions she never showed up at all, and even when she was here she simply couldn't function. She was very forgetful, and extremely sloppy in her paperwork. Although she never admitted it we had a darn good feeling that she was a user. As we started to get closer to the truth, she quit. We were naive and didn't think it could happen in our place of business.

Please read the article more than once. Then pass it along to anyone and everyone who may help us with the great national battle against drugs. This social problem has infected the entire American workplace. The cost in human suffering is far greater than the billions of dollars we have lost. All of us have an obligation to try to help these people. If we don't win this battle, the whole social fiber of our country will eventually be destroyed.



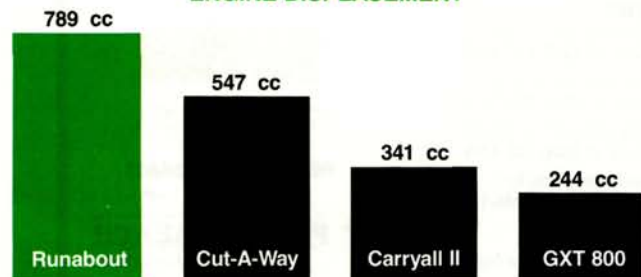


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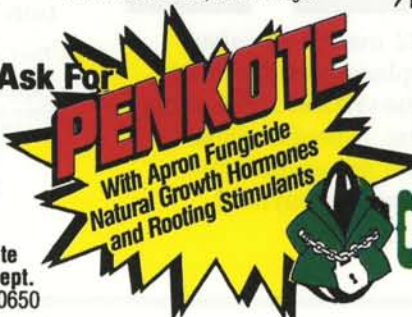
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