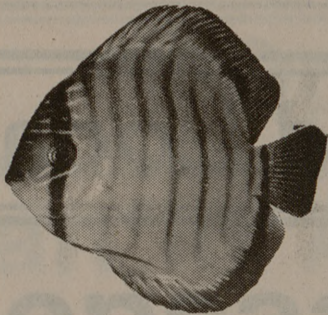


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Lubbock lawn provides grass for landscaping

LUBBOCK (AP) — Emory Thomas probably has the largest lawn in Lubbock County.

At 220 acres, the grassy vista near the Slaton Highway provides not only local nurserymen with landscaping materials, but last year was a source for about 12 million square feet of grass marketed by the company in seven varieties throughout a 200-mile radius of Lubbock.

The family-operated business, although relatively new to Lubbock, was launched in 1968 on a farm near Granbury by E.A. Thomas. His sons, who are now active in the Thomas Brothers Grass business, include Mike, Mark and Ike, as well as Emory.

In 1974, the company opened a second farm two miles northeast of Lorenzo, and in 1985 planted the Lubbock land. Two other company farms are now growing grass in Tennessee.

According to Emory Thomas, the company is providing its grass stock for both residential and commercial projects primarily through nurseries and landscapers.

Thomas said the firm is phasing out its retail operations to avoid competing with its customers who buy wholesale.

"In order for us to have a very large market area, we have got to service their needs," he said of the nurserymen. "They are actually our sales people," he added, noting that a very large sales force would be needed to successfully market grass to retail accounts.

Thomas Brothers Grass makes an efficient use of whatever water is available.

"We use some sewage effluent that has been treated," Thomas said. "When the SPS plant is operating, we use their blow-down water, which starts out as sewage water. It is also treated," he said.

Southwestern Public Service operates a plant across Farm Road 3020 from where the grass farm is located.

Thomas said the excess water has a higher salt content than regular well water, and requires an application of gypsum and sulphur as a countermeasure.

"We have two irrigation wells, but they are not very strong, and we just use them when we are running short on water," he said.

The firm has no problem in West Texas with loss of soil when a strip of sod is taken up for sale, Thomas indicated. He said the soil that is blown in is captured by the grass, and more than replaces what is taken.

According to Thomas, the firm sends a salesman to area towns to call on nurserymen and landscapers. Accounts also include schools, cities and golf courses.

Thomas Brothers markets three types of bermuda grass, including Texturk 10, Tifgreen 328 and Tif-

way 419, in addition to U-3 Hybrid Bermuda. The company also supplies Fesque, Zoysia and Raleigh Augustine.

Thomas said the Texturk, Tifgreen and Tifway do well in Lubbock and are popular in this area. The Zoysia requires about half as much mowing as the Bermuda grasses, he said, noting that it is a slow-growing variety. He thinks takes about as much water for Zoysia, however.

Thomas said there is a trend in the area to replace artificial turf in athletic facilities, and to fill a portion of that market. Thomas quotes one of his business partner brothers, Ike, as saying artificial turf playing area is about 10 degrees hotter than grass because the reflected heat. Ike played ball for Texas Tech from 1969-71.

According to Thomas, athletic departments look for a grass which takes a lot of wear and recovers quickly.

Man's life portrays Texas' traditions

DENTON (AP) — Tall, lean and always dressed in Western clothes, Weldon Burgoon's looks are the essence of a Texan. Not surprisingly, since his family goes back five generations in Denton County.

The owner of Weldon's Saddle and Western Wear, Burgoon has been a force in the county's agricultural community for almost 20 years.

"A lot of people don't realize it, but this is still an agricultural county because income will vary between \$60 and \$80 million a year," he pointed out. "The beauty of that is the farmer or rancher has his end product that he sells. Now to create his product, he's going to buy Harpo fertilizer. He's going to buy diesel from somebody locally. He's going to buy seed locally and his labor, probably, is going to be in the area. Whereas, most other manufacturers buy their (raw) materials from outside. So, it's a very important part of our county."

While Burgoon works with the agri-business committee of the Chamber of Commerce and has worked with the North Texas Fair, his first love is working with young people.

He was one of the organizers of the Denton County Youth Fair, Rodeo and Horse Show. "He works religiously every year, mostly putting together the rodeo. He helps tremendously with the auction and is always willing to sponsor an event or donate a prize," Ricki Harrell, Denton County extension agent, said.

"Weldon's still a kid at heart. He can still imagine where they're coming from and look at things from their level. They have a lot of respect for him because of that."

The youth fair, which attracts hundreds of Denton county young people, is an outgrowth of a youth stock show and sale which began in the '40s. "I showed some chickens when I was a kid," Burgoon laughed.

The fair in its present state be-

gan about 13 years ago when, with the sponsorship of the Denton County Livestock Association, it became a three-day event which included all the projects undertaken by 4-H, Future Farmers of America and Future Homemakers of America.

To help the youth fair, Burgoon and other supporters formed the Blue Ribbon Club four years ago. He's been president since its founding.

"If kids are doing something constructive, it's better than sitting around doing something destructive."

"Besides, I just like kids." And to prove it, he always has students — from both Denton High School and University of North Texas — working in the store.

Burgoon, whose words come out in a slow, easy drawl, never seems flustered or rushed, yet he accomplishes an enormous amount. He runs his business which has been at the corner of Hickory and Bell since 1957.

He worked with the chamber of the youth fair and youth rodeo — both the North Texas High School Rodeo and the Denton High School Rodeo Club. He's active in his church, First United Methodist, and in the Denton Wesleyan Foundation. And he and his son-in-law feed cattle on what Burgoon calls his "communit place" east of Denton.

And with all this, he still finds time to rodeo himself.

"I've roped and competed in rodeos since 1941. Don't misunderstand me, I never did rope well enough to think that I could live without working."

Today he's a member of the Old-Timers Rodeo Cowboys Association and travels with his wife Joy to compete in roping events around the southwest.

"It's amazing to me," he said. "At Seguin an old gentleman 70 years old tied a calf in 12 seconds. That's great, if you can be that active."

And he's not worried about the danger.

2 TV stations make audience of Hispanics

HOUSTON (AP) — Two Spanish-only television stations are capitalizing on Houston's burgeoning Hispanic population at the expense of English-only stations that may add more programming geared toward the Hispanic audience.

About 75 percent of metropolitan Houston's estimated 1 million Hispanics are tuned into KXLN-TV and KTMD-TV, which became Houston's newest television station in February.

"We're affecting their (English-language stations) viewership because we're achieving threes, fours, fives, and sixes in Arbitron ratings, which means those viewers are coming from others," said Jose Adan Trevino, president and chief executive of KXLN, which started as a low-power station in 1984 and has been full-power since last September.

The marketplace is really open for development, said Mauricio Mendez, vice president and general manager of KTMD.

During the May sweeps, CBS affiliate KHOU-TV and ABC affiliate KTRK-TV saw their sign-on to sign-off averages drop a share point each while NBC affiliate KPRC-TV dropped by two. Together, the Spanish stations got a share of four.

Computer companies ready for fall

From Associated Press

It's August and the merchants of home computing are on their annual hunt for the wallets of worried parents, hoping to bag a few before the quarry wises up.

The hunters lurk in the aisles of computer stores and hide between the lines of computer magazines as they lure their prey with the call: "If you don't buy your children a computer, they'll fall hopelessly behind at school. A computer will make learning easy and fun. Buy!"

Parents who fall for lines such as this one most certainly should only hope that their intelligence isn't hereditary.

Computers are universal thinking tools and one of their uses is education, but that's a big step away from the idea that a \$500-plus personal computer system is "necessary" for any student, particularly those in elementary school.

Even by high school and college, when long papers and reports make the computer's word-processing capabilities attractive, an ordinary electronic typewriter can efficiently handle even those chores.

Computers running educational software can provide drill and reinforcement on basic skills but so can a parent and a pack of flashcards or a workbook. And while learning to program a computer is a handy skill and a fascinating hobby, it's no more a "necessity" than learning how to build an automobile is necessary in driver's education. And many school provide computers and classes in computing as part of the curriculum.

If you can afford it, a careful selection of computer and software can provide you and your child with some fun and some learning, but it's not a magic bullet that will turn an indifferent scholar into an amazing honors student.

Teachers and coaches on the delivery side of the educational system might want to take a look at the September issue of COMPUTE!'s PC Magazine (\$12.95, COMPUTE! Publications). The bi-monthly magazine costs much because it comes with a floppy disk of programs, but the attraction here is a list of MS-DOS computer software that helps with the job of teaching. Programs listed offer help with tracking grades and attendance, planning lessons, creating tests and quizzes, crossword puzzles and flashcards.

One program, School Discipline Manager, by MicroMedia, will help you keep track of "35 different infractions by students in as many as 20 different locations." It costs \$199. Cost of the other software ranges from \$22.95 to \$295 for V-Scout, a program by West Software that is for football coaches to use in training scout opponents.

The same issue contains an article suggesting MS-DOS machines are making inroads into the Apple-dominated school market, but that's probably expected in a magazine about MS-DOS.

Software on the disk included with the issue includes a screen editor that allows you to create fancy opening screens that can be called either from batch files or BASIC programs. Two of the files on the disk, one a source code and another with an appointments-keeper, were compressed and stubbornly refused to decompress.

If you have a question or comment of general interest about microcomputers, especially those intended for home use, the address is The CompuBug, AP Newsletters, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY, 10101-1666.