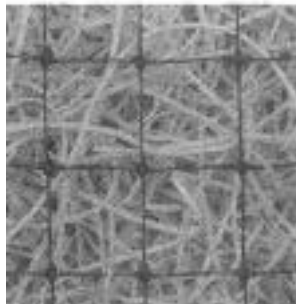


**NEB's pick
of curious,
interesting
and useful
products.**

Land Liners

by Kate O'Brien



Fabrics go underground to solve Landscaping problems. *Drain-It* (top) is a new drainage system that can be used anywhere you'd normally use 4-inch perforated pipe and stone. Only one inch thick and weighing 8 ounces per square foot, it can be installed using standard trenching equipment, with a minimum of landscape destruction. Sections can be joined with duct tape and a utility knife. Besides ease, the product promises more strength, more water drainage capacity, and chemical resistance to deterioration. For info: Atlantic Construction Fabrics, Inc., 9413 Burge Ave., Richmond, VA 23237; 800/448-3636.

The same company makes *Seed Shield*, a reusable fabric designed to aid in grass seed germination. *Seed Shield* is non-woven polypropylene, and is said to provide over 90 percent germination in 4 to 5 days.

Another aid in germination is *Curlax Blanket*, (center) but because of a heavy mesh netting, it's not advised for use in flat lawn areas, where mowing will be desired quickly after planting. The biodegradable blanket is a dense mat of fine curled wood shavings contained within a plastic netting. The wood takes six months to completely disintegrate; the plastic

netting anywhere from 6 months to 2 years, depending on the UV exposure. The product is recommended for difficult or large sloped sites, where the need for erosion control is paramount. Contact American Excelsior Company, P.O. Box 5067, Arlington, TX 76011; 800/777-7645.

Keeping weeds out is the main purpose of *Typar Landscape Fabric* (bottom). Like its cousin the air infiltration wrap, this Typar fabric is a spunbonded polypropylene fabric. However, it is not treated with a non-porous coating, and will allow water, air, and soluble fertilizer to flow through it. Chemically inert, the product is said to be completely resistant to rot, mildew, and microorganisms. For information, contact Reemay, P.O. Box 511, Old Hickory, TN 37138; 615/847-7030.

Markers Make It Safe

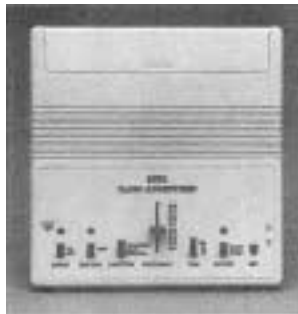


Above- and below-ground markers help maintain safety and prevent damage. *MagnaTec* (top) is an underground detectable tape used to mark non-metallic utility lines. *ShieldTec* is used for metallic lines, such as electric, telephone, and cable TV. For information contact Thor Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 177, Waterloo, WI 53594; 800/872-8467, (414/478-3561 in Wisconsin).

Meanwhile, for marking temporary boundaries above-ground *Heli-Tube* (bottom) is a stretchable 1/2-inch diameter polyethylene tube that sticks to itself. Reusable, the safety-orange line comes in 100-, 250-, and 500-foot spools. Contact M.M. Newman

Corporation, P.O. Box 615, Marblehead, MA 01945; 617/631-7100.

Making Waves



Tune into sales with the *ETEC Radio Advertiser*. It's a low-power FM radio station that can be installed in a home or building for sale or lease. Information about the property is recorded on a built-in solid-state recorder and transmitted continuously over a range of up to 200 feet. A sign placed next to the "for sale" sign indicates the frequency a car radio can be tuned to to receive the message. For more information: ETEC, 3208 Commander Drive, Carrollton, TX 75006; 214/733-1010.

Modular Playground



Design your own playground with a steel component system. The *Horizon* system offers hundreds of different slides, swings, climbers, platforms, ramps, and other play components. A compact or large play center can be assembled, depending on space, traffic flow, and other needs. Contact Quality Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 765, Hillsdale, MI 49242; 517/439-1591.

The Shining



Solid-state controls promise more economical operation with a new line of outdoor residential lighting fixtures. Innovative Controls offers ten products ranging from low-illumination fluorescent fixtures for small outdoor areas, such as the *Globe Light* pictured, to a high-intensity quartz-halogen light for large exterior spaces. Besides being more economical, the proprietary electronic ballast is more compact and weighs less (10 ounces) than a conventional ballast. For info: Innovative Controls,

Inc., P.O. Box 925525, Houston, TX 77242; 713/939-1010.



Fast Fencing

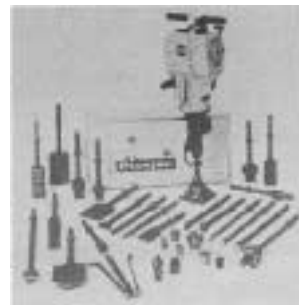
Newly patented no-mix concrete sets metal and wood posts in place in five minutes. After tilling a post hole half full with water, and placing the post in hole, *Fenceset* powder is poured into the water, up to the surface. After aligning the post, more powder is sprinkled on the surface, and it is tamped and allowed a few minutes to set. Although the product is targeted to fence contractors, it could also be used to install various kinds of posts and deck supports. Contact Nomix Corporation, 411 Stillson Road, Fairfield, CT 06430; 203/366-5600.

Earth Manipulators

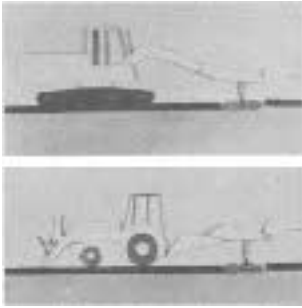


Drill it, break it, move it with ease.

This unique earth drill promises increased safety. Its patented torque tube is designed to end kickback injuries to the operator and permit safe one-person operation. *Little Beaver* (above) also has a heavy duty clutch designed to slip when a hidden object is encountered, or the auger is overloaded, to protect the operator and the equipment. For information contact Little Beaver, Inc., P.O. Box 840, Livingston, TX 77351; 409/327-3121.



Meanwhile accessories for the *Pionjar 120 drill/breaker* (above) offer versatility: They permit the machine to drive posts and anchors into the ground, cut asphalt, break concrete, split boulders, dig, tamp dirt and gravel, and drill into concrete or rock. The *Pionjar* is a self-contained, portable gasoline-powered machine. Contact Berema Inc., P.O. Box 775, Norwalk, CT 06856; 800/243-5005.



The *LCS pneumatic breaker* (above) allows loading in a single, one-person operation. The retractable breaker attaches to the backhoe dipperstick and remains attached while the bucket is in use. An optional compactor tool allows the same machine operator to achieve 99 percent compaction. Contact LCS Technologies, 10942 Tacoma Ave., Cleveland, OH 44108; 216/421-2062.

The "*A Series*" (below) track system has been improved with 33 percent larger cross bars and replaceable hardened links and



bushings, providing better traction, strength, flotation, and cleaning. In addition, it promises easy mounting and maintenance. It's available for all Skid-Steer loaders and other rubber tire equipment. Manufactured by Grouser Products, Box 545, West Fargo, ND 58078; 701/282-7710.



The *SKB 1000 Loader-Backhoe*, (above) combines backhoe and loader functions with the Schaeff Vari-Load System, which allows easy removal and remounting of the backhoe. A series of moving weights rebalance the machine to give safe weight distribution in either loader or backhoe settings. The complete operation takes five minutes by one person. Contact: Schaeff, Inc., P.O. Box 5869, St. Louis, MO 63134; 314/429-5511.



Finally, the *Econoroll Roller* (above) is now available with a 8-horsepower Briggs and Stratton IC engine, in addition to its Honda engine version. The one-ton roller also features front steering, hand controls, better

visibility, and safer operation. Its roll design allows operation within ½ inch of a wall without special attachments. For information, contact Stow Manufacturing Co., P.O. Box 490, Binghamton, NY 13902; 607/723-6411.

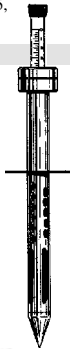
Rock Fractures



For those tricky demolition problems, Bristar is a chemical which will, when wetted, break up concrete and rock in 12 hours. Bristar used to sell a faster-acting agent—it broke up the rock in 1 to 3 hours—but according to a company rep "contractors kept ignoring the instructions, and sticking their finger in it." To keep their customers from burning themselves they took the fast-acting version off the market. For more information, contact Construction Products and Services, Inc., P.O. Box 1015, Newnan, GA 30264.

The 60-Second Slump

Before you pour, or after, you can use this Slump Tester to quickly determine how wet your concrete is. It works as a probe and will give you a slump and workability reading within 60 seconds. No calculations are necessary. Contact Smith-Roles, Box 907, Saskatoon, Canada S7K 3M5; 306/931-1161.



Keep it Dry



Promising to provide complete water protection, Dry Blocks and Dry Block mortar admix are available from many concrete block distributors throughout the U.S. On the market for five years, the blocks are manufactured with a highly water-repellent concrete block additive. The system is made complete with a water-repellent mortar additive. Independent testing rates Dry-Block well on resistance to wind-driven rain (ASTM E-514). The block system also compared well in terms of full wall bond strength - 7 to 23 percent greater than walls of the same mix design and mortar without the admixes. For more information on the product, and for Dry Block producers near you, call Forrer Industry, 7221 W. Parkland Ct, P.O. Box 23432, Milwaukee, WI 53223; 414/354-4400.

Water Cleaner



Separate the good water from the bad with a special process called reverse osmosis. The *KCRO-M Series Reverse Osmosis Purification System's* four-stage design eliminates bacteria, chemicals, mineral salts, and organic matter. The product produces 12 to 15 gallons per day, and can store up to 2½ gallons. It operates by water pressure (40 PSI minimum), so it uses no electricity, and is designed for easy installation. A water-conserving automatic shutoff is optional. For more information, contact Kelco Water Engineering, Inc. 228 South Clark Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281; 800/365-3526. ■