

# Green Industry Insight from Keesen Enterprises, Inc.

[www.keesenent.com](http://www.keesenent.com)

## Backflows in High Demand

If you have irrigation backflows that are in exposed areas of your property, chances are that somebody wants them.

Thefts of backflows on commercial properties have increased dramatically over the past 18 months, in large part due to the resale value of copper and other metals used in backflow construction.

A standard 2" backflow can cost hundreds of dollars to replace, and many thieves, unlike lightning, strike the same place twice. Several of our customers have had multiple backflows taken from the same properties.

What is the best way to combat this growing trend? Safeguard your exposed backflows with a protective covering. Although it does not guarantee complete safety, it is a deterrent.

Keesen Enterprises, Inc. can provide you with a variety of enclosures designed to protect your backflow units from opportunistic thieves.

In addition, Keesen Enterprises can give you an estimate to safely remove your backflow this fall for winter storage at your facility or ours to insure that when Spring returns you don't find that your backflow went south for the winter.



A typical unprotected backflow is easy to take. A covered one is more secure.



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## H2-B Program Important to Green Industry

For the past year, immigration reform has been a leading topic of discussion and debate among federal and state leaders. While Congress works toward a comprehensive immigration reform bill, one topic that has been incorrectly lumped into the de-

bate is the current H2-B visa program.

This program allows a number of industries, including the green industry, to fill a large number of job openings left unfilled by U.S. workers with legal, non-immigrant

temporary laborers that come to the United States on a 6-month work visa. Once the visa expires, the workers return to their native country, often returning to the same employer in successive seasons. (continued on pg. 2)

## Going Paperless at Keesen Enterprises

At some point in the not-too-distant future, going to your mailbox may be a thing of the past because every day more and more information is shared via the World-Wide Web and e-mail. One major advantage of this trend is that it cuts down on the consumption of natural resources like trees.

Keesen Enterprises, Inc. is following this growing trend by moving to electronic invoices and statements for their customers.

This method, while environmentally

friendly, is also more efficient and allows customers to receive critical information nearly instantaneously without the breakdown in quality experienced through faxing or time delay of traditional mail.

If you would like to begin receiving your invoices and statements via e-mail, all you have to do is tell us the e-mail address to send it to.

Please contact us at (303) 761-0444 to find out more about this important new way to receive your billing information from us.



The wave of the future?

## H2B Program is Good for the Green Industry (continued from page 1)

A big challenge is that the number of new H2-B visas is limited to 66,000 annually, which is far below the number of job openings to fill. One misconception is that companies bring these workers in so they can pay a lower wage than they would have to pay a U.S. worker. This is simply not true, as the H2-B program mandates a wage that is far above the federally-mandated minimum wage.

For the green industry, the starting wage under the H2-B program is \$8.60.

Dan Beekhuizen, president of Keesen Enterprises, says that the H2-B program is

“vital to the success of our company, and many others in the green industry that take advantage of it.” Any comprehensive immigration reform needs to include this important program.

Keesen Enterprises was one of the first green industry companies in Colorado to use this program beginning in the early 1990’s and has benefited greatly from it.

They are proud to be a company that employs 100% legal labor. They have very loyal workers under the H2-B program and many workers return to Keesen Enterprises each year, providing a pool of

skilled, well-trained employees.

**“The H2-B Program is vital to the success of our company, and many others in the Green Industry that take advantage of it.”**

**-Dan Beekhuizen, President, Keesen Enterprises, Inc.**

## Most Common Summer Turf Diseases

Colorado has several prevalent turf diseases that can damage turf if left untreated.

According to Duane Baldwin, Keesen Enterprises’ Plant Healthcare Manager, the most common are leaf spot, ascochyta, and necrotic ring spot (NRS).

Leaf spot and ascochyta appear May through July, while NRS appears July

through September.

Leaf spot appears as a yellowing of the entire grass blade with black to red dots. It is generally confined to small areas of the turf that have high moisture levels.

Ascochyta produces a white, tapered pit on the grass blade. It can take over large turf areas and spread quickly if left untreated.(continued on pg. 3)

**Necrotic Ring Spot is a common turf disease that, left untreated, can kill the entire turf area over time.**



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## Watch Out for Early Signs of Turf Disease (continued from pg. 2)

It is sometimes mistaken for drought-stress.

NRS is very common in Colorado and first appears as distinctive yellow rings about the size of dinner plates. The circle will generally die. The disease actually enters the plant in May/June.

All three of these turf diseases are generally brought on by poor turf management practices, including drought stress, over-watering and cutting turf to an improper height.

The key to treating leaf spot and ascochyta is generally a change in turf management practices that include proper irrigation and natural moisture. In some cases, chemical treatment may be necessary.

NRS is difficult to treat, and unfortunately

there is no magic cure for it. Treatment includes chemical intervention, frequent aeration, over-seeding affected areas with non-susceptible varieties of grass and in extreme instances, replacing the turf.

Proper turf management techniques are critical to the overall health of your property's turf areas. Our turf maintenance crews provide the proper type of turf maintenance to insure that your grass always looks its best. However, in those instances where turf becomes diseased, Keesen Enterprises employs trained and certified professionals that are trained in the diagnosis and treatment of all types of turf diseases.

For over 35 years, Keesen Enterprises, Inc. has been providing award-winning, high-quality commercial landscape maintenance, irrigation and installation services in the Denver metropolitan area.

We have built our business on service and integrity. Our philosophy is simple; we strive to maintain the highest quality standards and to exceed your expectations. If there is ever a problem, we will do whatever it takes to make it right. Although many companies make this claim, we are a locally owned company dedicated to servicing our customers. Our entire livelihood depends on the integrity that we operate with right here in the Denver area and we take great pride in our commitment to quality service.

**“Proper irrigation and natural moisture are the keys to prevention, as well as natural recovery, for leaf spot and ascochyta. Chemical intervention is generally not necessary for these diseases”**

**-Duane Baldwin, Plant Healthcare Manager, Keesen Enterprises, Inc.**