
Director's Column

by G. Robert Kerr

As I write this column, it is a warm day, the trees are just greening and the hot, humid summers of Georgia seem very far away indeed. However, by the time you read this newsletter, summer will be just around the corner. Those of you who have lived in Georgia (particularly the metro Atlanta area) for awhile are very familiar with the strains placed on our natural resources by summer. Outdoor watering bans are commonplace at the local level. In the southern part of the state, large agricultural areas are irrigated during the growing season. Especially in drought years, availability of water for its many uses is threatened. The heat of summer also affects our air quality, most notably in the Atlanta ozone non-attainment area. Smog alert days are a signal for all of us to alter some of our business and personal habits. This issue focuses on a variety of topics to help our readers prepare for summer. For example, see the feature article on page 1 regarding changes in landscaping maintenance practices that can help to reduce air emissions leading to ozone. Or, consider obtaining more information from the University of Georgia's

Research and Education Garden on plants and landscaping practices which can help minimize the use of water

(see page 5 for more information). A third article on page 6 discusses the work of the Cool Communities program and its efforts to reduce urban heat islands.

Additionally, I want to call your attention to a new feature of our newsletter, Chuck's Corner. As part of our continuing efforts to help industry and business deal with waste by-products, our new Resource Recovery Specialist, Chuck Boelkins, will be writing a column in each issue discussing recovery of a specific by-product. This issue's feature is a focus on the rebound of the cellulose fiber recycling market.

