Science No Longer Divorced from Public,  
17th Northeast Weed Conference Decides

Weed control leaders, both re- 
search men and applicators, are 
adopting a brave and dynamic 
new attitude towards their in-
dustry.

Over 700 delegates to the 17th 
Annual Northeastern Weed Con-
trol Conference agreed that the 
old concept of "pure science," 
which largely ignored public 
opinion, is now passing away, and 
responsible investigators recognize 
a new responsibility to tell their 
story to the public.

This public relations awareness 
was an underlying theme through-
out the annual gathering of north-
eastern weed experts, held this 
year at the Hotel New Yorker, 
New York City, January 9-11.

Two keynoters sounded the pre-
vailing theme in the early sessions 
of the conference. In a talk on 
pesticides and balanced environ-
ment, Dr. L. G. Merrill, Jr., Dean 
of Agriculture, Rutgers Univer-
sity, New Brunswick, N.J., re-
minded delegates that most pest 
control programs, whether insect 
or weed oriented, are aimed at the 
total physical environment, and 
take all aspects of this environ-
ment into consideration, despite 
what certain irresponsible popular 
writers may dream up to inflame 
the public.

"We must leave for future gen-
erations an environment favorable 
for procreation of desirable species, 
including, I hope, homo sapiens," 
Dean Merrill asserted.

"We are at the state that we 
must use pesticides to tip the 
balance of environment in our 
favor," he added. Otherwise, man 
would be forced to live on root-
stocks and game, hardly diet 

enough for today's teeming mil-
lions. But the scales are tipped, 
and Dean Merrill calls this favor-
able situation a genuine "chemical 
miracle."

Second in the impressive team 
of industry spokesmen was Parke 
C. Brinkley, President of the 
National Agricultural Chemicals 
Association, Washington, D.C. 

Brinkley cited the extreme ex-
 pense suppliers must face in the 
development and marketing of 
useful new chemicals. These pesti-
cides undergo formidable testing 
to make sure there's no possi-
 bility of ill effects on anyone if the 
chemicals are used properly.

In return, Brinkley continued, 
chemical suppliers have the right 
to expect a profitable return on 
the millions they invest in re-
search and development of new 
weedkillers and insecticides.

**Herbicide Production Doubles**

The Washington executive also 
gave delegates a breakdown on 
the growth of America's chemical 
pesticide industry, and weedmen 
were particularly interested to 
learn herbicides have advanced 
from 10% to 18% of the total of 
all pesticides produced, including 
insecticides, nematocides, fungi-
cides, algaecides, etc.

Long noted for its technical 
excellence, the Northeastern Weed 
Control Conference once again 
demonstrated that its members 
are not ivory-tower-confined re-
searchers with no direct communi-
cation with the practical aspects 
of weed control. Particularly note-
worthy at this year's conclave was 
the increase in the number of 
contract applicators present.

Moreover, while much of the 
program is given over to agricul-
tural subjects, there was a wealth 
of urban/industrial seminars which 
are of utmost importance to pro-
gressive application companies.

Evidence that the NEWCC 
would get down to brass tacks 
was apparent from the beginning. 
Lead-off speaker on Wednesday 

was A. T. Hanson of the Boston 
Edison Co., Boston, Mass., whose 
topic, "What a Utility Company 
Expects in Chemical Brush Con-
trol Work," was of vital interest to 
researchers and applicators alike, 
all of whom flocked to the Man-
hattan meeting to enlarge their 
knowledge of herbicides in all their 
varied phases.

Hanson outlined what is to be 
expected from chemical suppliers 
and the utility company, and dis-
cussed in detail what he wants 
from contract applicators who per-
form brush control work on his 
lines.

**Utilities Want Careful CAs**

The New Englander pointed 
out, for example, that the hazards 
of drift must be carefully avoided,
because even though the applicator takes responsibility for such occurrences (and is usually insured for them), the utility company nevertheless suffers from a public relations standpoint.

Hanson warned that failure of applicators to perform expert, successful jobs can only lead to development of new or different methods.

That applicators are already aware of this need for perfecting methods was upheld by the number of applicating firms which send technical men and managers, and by the number of firms who contribute money through NEWCC sustaining memberships.

Following Hanson in the fast-paced opening session was Dr. Richard Ilnicki, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, who reported on research being conducted with promising new herbicides.

New chemicals of interest to readers of Weeds and Turf included Disan, a new pre-emergent herbicide for weed control in turf, which Ilnicki describes as “relatively effective.” Disan is a product of Stauffer Chemical Co. The New Jersey scientist also said Banvel-D, from the Velsicol line, has appeared quite specific for control of clover and mouse-eared chickweed in lawns.

Chemicals still in the development stage, but which appear promising, include Hercules 9573, which looks good for pre-emergence weed control in turf.

A Whole Stable of New Chemicals

Another slant on the flock of new chemicals for weedmen was offered following the annual banquet Wednesday night, “New Chemicals from Industry,” as this section was called, is now a regular feature of the Northeastern Conference.

More details were offered on Hercules 9573. Company spokesmen maintain the experimental chemical is useful as a pre-emergent crabgrass killer, and indicate the product is currently offered as a technical material or as an 80% wettable powder for experimental use by qualified persons.

From the West Coast, U. S. Borax representatives discussed Monobor-Chlorate, a granular weed killer described as “a new and unique formulation of sodium borate and sodium chloride.” According to company officials, Monobor-Chlorate has high bulk density and high water solubility, and is effective on a wide range of annual and perennial weeds and grasses. “It is particularly useful and effective for control of Johnsongrass and certain other weedy grasses on noncrop land,” Weeds and Turf was told.

Borax is also introducing Tritace, a new weedkiller for water spray application to control deep-rooted perennial herbaceous weeds on noncrop lands.

Tritace is chemically known as 2,3,6-trichlorobenzylxypropionol.

Tritace is also manufactured and sold by Hooker Chemical Co.

Velsicol has, in addition to its Banvel-D, a new experimental herbicide called 59-CS-52, which will be available for limited field testing in 1963.

“Preliminary trials have shown that 59-CS-52 has considerable pre-emergence herbidal activity against many broadleaf weeds and some annual grassy weeds,” Velsicol said.

This new herbicide is available formulated as the potassium salt of 2-methoxy-3,6-dichlorophenylacetric acid in water at the acid equivalent of 4 lb/gal.

Amchem also has a new post-emergent herbicide, which, while primarily for agricultural uses, may be of interest to applicators.

Amchem 61-207 was used to control yellow rocket and several other broadleaf weeds in the Northeast during two years’ testing.

This product is an emulsifiable concentrate containing 1.5 lb/gal of the active ingredient. It is designated H-8043 by the Hercules Powder Co., with which Amchem is carrying on cooperative research.

Sessions Industry-Oriented

Whole sections of the 1963 conference were devoted to industrial weed and brush control, to aquatic systems, and to turf. Utility, highway, and railway rights-of-way weed control practices were closely screened, with talks from several utility officials who supervise such treatment programs.

Clarence E. Staples, Brush Control Engineer from the Central Maine Power Co., explained work his company has done on summer basal spraying of rights-of-way.

Basal spraying, of course, attacks the roots instead of the foliage of the infesting plant.

“Selective summer basal spraying on Central Maine Power Co. transmission rights-of-way has proved to be at least 40% cheaper than cutting,” Staples said.

In a paper prepared by a trio of du Pont researchers, analysis of a new formulation of Hyvar (W&T, July, p. W-4) was presented to the NEWCC section on railway work. Research was accomplished by C. W. Bingeman, R. W. Varner, and J. E. Prendergast, all of du Pont’s Wilmington, Del., research installation.

While Hyvar is now commercially available and successfully proven as an effective weed killer for industrial sites, the du Pont spokesmen claimed, it was felt that
Congratulations two ways. Outgoing president Dr. D. A. Schallock (left) welcomes new prexy A. J. Tafuro, who smiles his approval of the job well done in 1963. Tafuro, from American Cyanamid, heads the 1964 weed conference.

A different formulation might be useful.

Hyvar is 5-bromo-3-isopropyl-6-methyluracil. The new formulation, called Hyvar X Weed Killer, is 5-bromo-3-sec-butyl-6-methyluracil.

Dupont says its new product has been extensively tested on railroad rights-of-way and on other industrial sites in the Northeast, and in other climatic areas of the country.

Tests indicate Hyvar X acts against grasses equally or better than the parent product, Hyvar, duPont maintains.

The chemical is expected to be commercially available in 1963. Experimental quantities are now being offered to qualified operators.

Reports from Amchem Products of Ambler, Pa., drawn up and presented by that company's John E. Gallagher (with Harold M. Collins), show that the terrestrial and now-established herbicide, Fenac, has possibilities as an effective aquatic herbicide.

These claims were presented in the NEWCC Aquatic Section, in which delegates homed in on new developments of this increasingly important phase of weed control.

Gallagher maintains that Fenac, which Amchem manufactures, has successfully controlled both alligator weed and the water hyacinth.

Small plot treatments with Fenac in large bodies of water, however, have not been effective, Gallagher warns, apparently because of dilution of the herbicide.

Turf Data Plentiful

Applicants who are active in lawn spraying were treated to a series of papers on new lawn chemicals, and new results with old ones, in the NEWCC Turf Section. Inclusion this year of an open discussion was considered a real benefit by contract sprayers present, because it enabled them to quiz the experts on their individual problems.

One paper presented this year was the work of Dr. Ralph E. Engel of Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

Called "Crabgrass Control Obtained on Turf Treated with Several New and Developmental Pre-Emergence Herbicides," Dr. Engel's work outlined several test results: (1) Bandane shows promise of a high degree of crabgrass control at 80 lbs/acre; (2) Diphenyltrifluoride appears capable of a more consistent performance when used at the higher rate of 60 lbs per acre; (3) Triflurin gives excellent control with 3 to 4 1/2 lbs/acre but less control at 1 1/2 lbs/acre; and (4) Herbicides H-9573 and Stauffer R-4461, experimental compounds, both show promise as pre-emergence crabgrass herbicides.

Windup of the industrial weed and brush section, which came Friday morning before the noon adjournment, was of considerable interest to contract applicants.

Scan Dormant Cane Broadcast

In a talk called "New Tools for Highway Weed and Brush Control" by R. J. Marrese of Diamond Alkali, several significant techniques were examined.

Dr. Marrese's paper was presented by his Diamond colleague, Dr. R. A. Sprayberry.

Increasingly in the contract applicator's eye these days is the concept of dormant cane broadcast. This process involves application of herbicides after late fall and before spring thaw. Chemicals are applied to dormant brush.

One big advantage of dormant cane broadcast, Sprayberry observed, is the increased safety which is a result of the timing which takes place when no valuable crops are growing.

Less obvious to researchers, but equally crucial to contract applicators, is the opportunity to use spraying equipment and personnel all year long. Besides the obvious economic advantage, this could mean spraymen might retain personnel for longer consecutive periods, hence providing industry with more highly trained, qualified
spray operators to cope with the increased demand for industrial weed and brush control by contract firms.

Dr. Sprayberry, utilizing a series of slides, also showed results obtained with Diamond’s new herbicidal formulation, Dacamine, a product described as “safe as amines, effective as esters.” Dacamine can be used during the growing season.

Sprayberry referred his audience to an article which appeared in the January 1963 issue of Weeds and Turf (p. W-19).

It’s important for spraymen to realize, Sprayberry continued, that fast browning is not a characteristic of Dacamine activity. This permits translocation of the chemical into the rootzone, the Cleveland scientist revealed.

More on MH-30

Another product very much in the news is Naugatuck’s MH-30, a growth-regulating chemical which is in wide use on some of the nation’s highway rights-of-way.

Naugatuck researcher Paul Bohne presented delegates with latest data on his company’s product, which has its essential design the curbing of America’s staggering roadside mowing bill, estimated now in excess of $50,000,000.

It is very possible that MH-30 will soon be in use on cemeteries, industrial parks, and other large turf areas, however, Bohne predicted.

Bohne said his company is working with the John Bean Division, FMC, an equipment manufacturing company to develop machines which can effectively and economically apply maleic hydrazide (the common name for Naugatuck’s trademarked MH-30) to these smaller areas. It is even possible MH-30 will find its way to the golf course, Bohne elaborated.

One thing applicators and highway officials must remember, Bohne warned, is that grass which has been treated with MH-30 remains dormant later in the spring than does untreated grass. When the grass greens up, however, it is every bit as attractive as untreated grass, and frequently has a more lush color.

E. W. Muller, landscape architect with the New York Department of Public Works, Cornell, outlined the successful testing he has supervised to discover the practicality of MH-30 on secondary highways.

“Treated secondary highways were considered satisfactory at the end of the growing season even though no mowing had been done,” the landscape expert revealed.

A dramatic and enlightening presentation of the overall effectiveness of a statewide highway weed and brush control program was offered by K. R. Mattern, Assistant Landscape Engineer, Connecticut State Highway Department, Middletown.

After outlining the Connecticut program, which is described as highly effective, economical, safe, and practical, while retaining or enhancing the beauty of the countryside, Mattern flung a gauntlet in front of the harbingers of terror who, through misunderstanding and utter disregard for the facts, have leveled abusive criticism against the use of chemicals for weed control purposes on our highways.

“We will continue to have an herbicide program in the state of Connecticut based on safety and concern for the health of the people and for the maintenance of beautifully and efficiently land.

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scaped highways," the road authority declared.

In a related speech, J. L. Beasley, Highway Landscape Supervisor, Massachusetts Department of Public Works, Boston, described the current turf management program underway in his commonwealth.

Beasley praised some of the current chemicals, such as MH-30, and mentioned products which he uses, such as Urox and Urab, but he spoke cautiously when addressing himself to the chemical industry.

This Massachusetts official feels firms are not engaging in enough research to develop products specifically for the highway market. "The chemical industry today is bypassing our potentially lucrative market," he challenged.

Beasley says Massachusetts uses contract applicators, and has about 140 contracts for roadside work.

Other sources have pegged the Massachusetts budget for this program at $1,500,000.00 yearly.

This year's varied program was too diverse and too detailed to be adequately summed up in a news report, but the entire proceedings have been published by the Northeastern Weed Control Conference and are available for $4.50 a copy. Those wishing to add this volume to their reference material may write to Dr. John Meade, Secretary, Northeastern Weed Control Conference, Department of Agronomy, University of Maryland, College Park.

In charge of the 1963 conference was outgoing president Dr. Donald A. Schallock, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. Dr. Schallock now becomes chairman of the 1964 awards committee.

New president, and the helmsman who'll guide the Northeast weedermen towards their next conference, is A. J. Tafuro, American Cyanamid Co., Princeton, N.J. Second in command is new vice president, Dr. R. A. Peters, University of Connecticut, Storrs. Dr. John Meade is secretary-treasurer again in 1963.

Program chairman will be Dr. G. D. Hill, Jr., E. I. duPont de Nemours, Wilmington, Del. Next year's coordinating committee is headed by Dr. C. J. Noll of Pennsylvania State University, and Geigy Agricultural Chemical's J. Flanagan will head up the important public relations committee.

Sustaining memberships will be guided by A. Lohr of Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Del., and Dr. Don Schallock will head the awards committee, a tradition for the outgoing president of the Northeastern Weed Control Conference.

Dr. Meade told Weeds and Turf that the 1964 conference will be January 8-10 at the Hotel New Yorker in Manhattan. Those who want advance information may communicate directly with Dr. Meade.

Soil Fumigation
(from page W-9)

— producing thick, strong turf in a very short time. Because fumigation produces more vigorous turf, most of the problems with foliage diseases, such as dollar spot and brown patch, are eliminated. The same is true of the summer "browning out" in blue grass so common in certain areas of the country, notably the East.

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