Illinois Publishes Aquatic Plant Guide

"Aquatic Plants of Illinois," a new directory of the water weeds and plants of that state has just been published by the Illinois State Museum and the Department of Conservation. The 142-page book is a result of a 1964-65 study of aquatic plants, during which 1188 collections were made. It updates the previously released "Submerged and Floating Aquatic Plants of Illinois, a Preliminary Illustrated Manual."

With semidiagrammatic drawings keyed for plant identification, the following categories of aquatic plants are included: submerged (growing under water); floating; plants with both submerged and floating leaves or parts; and emersed marsh and marginal plants (standing in water or having some plant parts above water level).

Biggest criteria for inclusion of plants in the booklet was the frequency of occurrence, though some plants infrequently collected are included for information purposes. Indexed by common and scientific names, the booklet is available for $1.25 from the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois 62706. Quantities of 10 or more may be ordered for 75c each.

Weed Killers for Tree Nurseries Affect Soil

Some chemical weed killers can create an imbalance of soil conditions by killing various bacteria, fungi, and nematodes, which influence chemical properties of soils, availability of nutrients, and breakdown of applied pesticides.

Soil productivity can be affected as a result, University of Wisconsin scientists say. They are currently studying the effect of Daichal on beneficial organisms, such as mycorrhizal fungi, and harmful ones, such as damping-off fungi and nematodes.

Daichal, applied at the low rate of 4 lbs. per acre, killed common weeds in red pine, jack pine, and white spruce nurseries without damage to seedlings or soil fungi. Daichal at 12 lbs. per acre killed some bacteria and fungi, though fungi later recovered in the Wisconsin U. experiments.

Pixtone Is Self-Contained

A machine that gathers rocks and debris from fields without using power from the pulling rig has been introduced by Bridgeport Implement Works, Inc.

Named the Pixtone, the machine's own engine powers the stone-picking mechanism. Four to eight-hp. engines are available to meet specific work loads. The unit is equipped with pneumatic tires and has a trailer de-