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Spraymen Need to Organize

Spraymen need a national association. Most belong to state groups, many of which are very effective. But today they have become professional businessmen, and need more than ever to pool their efforts as a national voice.

The spraymen we have talked with are aware of their public image. They know that careful application techniques are mandatory to help that image. They are careful that they render effective service. In short, spraymen are doing much to improve their stature as professionals in a growing and important industry. Yet their state groups have not been able to set up a nationwide organization which could give them the collective influence needed.

Today, spraymen in many states are facing restrictive legislation. Rulings seldom affect only one state. Spraymen constantly face new restrictions which affect every spray operator in the nation.

Naturally, certain restrictive rulings are necessary for the common good. But many times these are made without benefit of the combined experience of spray operators. An association voice, particularly on a national basis, could contribute information which would reflect the effect such rulings would have on the professional spraymen.

We happen to believe that spraymen can protect their interests and at the same time remain aware of the rights of the citizenry. We believe they can best do this when they are heard in unison; that is, when they speak as a national group.

Most lawmakers are perfectly willing to discuss problems with the individual, particularly when he is a constituent. But we can't believe that the individual will be likely to get action as readily as if he were speaking for a group.

Legislation is but one of the important benefits of national association. Many others can be cited. For example, association programs serve as a central outlet for new information. New research, methods, equipment, business management, and trends across the country become immediately available to the active association member. Help for unusual problems is within easy reach as needed.

We sincerely hope that spraymen, because of the importance of their profession to the nation, will shortly organize nationally.

WEEDS TREES AND TURF is the national monthly magazine of urban/industrial vegetation maintenance, including turf management, weed and brush control, and tree care. Readers include "contract applicators," arborists, nurserymen, sod growers, and supervisory personnel with highway departments, railways, utilities, golf courses, and similar areas where vegetation must be enhanced or controlled.

WEEDS TREES AND TURF, March, 1968