HRI Study Reveals Scope of Nursery Industry

The American Association of Nurserymen's Horticultural Research Institute has made available, for the first time, information that measures the economic size and scope of the nursery industry.

A summary of the HRI project—entitled "Scope of the Nursery Industry"—contains data regarding all types of nursery businesses, from wholesale operations to landscape, mail order and garden centers. Figures presented include employment profiles, job classifications, payrolls, production acreage, chemical and equipment uses and business profiles of all types.

The study, for example, reveals that wholesale nursery growers spend over $13 million annually on fertilizer and pest control chemicals: $8 million on fertilizers, $2 million on weed killers, $2 million on insecticides and $1 million on fungicides. Preliminary figures of the summary also indicate that retail nursery stock sales during 1966 amounted to over $1.6 billion.

The entire "Scope" summary may be obtained by sending $3 to: Horticultural Research Institute, 833 Southern Building, Washington, D. C. 20005. Copies are free to HRI members.

American Golf Courses Stricken with Blight

Pythium Blight—also known as "cottony blight"—is a grass-killing fungus that is causing fairways and greens of golf courses across the nation to be closed for repairs, according to a survey by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The disease is most aggressive in moisture-saturated atmospheres where temperatures range between 85°F and 95°F, says GCSAA. It has no known cause or cure, nor are there any preventive measures for curbing it. Chemical programs may contain the fungus briefly, according to the survey, but the surest "stopper" is cool, dry weather. This unfortunately leaves the golf superintendent at the mercy of the uncontrollable weather.

A whitish cobwebby substance forms in and on top of infected turf in early morning. With the rising of the sun, the turf becomes water-soaked, with the darkened fungus giving off a greasy appearance. Later in the day the "web" disappears, and the infected leaves take on a tan to red color. In early infection periods, these spots run in streaks, following the surface drainage patterns of the links.

The most seriously damaged courses, the survey notes, are in the following areas: metropolitan St. Louis and the remainder of the crabgrass belt, ranging from Kansas City to Washington D. C.; the Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati areas plus the Carolinas; central Illinois and central Indiana.

New Fertilizer Packet Regulated by Weather

Wisconsin's S & D Products, Inc. is now manufacturing the recently developed "Root Contact Paket," a slow-release fertilizer.

Improved plant survival, increased shoot growth and lower replacement costs are among the advantages of using the new packet fertilizer, says its developer, Professor O. J. Attoo, Soils Department, University of Wisconsin.

The packet is a heat-sealed, polyethylene-paper envelope containing specified quantities of water-soluble (16-8-16) fertilizer. Upon planting, the packet is placed unopened next to plant roots. Soil vapor enters micropore "pinholes" in the