500 feet diameter. The Turbo-Rain moves on four pneumatic implement tires.

Maintenance on the machine is slight, according to Baker. There are five grease fittings to service and the grease in the gear-box must be changed periodically.

The pumping equipment can be any standard type. The water flow must be reduced to four inches for the 630 feet of non-stretch 4-inch mobile hose, which reaches to the Turbo-Rain unit.

For handling the hose, the unit includes a two-wheeled hose reel, which can be pulled by a tractor or truck and is operated by power take-off. It can lay the hose in the center of the row or at the side of the row. Also for handling the mobile hose are two capstands, usually placed at the ends of the runs to guide the pipe on turns.

The company also makes a model of the Turbo-Rain for groves or orchards with tall trees. On that model the water gun is located much higher and the machine is equipped with counter-balancing tanks to compensate for the greater height of the unit.

Hydro Equipment Co., is a division of Superheater Sales Co., which produces a crop protection system.


Tree Odor May Help Solve Air Pollution

Strange as it may sound, the taste and smell of trees may provide the key to solving many of the problems man faces today.

James Hanover, associate professor of forestry at Michigan State University, says that leaves and stems of trees give off vapors which often result in a unique odor associated with individual trees, species and large forests.

Only recently, the potential significance of these vapors for problems of insect attraction, human allergy, atmospheric contamination and ecological regulation has been realized.

An instrument called the gas chromatograph, which is far more sensitive than the human nose, is being used to measure tree odors and determine their chemical composition. Further study of the different odors given off by different trees will give insight into specific ecological problems.

“Corresponding measurements of the ‘taste’ of internal chemicals of tree tissues are also being conducted,” says Hanover. “Eventually, the chemical codes which determine whether certain trees are resistant or susceptible to damaging diseases or insects may be unraveled and used to improve the environment.”

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