

## Another Alternative for Weed Control

# FLAME WEEDING

**WEED CONTROL** is becoming increasingly frustrating. Chemicals are accused of leaving residues. Biological controls are as yet impractical. Few desirable plants are omnipotent over weeds. Mowers can't be operated everywhere. So what else is there?

One company with more than 150 centers around the country says there's "flame weeding."

Suburban Propane Gas Corporation of Whippany, N. J., calls flame weeding with LP gas—propane—one of the most economical, safe and effective ways of dealing with weeds.

Here is how Mae D. Aucello, director of public relations, describes the fundamentals, application and advantages of flame weeding:

This method completely annihilates annual weeds by exploding the cellular structure of the plant. Propane's hot flame produces immediate results at the point of contact, without needlessly burning the surrounding areas. The main products of propane combustion—carbon dioxide and water—leave no harmful residual matter in the soil or air.

Despite the inherent "burn" nature of this method of weeding, it is being used effectively for destroying weeds along fences, tree borders, water bodies, drainage ditches, golf course roughs and sand traps, flower bed edges, road verges, around buildings and monuments, in service yards, on rugged terrain and in many other hard-to-maintain areas.

Flame weeding also is the perfect tool where control and not complete destruction is the object. It is excellent for banks and ditches where brush and weed control is a definite problem, yet a root system must be maintained in order to avoid erosion of the soil.

Flaming also is a simply way to control weeds before they become fire hazards along roadways and in unplanted areas. At the same time, it safely eliminates trash, unwanted plant growth, overgrown hedges and other materials in which disease-bearing organisms, insects, mites and rodents breed.

In these days of escalating labor costs, hand cutting, weeding and subsequent clearing or finishing of an area often are prohibitively expensive. One man with one tank of propane and flame weeding equipment can, in a few hours, dispose of weed problems that normally would require weeks of attention. Only one person is needed to accomplish weed control and debris destruction jobs ranging from large ground-clearing operations to the most delicate, time-consuming chores normally requiring hand labor. Furthermore, this work can be done any time, even in the rain, when other methods would be impossible.

A consistent, well-planned program of LP-gas flame weed control gets right to the "heart" of the weed problem, cures it and leaves no "post-operative" complications.

Various terms are used to denote



Suburban Propane has two basic equipment plans. One is a three-foot torch and 100 lb. cylinder mounted on a cart for intermittent light to medium flaming. The other is a



trailer-mounted tank (325 to 500 gal., water capacity) easily towed by tractor or utility vehicle. Flaming destroys weeds by exploding the cellular structure of the plant.

methods of LP-gas weed control. "Non-selective burning" is the term applied when flame is used not only to kill weeds and annual grasses but also to kill-burn tops of perennial plants and row crops. "Pre-emergence burning" denotes the use of flame on a seeded area after weeds have come up, but just prior to the emergence of the seeded crops. This can kill a large percentage of weeds without damage to the crops themselves. "Selective burning" is the careful removal of weeds or other matter from specifically designated areas.

Suburban Propane, a pioneer in the LP-gas industry, has done much to popularize the economical "non-selective burning" method of weed control, which is finding increasing acceptance with golf courses, race tracks, parks, campsites, railroads, airports, cemeteries, apartment complexes, institutions and other establishments. Operation of approved LP-gas flame weeding equipment requires only minimal instruction.

One of the most complete flame weeding programs is offered by Suburban Propane, a major distributor of LP-gas with more than 150 centers in 33 states. Its over-all program includes a free demonstration at the prospective customer's location, providing the necessary equipment, training personnel, and scheduling delivery of propane to suit the customer's needs. Two basic equipment plans are offered by the company. The first, for intermittent light flaming to medium flaming, includes a 3 ft. "torch" and a 100-pound cylinder of propane which may be mounted on an easily maneuverable cart. The other, for medium to heavy-duty work, features an 8 ft. or 12 ft. "torch" and a 325- or 500-gallon (water capacity) tank of propane mounted on a fully equipped two- or four-wheel trailer, which may be easily towed by a tractor or utility vehicle. All equipment includes accessory fittings and has been approved by government regulatory agencies.

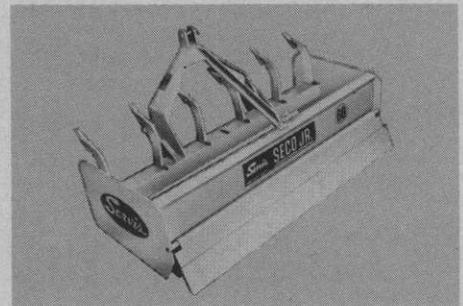
Many customers have bulk storage tanks installed on their own property from which the portable cylinder or tank can be refilled. This offers a convenient solution to a number of other problems because it represents an immediately available supply of propane for additional uses such as motor fuel for tractors, lift trucks and other internal combustion engines.

Further information may be obtained by circling (719) on the reader service card.

# the budget scrapers

Servis' Automatic Lift-Trip Scraper pays for itself in time and work saved. Without leaving the seat, the operator can scarify and scrape at the same time...or level, grade, and backfill independently. Scarifier teeth raise and lock automatically when the box is raised. Teeth stay up until the operator "trips" the easy-to-reach handle. It's the most versatile and most productive box scraper on the market. Available in 66" and 72" models.

The SECO, JR. is a heavy-duty scraper for contractors who seldom need scarifiers. It saves money on the original investment. Scarifier shanks and teeth can be easily installed manually later, in either up or down position. Available in 66" and 72" models.



**Servis**

**SERVIS EQUIPMENT COMPANY**  
Post Office Box 1590 Dallas, Texas 75221

