

# WT&T GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## Safety reg for mowers poses market problems

Severe disruptions will occur within the lawn mower industry because of the recent decision by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to deny an extension on the effective date of a new federal safety standard, according to Dennis C. Dix, executive director of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute.

Confusion will hit the marketplace, Dix says, because the availability of a reliable brake/clutch device is still in doubt, especially by the Dec. 31, 1981 compliance date. Power mowers manufactured after that date must comply with the requirement that the blade stop within three seconds after a user leaves the operating position.

"We were extremely disappointed in the Commission's decision," said Dix. "The industry is conducting an all-out testing effort but manufacturers must begin tooling immediately to meet the standard, and because many companies are not close to having a reliable device, they are faced with the very real possibility of going out of business

or dropping their walk-behind line of mowers."

A spokesman from Jacobsen echoed Dix's remarks. He said the company knows of various companies who are working on the device, but nobody yet has it perfected. Compliance will raise the cost of Jacobsen mowers an estimated \$40 to \$60.

A Toro spokesman estimated the same increase in price after the brake/clutch device has been installed. Toro does not anticipate any difficulty in ob-

taining the extra hardware, mainly because the company is developing its own.

Dix noted that the effective date of the regulation falls in the middle of the industry's normal production year with the result that the consumer will be offered a choice between complying and non-complying mowers in the marketplace for the 1982 mowing season. Of course, the non-complying will be cheaper, pressuring sales of the major mower companies.

### GATHERING

#### Northeast nurserymen combine meetings

The recent experiment of the Massachusetts and New England Nurserymen's Association to combine their summer meeting was a tremendous success, drawing 800 people.

Beautiful weather, well-organized activities, exhibitor displays, and an attractive site—Weston Nurseries, Hopkinton, MA—contributed to the day's success. Weston, the largest wholesale grower in Massachusetts with 500 acres under cultivation, is well-known for introducing new varieties of plants and experimenting with different methods of growing. The boards of directors of the two associations decided to combine the two meetings since they had been held previously in the state a week apart. Their success indicates this event will likely occur next year.

### TURF

#### Golf Show will top all past in exhibit space

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show has already filled more exhibit hall space than any previous meetings in the group's history.

This year's meeting, scheduled for the Anaheim Convention Center Jan. 24-30, starts with a preconference golf tournament on two of the West Coast's best golf courses. It continues with seven preconference seminars, three days of education sessions, the USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Conference, and a golf course tour.

Preconference seminars will run Jan. 24-25 and concern nutrition, disease, insect identification, irrigation, management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and photography. The show itself is scheduled for Jan. 27-29 and will feature more than 70,000 square feet of exhibit space filled with equipment, products, and services. Throughout the week, experts in turfgrass, equipment, and related fields will speak.

GCSAA has planned a ladies program, social events, such as a trip to Disneyland, and a seven-day tour of Hawaii after the show. For more information, contact GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044, 913/841-2240.

### PESTS

#### Study shows severe gypsy moth damage

Gypsy moths defoliated Northeast trees growing on 5.1 million acres of land from Maine to Maryland this year.

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A product service training certification program has been established by Jacobsen to teach students proficiency in turf care equipment maintenance and repair. Students receive award certificates and product service patches by completing each of three levels of training. Ralph Sylvester, Jr. (right) manager of product training, explains operation of greens care equipment at a previously held program.