Fla. PC Rules Preoccupy Spraymen
At Last Month’s HSAF Convention

“The Horticultural Spraymen’s Association of Florida and the Florida Pest Control Association will have to band together to protect their interests in legislative matters in the coming year,” Dempsey Sapp, State Pest Control Commissioner from Gainesville, told delegates at the opening session of the 1966 HSAF convention and trade show, in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., November 3 and 4.

With all its activities, including speeches, panel discussions, and the annual banquet, compressed into a two-day schedule, HSAF brimmed with predictions of closer cooperation with the FPCA and of a possible legislative battle to defend the newly revised Florida Pest Control Act, and its protective provisions for both public and industry pros.

Sapp traced briefly the background of the law, which became effective July 1, 1965, and which includes lawn and ornamental spraymen as well as structural pest controllers. Basically, the law requires anyone performing pest control work as a business to obtain an operator’s license from the five-man state Commission.

To qualify for a license, an individual must pass an examination made up and administered by the Commission, or he may have been included under a “grandfather clause” designed to protect capable practicing applicants at the time the law went into effect.

“The greatest task will be to educate both the public and those in the industry in the provisions of the new law,” commissioner Sapp said. Too many operators, prospective operators, and others still do not fully understand its provisions. In its capacity of reviewing complaints against operators, the Commission holds both informal and formal hearings throughout the state. In many cases, Sapp pointed out, corrective action initiated at the hearing has proved sufficient. If necessary, however, the Commission has the power to suspend or revoke licenses, certificates, and identification cards. Chairman of the Commission is Sam Walkup, of Orkin Exterminating Co., Orlando, who introduced Sapp’s talk. Larry Nipp, HSAF president, also sits on the Commission.

Enforcement of legal provisions is primarily the responsibility of the Florida State Board of Health. Outlining these regulations to the group was F. R. DuChaniots, board member. He stressed that label registrations are “the final word” on which chemicals can be used for lawn and ornamental spraying. Use of any chemicals not registered for this purpose is prohibited, and the operator is required to maintain in his office files specimen labels of those chemicals he employs.

Short But Challenging History

From recognition of damage caused by chinch bugs to Florida lawns; from the beginnings of chemical research; from the discovery of nematodes and such diseases as dollar spot; from the proper use of chemicals and the appearance of chemical resistances, the history of the lawn and ornamental spray industry in Florida is not a long one, but it has been challenging. This was the judgement of Dr. Gene Nutter, veteran turf expert from Jacksonville, as he and Ralph Jones, Wilson & Toomer Fertilizer Co., Jacksonville, discussed new trends in the industry.

Heretofore, most businesses have placed emphasis on residential spraying, particularly for chinch bugs. But, the Florida sprayman is beginning to branch out into other areas and to offer other services, including weed control, lawn renovation, fertilization, pruning, etc. Most spraymen still emphasize curative programs, but interest is growing in selling preventive maintenance.

Spraymen are also finding non-residential opportunities to supplement home lawn and ornamental work. Industrial weed control is a prime opportunity for horticultural spraymen because they already have the necessary labor and equipment, Nutter pointed out. Roadsides, airfields, and military grounds are other areas where spraymen
need to look to see what can be done, Jones added in the back-and-forth exchange of ideas on industry opportunities. Another strong possibility lies in the area of aquatic weed control, and this is particularly true of Florida, the speakers agreed.

Personnel shortages and a highly competitive business atmosphere also face the industry. These problems have been around for some time, but they are likely to become more severe. The individual sprayman will have to shoulder more of the burden of finding and training promising help. And, he will have to realize that “the honeymoon is over in business,” Jones said. The sprayman will have to know where his business is making money and where it is not, and then take the necessary steps to correct the situation. Predicting that prices charged will probably come down rather than up, Jones suggested that the operator’s living may well depend more on what he can save than on what he can make.

**Florida Grasses Reviewed**

Kicking off the morning session as the convention moved into its second day of talks, Ralph White, of Ousley Sod Co., Pompano Beach, reviewed for delegates the common Florida lawn grasses. All have their uses and their problems, White emphasized, and the lawn sprayman must know what these are. Otherwise, the customer will not be satisfied and may turn away from lawn grasses entirely, preferring such nonlawns as colored concrete.

Turning his attention to individual grasses, White noted that carpetgrass has no place in southern Florida; centipedegrass is not extremely shade and wear tolerant, can’t be managed too closely, and is quite susceptible to brown patch fungus. Bahia-grass is susceptible to weed invasion and produces high, unsightly seed spikes during its reproduction period in fall; nematodes and certain diseases can become a problem in zoysiagrass; lawn caterpillars are the biggest problem in bermudagrass, and nematodes usually appear if the grass has been planted in an area for a long time; St. augustinegrass is apt to be severely damaged by chinch bugs and often accumulates very heavy thatch in well-fertilized and watered lawns.

Tackling the problem of what to do about thatch accumulation in St. augustinegrass, Lew Watson, Broward County Agricultural Agent, advised conventioners that “the key to successful renovation is to do it before too much thatch has accumulated.” The secret is not to pull up too much at one time. For this reason, knives of vertical mowers should be set no closer than about 3 in. apart.

Here is Watson’s schedule for successful lawn renovation: 1. Investigate grass closely for insects, nematodes, and fungus, and if found treat this problem first, allowing time for the grass to recover sufficiently before renovating; 2. Fertilize 10 days to two weeks ahead of verticutting; 3. Aerate if possible and practical; 4. Verticut, being careful not to take out too much; 5. Rake, then vacuum, and 6. Apply herbicides—atrazine and simazine work well when applied about 10 days to two weeks after renovating.

**No Homeowner Mowers**

Lawn mowers for the homeowner are designed to be used about 30 hours per year, Art Griffes, of House and Garden Lawn Service, Ft. Lauderdale, pointed out in his talk on lawn maintenance equipment. For this reason, home mowers are not suitable for a lawn service, since they require too much maintenance. Griffes urged prospective buyers to test machinery under actual use conditions before making the purchase, and once the equipment is on the payroll, the lawn serviceman should keep complete records on each item so he will know just how much it is costing to operate.

When buying lawn equipment, consider first the size and maneuverability of the machine. Griffes suggested that the labor shortage and time savings pos-
Monthly Insect Report

WTW's compilation of insect problems occurring in turfgrasses, trees, and ornamentals throughout the country.

Turf Insects

FALL ARMYWORM (Spodoptera frugiperda)
Texas: Buildup continues in eastern portion of state; moderate to heavy in Kaufman, Hunt, and Gillespie Counties on lawns. Buildup expected to continue until frost.

GREEN JUNE BEETLE (Cotinis nitida)
Oklahoma: Larvae heavy and damaging turf in small areas in Tulsa County.

BILBUGS
Kansas: (Sphenophorus venatus vestitus) Larvae and adults noted in old Zoysia lawns in Johnson and Sedgwick Counties. Utah: (Sphenophorus parvulus) Spreading and damaging lawns in Salt Lake County.

FALSE CHINCH BUG (Nysius ericea)
Idaho: Nymphs nuisance on lawns at Lewiston, Nez Perce County.

STRUATOMYID FLY (Altermetoponia rubriceps)
California: Heavy in Westwood Terrace district of San Francisco County; lawns showing damage, large swarms of adults occurring.

WHITE GRUBS (Phyllophaga spp.)
Alabama: Larvae damaged root systems of grass sod at Madison County Golf Course; controls necessary.

SNAIL (Vallonia pulchella)
California: Heavy in lawn and turf at Carmel, Monterey County.

Insects of Ornamentals

BAGWORM (Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis)

FALSE POWDER-POST BEETLE (Melalgus confertus)
California: Larvae occurring in Conadria fig nursery stock in Grass Valley, Nevada County.

ROUNDHEADED WOOD BORERS (Obera tripunctata)
Alabama: Larvae injuring twigs and smaller limbs of isolated dogwoods on lawns in Lee County. Virginia: Larvae infesting twigs of dogwoods and lilacs in Chesapeake.

ROXELDER BUG (Leptocoris trivittatus)
Texas: Moderate to heavy on many shade trees and ornamental plants in southern portion of Hood County.

SALT-MARSH CATERPILLAR (Estigmene acrea)
Florida: Moderate on 150 palms (Phoenix roebelenii) inspected in nursery in Davie, Broward County. Larvae cutting new growth out at tops of palms.

VARIABLE OAK LEAF CATERPILLAR (Heterocampa manteo)
Oklahoma: Heavy on many ornamental oaks in Payne County.

SPIDER MITES (Tetranychus sp.)
Wyoming: Large numbers present on ornamental junipers at Torrington, Goshen County.

IO MOTH (Automeris io)
Florida: Infesting 50% of Izora coccine and completely defoliating some at nursery in Davie, Broward County.

ARMORED SCALES (Unaspis euonymi)
Alabama: Heavy on old euonymus plantings in Lee County. Virginia: Heavy on euonymus at home in Haynesville, Richmond County.

WHITE PEACH SCALE (Pseudaulacaspis pentagona)
Alabama: Heavy on ornamental mulberry and cottonwood trees in Clay County.

ELM LEAF BEETLE (Pyrhhalta luteola)
Nevada: Light on elm in Eureka, Eureka County for second known infested area in county. Infestation and damage in Tonopah, Nye County, and Panaca, Lincoln County, heavier than in 1965. New Mexico: Serious on elm trees in Albuquerque area, Bernalillo County. Damage more common on Chinese Elm Trees than other elms. Some homeowners removing this species because of the pest.

Texas: Light on most Chinese Elms in Upton County. Utah: Defoliated about 25% elm trees at Kanab, Kane County.

LEAFHOPPER (Opsius stactogalus)
California: Adults heavy on tamarisk trees in Dos Palos, Merced County.

SAWFLY (Calistro lineata)
Texas: Larvae heavy on oak trees near Houston, Harris County.

FALL WEBWORM (Hyphantria cunea)
New Mexico: Moderate to heavy, causing partial to complete defoliation of poplar, pecan, and elm trees throughout Doña Ana County. Virginia: Medium on sweetgum in Churchland area, Chesapeake. Larvae infesting sycamore trees and seeking overwintering sites around trees and buildings.

Ind. Treemen, Nurserymen Plan Jan. Joint Meeting

From 350 to 400 arborists and nurserymen are expected to attend the midwinter meetings of the Indiana Arborist Assn. and the Indiana Assn. of Nurserymen, being held concurrently at the Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Jan. 4-6.

Don Surber, National Cash Register Co., Toledo, Ohio, is scheduled to talk to both groups on “Profit Planning.” Other speakers are Professor Glen Lehker, Purdue University, Lafayette, who will discuss “Pesticide Safety”; Dr. C. J. Carter, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Ill., slated to delineate some “Uncommon or Unusual Tree Diseases”; and Professor H. W. Gilbert, Purdue, who will consider “Trees for Streets.”

January Tree Planting to Mark N.Y. Arborists’ Meet

A tree planting ceremony, unusual for January, will take place when the New York State Arborists Assn. meets at the Concord Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, N.Y., Jan. 15-17. Not just a ceremony, it will show participants the proper techniques for winter plantings.

Moderated panel discussions on “Community Appreciation of Shade Trees” and “Legislation Affecting Arborists” will lead off on Sunday, Jan. 15, educational program. Monday will feature a look at “The Arborist Through Consumer Eyes,” and a roundtable discussion, to be chaired by Professor Carl F. Gortzig, of Cornell University, Ithaca, on “Trees and Their Care in 1967.” Also planned are sessions on work procedures and safety, which are to be developed both by commentary and audience participation.

For more information, contact William H. Schwab, Secretary, Hudson Valley Chapter, New York State Arborist Association, P.O. Box 321, Millbrook, N.Y.

LADYSTHUMB
(Polygonum persicaria)

Ladysthumb smartweed is also known as persicary, heartweed, and spotted knotweed. A seed-producing annual, ladysthumb is a common weed in the northern United States and southern Canada.

The plant is most frequently found in waste places, along roadsides and ditches, and in cultivated ground, particularly in low, wet areas.

Stems of ladysthumb are smooth and fleshy and are sometimes slightly hairy. Widely branched stems grow 6 inches to 3 feet tall.

Leaves, shown in (1), are alternate and pointed at both ends. A triangular dark spot is usually found in the middle of the leaves. Smooth-edged and 1 to 6 inches long, leaves are attached at the base to a sheath that extends around the stem (2). Sheaths are smooth and fringed with short bristles.

Flowers are pink to purple and are borne on dense, round spikes, ½ to 2 inches long, at the ends of the stems. The plant flowers in the period, June to October.

Seeds (3) are heart shaped and may be flattened or 3-sided. Shiny, black seeds are about 3/32 inch long and are produced from July to November. Seeds are frequently found in clover and small grain seeds.

Ladysthumb can usually be partially controlled by mowing when the flowers first appear. Good control may be obtained by using low-volatile esters of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T at the rate of 1 pound per acre. For maximum results, chemicals should be applied when plants are small. Under favorable conditions, first application will kill young weeds. Otherwise, further application is necessary for control.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland

(DRAWING FROM NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PUBLICATION NO. 36, USDA EXTENSION SERVICE)
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Over 110 Research Papers Due for Jan. NEWCC Meet

More than 110 scientific papers will be presented when some 800 weed experts from 13 states gather Jan. 4 to 6 for the 21st Annual Northeastern Weed Control Conference, at the Hotel Commodore in New York City.

In addition to research reports, representatives from government, industry, universities, research institutions, regulatory agencies, and other areas will delve into the many phases of weed and control problems. NEWCC's program will emphasize latest developments and information pertaining to weed control in turf, ornamentals, forests, roadsides, industrial sites, railroad and power company rights-of-way, and aquatic environments, as well as in agronomic crops.

Final details for the 1987 meeting, one of four regional weed conferences held each year in the U.S., are firm and can be obtained by writing to Dr. Arthur Bing, Secretary-Treasurer, Northeastern Weed Control Con-
HS AF Convention Report (from page 42)

Relay Panelists Answer Queries

Concluding HSAF's educational sessions, a panel of experts, so large it was divided into two sections, took questions from the floor. First team consisted of Dr. John Cabler, Turf-Grass Specialities, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. T. E. Freeman, Associate Plant Pathologist, University of Florida, Gainesville; Dr. Stratton Kerr, Associate Entomologist, University of Florida, Gainesville; and Doug Palmer, Junior College of Broward County, Ft. Lauderdale.

What is new for brown patch control? the panel was asked. Rohm & Haas' Fore and Diamond Alkali's Daconil 2787 look promising, was Dr. Freeman's reply. What new chemicals look good for chinch bug control? Dursban from Dow and Akton from Shell have given good control at the rate of 1 lb. active ingredient per acre, Dr. Kerr said. Akton is available only with an experimental label for testing.

What are the prospects for a fungicide that will control all fungus diseases? Dr. Freeman expressed doubts that such a fungicide will be developed. In all likelihood, various chemicals will still be required for optimum control of the different fungi. Several of the broadest spectrum fungicides on the market now are Fore, Daconil, Thiram, and the organic mercury compounds.

What about reference guides for control of insect pests in Florida? The University of Florida's "Insect Control Guide," covers all up-to-date recommendations, Dr. Kerr replied. This book can be obtained for $5.00, which includes supplementary information as it is made available, from James Brodog, Extension Entomologist, Department of Entomology, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Taking the baton at midpoint in the question and answer session were Dr. Evert Burt, Associate Turf Technologist, Plantation Field Laboratory, Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. Thomas Stringfellow, also from the field lab; Al Wills, Junior College of Broward County, Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. Huey Borders, Plantation; Dr. Tom Kochis, Plantation; and Lew Watson. Questions came thick and fast during the panel session, which was moderated by Ralph White, who was later named a director of HSAF for the coming two years at the business meeting.

Others chosen for key association offices included Larry Nipp, American Power Spray Co., Ft. Lauderdale, who will serve a second term as HSAF president; Craig Anderson, The Professional Sprayer, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale, who moved into the newly created position of president-elect; Ray Meyers, American Power Spray, Orlando, who becomes vice president; and Bill Murray, Greenlawn Spray Service, Lake Worth, who was named secretary-treasurer for the coming two years at the business meeting.

But the convention was not all business, as the large turnout of almost 150 discovered at the annual banquet, the biggest yet, held in the host hotel, Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. With longtime sprayman Charlie Johnson, of Charlie P. Johnson Spray Service Co., Inc., Miami, and Willard Fifefield, Director of the Florida Agricultural Research Institute, Gainesville, as master of ceremonies and guest speaker, no dinner could end on a dour note. In a genial mood, HSAF members filtered from the hotel to return to the task of improving their industry in the state of Florida.

Trimmings

Topless Illustration. A frequent correspondent of ours has written in to ask what happened to the top of the photograph that appeared on page 24 of WTT's November issue. A group illustration of past presidents of the North Central Weed Control Conference, the photo was cropped just above the head of '65 president, Dr. Gideon Hill, of duPont Chemical Co. Now, we note that Dr. Hill just happened to be the tallest participant in the photo. And, we might add that we're not in the habit of changing pictures, preferring to leave this to interior decorators" journals. However, in truth, this would only be a half-truth. Those who have seen the ballroom of the Hotel Astor, longtime meeting place of the NEWCC, may recall the semidraped maidens adorning the walls. In defense of our cut, we quote Dr. Homer LeBaron, conference public relations chairman, of Geigy Agricultural Chemicals Corp.: "I might have written in passing that the background of this photograph was somewhat coincidental, but I hope it will not prevent your magazine from being distributed in the U.S. That troubles us is that the background was only "somewhat" coincidental, and we're wondering what we'll run into when the NEWCC meets next January 4 to 6. Of course, the Hotel Astor will be no more, and we assume the maidens will be shipped off to a research museum. But then there's always the possibility they are being removed to the Hotel Commodore, where Northeast weedmen will meet in '67. Shuddering thought.

Year Round Use for Yule Tree. With the holiday season close upon us, we hear that some cities plan to provide their residents with discarded Christmas trees. City chippers will chew up trees and homeowners will receive the chips for mulching their trees and shrubs. Sounds like a good idea, but it still doesn't remove the vexing necessity of taking down the Christmas tree, most unpleasant task of the holiday season. Wonder when someone will invent ornaments suitable for mulch?

Bit of the Auld Sod. Recently received some correspondence from County Down, Ireland, pertaining to the 18th Cen. practice of planting sod at the rate of 4 acres per 100 acres. By the 19th Cen. the practice had spread to the U.S., and today we see the results. County Down's recent communication is aimed at improving the quality of turf at the county level, with an emphasis on using sod. The author also laments the decline of the traditional Irish kiss, a practice that has been associated with the use of sod in the past. It is hoped that this communication will be of interest to our readers who are interested in the history and culture of sod.
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