Florida To License 'Restricted Pesticide' Applicators

To lessen the likelihood of more accidents involving highly toxic pesticides, Florida's legislature has passed a law to keep these chemicals out of the hands of unauthorized users.

Legislation becomes effective Jan. 1, 1970. Purpose of the bill is to regulate the sale, purchase, use, and possession of certain "restricted pesticides." It will also require dealers and purchasers to have licenses or permits, explains Entomologist James E. Brogdon with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Restricted pesticide, he said, means any material which the Florida Department of Agriculture finds to be hazardous to man and his environment, or to animals or crops, with the exception of the pest or vegetation the pesticide is supposed to destroy, Brogdon said.

The list of restricted pesticides has not been determined, but a committee has been named to compile a list between now and October.

When it becomes effective, the bill will make it unlawful (1) to sell or distribute restricted pesticides without a license, (2) to purchase, use or possess restricted pesticides without a permit, and (3) to purchase, use or dispose of restricted pesticides or their containers in a manner other than that stated on the purchase permit or on the label.

Furthermore, Brogdon explained, restricted pesticides may only be purchased or used under an annual permit from the Department of Agriculture, or by a license. Such permits will be issued by the Commissioner on a form supplied by him. Authorization for a permit to purchase or use these highly toxic chemicals shall be based on a certificate issued by the County Agricultural Extension Agent, or any other person designated by the Commissioner.

Persons wishing to obtain such a permit must be certified as bona-fide users of restricted pesticides necessary for the operation of agricultural businesses.

Similarly, each person holding or offering for sale such restricted pesticides must obtain a license from the Commissioner. All licenses and permits will have to be renewed each year on July 1.

Finally, Brogdon said, the Commissioner may refuse, revoke, or suspend the permit or license of anyone who has violated any law or rule upon which these authorizations were issued.

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THE CHIPPER WITH THE TRADEMARK
THE AMERICAN Sod Producers Association continued its winning ways with an excellent field day this last month. Held at Princeton Turf Farms, Cranbury, N.J., the event was the third major demonstration in as many years for this young organization.

Popularity of the production and harvesting equipment on display is the fact that growers come from every section of the country to see equipment in action and to talk the business. At this field day—and the same was true last year at Shamrock Turf Nurseries—growers attended from 28 states. They also came from Canada, South Africa, and Puerto Rico. A mid-morning count of people on the grounds exceeded 350. Twenty-one companies were on hand with demonstration equipment.

Field day demonstrations included all types of mowers—even the new English Allett with opposed spiral reel; sweepers; booms; fork lifts; sod cutters; harvesters; rollers; and even a new type sod-laying machine plus a variety of miscellaneous equipment.

Wiley Miner, president of Princeton Turf and of ASPA, served as host at his headquarters farm. His entire producer staff headed by General Manager Elwood Tantum and Field Foreman Vince Grubb assisted. Dr. Henry Indyk, executive...
A crowd of 350 persons attended the action-type field day. Despite light showers and the threat of heavier rain, visitors spent the entire day at the Princeton Turf Farm field day site.

Russell Rose, Ryan Equipment Co., talks about sweeper and vacuum models.

Ray Johnson, Shamrock Turf Nurseries, Inc., demonstrates the Big 'J' sod harvester.

The Nunes sod harvester demonstrated how it could either roll sod or fold it on pallets.
secretary of ASPA, set up a 3-day program. A turfgrass research tour was made August 4 at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, with a banquet and formal meeting during the evening. The field event was held Aug. 5 followed by an optional tour of USDA turf research at Beltsville, Md., on Aug. 6.

Joe McDermott, Loveland Lawns, Omaha, Neb., was elected a new director. He fills the director's seat vacated by Louis DeLea, Long Island, N.Y., grower. McDermott, a nationally recognized producer, also serves as president of the Midwest Turfgrass Growers Association, a regional group of growers from four midwestern states.

Plans for the coming year were discussed during the formal banquet meeting. A number of growers wish to expand the summer field day to a full 3-day event. This type program is being considered for the Chicago area for 1970. WTT will carry further news as plans are formulated.

Member growers still face their greatest challenge in recruiting new members for the Association. Interest is greater than ever, as evidenced by the enthusiasm and attendance at the New Jersey program. Many believe that sod growers will readily join if they are contacted and appraised of the benefits. Growers are needed to make possible a number of new Association programs planned for improving the industry. During the coming year, Executive Secretary Indyk will be making additional contacts with growers as will present members.
Lawn, Garden Week Plans Announced

Triumphs of home and community gardeners — and their contributions to a more livable America — will be recognized during National Lawn and Garden Week 1970.

This second annual observance, sponsored by USDA, begins on Mar. 20, the first day of spring, and continues through Mar. 26.

National Lawn and Garden Week will herald a series of "Growing With America" gardening events throughout the nation during the spring months.

The theme of the springtime observances will be developed in three stages:

1) Plan to Grow (March) — a time to celebrate National Lawn and Garden Week and to announce local programs for the spring months;

2) Plant for Proper Growth (April) — the occasion to conduct or sponsor garden clinics in local communities; and

3) Pick a Growing Project (May) — awards for home and community projects that add most to more attractive homes, suburbs, schools, or city parks.

W. Atlee Burpee III, representing industry and non-government groups, will serve as co-chairman of the garden week committee with Harold R. Lewis, director of information, USDA. Committee members represent USDA, local government groups, interested trade associations, garden clubs, and civic associations.

Meeting Dates

Dates for this column need to reach the editor's desk by the 10th of the month preceding the date of publication.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute Turfgrass Field Days, V.P.I. Experimental Plots, Blacksburg, Va., Sept. 3-4.

Annual Turfgrass Field Day, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Sept. 4.

Lawn and Ornamental Days, The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Sept. 9-10.

Michigan State University Sod Producers' first field day at the Muck Experimental Farm northeast of East Lansing, Sept. 10.

Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Inc., field day and open house, South Lincoln Avenue turf plots, Urbana, Ill., Sept. 12.


Midwest Regional Turf Foundation field day, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., Sept. 29.

New York State Federation of Golf Course Superintendents, Annual Turf Conference, Concord Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, N.Y., Oct. 5-7.


Central Plains Turf Conference, Kansas State University, Ramada Inn, Manhattan, Kan., Oct. 15-17.

Texas A & M University, College of Agriculture, Fourth Annual Industrial Weed Control Conference, College Station, Texas, Oct. 20-22.

North Dakota Nurserymen's Association, Annual Convention and Trade Show, Fargo, N.D., Nov. 7-8.


Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 1-3.

Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation, Inc., Conference and Show, Oklahoma State University Student Union, Stillwater, Okla., Dec. 3-5.

National Aerial Applicators Association, Third Annual Conference, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La., Dec. 7-10.
Pennsylvanian Finds

Sod More Profitable Than Beef

By PHIL LANCE

SIX YEARS AGO, Charles J. Jensen farmed four acres of sod. Today, he cultivates better than 375 acres and is getting ready to farm more.

"It just grew like topsy," said this Lansdale, Pa., sod producer. "For more than 25 years, my father and I ran a feedlot for cattle and pigs. However, the area's high taxation, labor shortage and housing developments made it more difficult and continually less profitable to remain in the business. So, we looked around for a switch.

"We wanted something we felt had a future, something that was currently needed and would be needed even more with passing time. Since we had been doing a little bit of business all the time selling pasture sod, we decided to try sod growing. That was six years ago, and we are sorry we didn't start sooner."

Jensen's four acres of Eastern States velvet green mixture went quickly. It sold through word-of-mouth. Jensen figured that if four acres could move without any "selling" on his part, that he was certainly not going to overlook any further opportunities in sod growing.

Currently, his own farm covers 142 acres. His son-in-law's acreage plus additional leased farmland brings it up to 375 acres. To meet the demands of his customers, he cultivates several varieties that have proved popular in the Delaware Valley area.

Jensen's sod business has now become a family enterprise. Charles Jensen is assisted by his son Lars and his wife Ellen, who answers the telephone, does the bookkeeping and handles all the paper work. She claims her husband is too busy growing sod and does not like to handle paper work. This, therefore, has become her job.

Son-in-law Phil Gehret works closely with the family. Other help includes three year-round employees and several more during the season.

"Some customers specify the type of sod they want and others just want something nice," Jensen said. "That is why we have several varieties. Where possible, we ask them to determine the type of sod they already have or to bring us a small sample. We can then match it up with the sod that will blend in with the shade of their grass."

"In general, we have found that our variety, which includes 100% Merion, a mixture of Merion and Kentucky bluegrass, a mixture of Merion, Kentucky bluegrass and Pennlawn, K-31 and our four varieties of Kentucky bluegrass just about covers the needs and requirements of our customers.

"Personally, we are quite partial to Merion because we find that the rolls hold together more firmly."

"We try to produce the highest quality sod in the varieties that we feature, considering each sale an advertisement for the next."

Expands with Mechanization

After the second year of sod growing, Jensen, realizing he had a good thing going, started irrigating. He drilled a 400-foot well and began filling two ponds. One covering an acre was already on his property, and the other of more than an acre, he dug out. As he discovered that equipment and automation helped him realize a more profitable business, he continued to expand.

"We sold off a few acres of ground for a highway that was coming through and had some money to
... bigger equipment has increased volume — and profits.

work with,” Jensen said. “We also began to take an interest in association activities and struck a close relationship with researchers from Penn State University. Everything helped. Like topsy, the business began to boom.”

Listings in several telephone directories throughout the Delaware Valley, through word-of-mouth and satisfied users, all increase demand for Jensen’s sod. Industrial parks, schools, institutions, etc., supplemented the demand by homeowners and others. A free delivery service proved helpful and Jensen has made deliveries to customers as far as 150 miles away.

Stays Close to Customer

“We still do not have any salesmen and really don’t intend to put any on until we expand production,” Jensen continued.

“We want to be in as close a contact with our customers as we can. When they know they are doing business with the sod grower himself, they have greater confidence in him and will make repeated purchases.

“Local builders who have purchased from us and are now constructing properties hundreds of miles away are still depending upon us for their sod. When we make deliveries in these areas, others learn about us and this results in subsequent demands for our sod."

While there has been some competition, Jensen has not found this to have affected his business too much. He produces a quality sod, advises and helps his customers as much as possible, and his own enthusiasm about his quality products radiates to his customers.

Jensen’s sod is generally between two and three years old before being sold. The older the sod, the better it holds together. Seeding starts in mid-August and usually continues up to early September. Other than broadleaf and some clover, Jensen claims that he has been blessed with sod that has a minimum of weeds. He uses Amchem LV-4 and finds that a single application rids him of this problem.

“We simply don’t have enough of a broadleaf weed problem to require a post emergence spray,” he said, “and we only fertilize as we find our needs demand. We use a half-ton of 20-10-10 per acre at time of seeding which we get from Agway. A bulk spreader is used for limestone, and we top with nitrogen as needed.”

A Ryan sod harvester is Jensen’s latest equipment addition. He also has five Ryan sod cutters that roll one foot and 18-inch wide rolls, also three Brillion seeders and a John Beane sprayer. His reel type F-10 Jacobsen mowers cover 50 acres a day and have proved to be extremely versatile.

“Equipment doesn’t cost — it pays,” claimed the enthusiastic Jensen. “Sure, it may be a little difficult to raise the money to buy this equipment to begin with, but once you acquire it, it pays for itself. One man can seed up to 50 acres of sod per day, the harvester can cut and roll thousands of yards of sod per day, and the gangs that can be lifted hydraulically on our mower has saved a lot of time and effort.

“We are certainly sold on the importance of modern equipment. Because of this, we are continually reinvesting what we are taking out in order to gain more.”
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Stripe Smut Control Found

A team of scientists headed by Turfgrass Pathologist Dr. Philip M. Halisky at Rutgers University has now shown excellent control of stripe smut with the use of the DuPont systemic chemical benomyl.

Thus, in an amazingly short time, intensive research aided by grants from the Merion Bluegrass Association, E. I. DuPont Co. and Chemagro Corporation, has solved an important disease problem.

In the evaluation trials, three fungicides were utilized: Du Pont's benomyl, PCNB ("Scott's FF-2") dry granular mix and B-33172. These were applied in replicated plots of heavily smutted Merion Kentucky Bluegrass turf. The experimental area consisted of 96 plots measuring 5 x 5 feet, clipped at 1½ inches and maintained at a moderate fertility level of 4 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. per year.

B-33172 and benomyl, both wettable powders, were mixed with water and applied as drenches at the rate of 50 gallons per 1,000 square ft. of turf per application. PCNB was applied in combination with a granular fertilizer (14-3-3) containing 15.4% active fungicide. This combination was broadcast by hand and watered-in at an equivalent rate of 50 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft.

PCNB was applied in the fall of 1967 and the spring of 1968 while the other two chemicals were spring applied only. Counts of smutted tillers per square feet of sod were made in the fall of 1968 and the data analyzed.

The highest reduction of stripe smut was achieved with five applications of benomyl at the 6-ounce rate. At the 12-ounce rate, benomyl applied once or twice during the spring months also was highly effective.

At the 32-ounce rate, PCNB (Scott's FF-2) with spring and fall applications resulted in significant disease control. Similar applications at the 16-ounce rate were inadequate in controlling the disease. In general, PCNB is considered phytotoxic to bentgrasses and to fine fescues, and may cause some temporary yellowing in bluegrass during hot, dry weather.

USDA Delays Decision On Pesticide Suspension

A decision on re-instatement of nine so-called "persistent pesticides" still has not been forthcoming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture — at least this was the case as WTT went to press.

A spokesman told WEEDS TREES AND TURF that the matter was being studied by the Federal Committee on Pest Control. The materials—DDT, dieldrin, endrin, aldrin, chlordane, toxaphene, chlordane, toxaphene, lindane, heptachlor, and BHC — were suspended from use July 9.

Officers for 1969-70 of the American Society of Consulting Arborists are (seated, left to right): Secretary-Treasurer Walter P. Morrow of Sewickley, Pa.; Vice President George W. Goodall, Jr., of Portland, Me.; President-Elect Ray Gustin, Jr., of Silver Spring, Md., and President H. M. Van Wormer of Richmond, Va. Standing (left to right) are: Directors Dr. L. C. Chadwick of Columbus, Ohio; H. N. Engledow of Indianapolis, Ind., and F. L. Dinsmore of St. Louis, Mo., and Director-at-Large Henry Vaughn Eames of Stockton, N. J.
Founders of the International Turfgrass Society are, from the left, Front Row — Dr. W. H. Daniel, Dr. S. W. Bingham, Dr. G. M. Wood, Dr. E. Ebert-Jehle, R. L. Morris, Dr. P. Boeker, B. Langvad, Dr. J. R. Watson, Dr. J. B. Beard, J. R. Escritt, G. J. Ruychaver, Dr. Z. B. Kuninska, Miss M. I. Denecke, W. C. Morgan, G. S. Robinson and W. A. Eschauzier; Second Row — J. P. Shildrick, Dr. P. E. Rieke, H. Vos, Dr. V. I. Stewart, R. W. Polin, D. Soper, Dr. C. E. Wright, D. T. A. Aldrich, J. P. van der Horst, Dr. H. H. Williams, Dr. R. R. Davis, A. V. Bogdan, J. F. Shoulders, J. L. Kidwell, Dr. R. L. Goss, Dr. W. B. Gilbert, Dr. D. B. White, Dr. T. E. Freeman, Dr. G. C Horn, and Dr. K. Ebara; Third Row — Dr. R. W. Schery, E. Helmbring, Dr. J. Troll, K. Potter, J. C. Knolle, G. Akesson, Dr. L. H. J. Korsten, Dr. B. Werminghausen, Dr. E. L. Entrup, Dr. P. R. Henderlong, Dr. W. A. Adams, Dr. A. Pap, Dr. L. E. Moser, M. A. Wood, Dr. J. Stubbs, M. Petersen, G. G. Fisher, M. Kampf, J. L. Dawson and Dr. R. E. Engel; Back Row — Dr. J. H. Madison, Dr. L. E. Janson, Dr. R. W. Miller, Dr. R. A. Keen, P. Bowen, E. W. Schweizer, Dr. C. M. Switzer, Dr. C. W. H. M. Schaeppman, J. Andringa, C. Eisele, C. O’Knefski, Dr. I. Yoshikawa, W. H. Bengeyfield, D. J. Ols, Dr. R. E. Schmidt, J. A. Simmons, Dr. T. Eggers, R. Vijn, Dr. W. W. Huffine and Dr. J. E. Howland. Some who attended were not present for the photograph.

Turf Specialists Form International Society

Eighty-two turfgrass experts from 11 nations, attending the First International Turfgrass Research Conference in July at Harrogate, England, have founded an International Turfgrass Society.

The conference elected a seven-man executive committee headed by Dr. Richard R. Davis, Department of Agronomy, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, at Wooster.

Other committee members include: Dr. William H. Daniel, of Purdue University’s Department of Agronomy; Dr. James B. Beard, Department of Crop Science, Michigan State University; John R. Escritt, director of The Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, Yorkshire, England; Bjarne Langvad, of the Plant Breeding Institution at Landskrona, Sweden; J. P. van der Horst, of the Netherlands Sports Federation, The Hague; and Dr. Clayton M. Switzer, of Guelph (Ont.), Canada.

Dr. Beard, who headed the organizing committee, the primary objective of the new group, is to provide a forum where turfgrass researchers and educators throughout the world can exchange information on turfgrass cultural problems, research techniques, research results, and educational approaches.

Eighty-eight papers were presented at the four-day conference, July 14-17, covering the broad areas of turfgrasses, soils and nutrition, turfgrass environment, pests and diseases, education, turfgrass culture and roadsides. Dr. James R. Watson, a member of the organizing committee and director of agronomy for Toro Manufacturing Corporation, Minneapolis, reported that the conference papers will be published in about nine months’ time.

Countries represented at the meeting were: Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, West Germany, United Kingdom and the United States.

Merion Bluegrass Seed To Be Priced Higher

The ‘69 merion bluegrass seed crop is well below 1968 production. As a result, users can expect merion seed to be priced well above last year.

Doyle Jacklin, sales representative of Jacklin Seed Company, Spokane, Wash., reported that he expected merion prices to be double or slightly more than the ‘68 levels.

Reason for the production decline was bad burns last fall on seed growing land. Extensive rain during the burning season prevented complete burning which is a must for top production.

Growers buying new seed can also expect lightweight seed. Quality, Jacklin says, will be good but lightweight.

Generally, ‘68 prices for merion seed ranged around the 75 cents per pound mark. This year, up to $1.50 per pound is expected to be common.
West Point Products of Hahn, Inc., Evansville, Ind., offers a 6'-wide golf course vacuum for easy grooming of turfgrass, grass clippings, paper, and other debris. Called the Aeri-Vac, the unit also features adjustable height and head openings, a six cubic yard capacity trash hopper with a two-by-three-feet hinged rear-access door for hand-dumping large litter from the driver’s seat of the tow vehicle by a hydraulically powered dump control. It is designed to clean and groom up to five acres per hour, and utilizes a ball-hitch coupling between the blower and catcher assemblies. Manufacturer claims quick, one-man PTO tractor hook-up is accomplished with a three-point hitch and universal drive shaft. The Aeri-Vac weighs approximately 1500 lbs., is also equipped with high flotation tires, and can conveniently operate at up to 10 mph on level surfaces. For more details, circle (701) on reply card.

Cabot Piping Systems, Louisville, Ky., has available a new line of corrosion-resistant centrifugal pumps for handling aggressive liquids. Called Cabot/Chemtrol CP-3000, the close-coupled pumps come in polyvinyl chloride or polypropylene casings in seven models and sizes, ranging from 1” suction with ¾” discharge and 3” impeller to 3” suction with 2½” discharge and a 6½” impeller. Motor sizes are from ½ to 10 HP, and capacities from 35 to 200 gpm. Other features include enclosed fan-cooled integral frame heavy-duty motors, Viton and ceramic-constructed mechanical seals, stainless steel motor shafts and mechanical seal springs. For more details, circle (704) on reply card.

Premier Peat Moss Corporation, New York, N. Y., introduces its Spagmos Three-Way Mulch. Unlike sawdust and wood chips, it does not rob the soil of nitrogen, manufacturer claims. It is said to be free flowing, resilient and porous. Product is 98% organic and contains pH4. Two to four inches is sufficient for gardens; four to five inches around newly planted trees. For more details, circle (705) on reply card.

Sabre Saw Chain, Inc., Lewistown, N. Y., manufactures Sabre 16, a saw chain designed as a replacement chain for mini-saws such as the Power Mac 6. Available in reels and cut lengths for 12” and 16” guide bars, manufacturer claims it is the first standard replacement saw chain introduced for saws using ¼” pitch chain. For more details, circle (704) on reply card.

Generac Corporation, Waukesha, Wis., announces its new lawn and garden tractor-mounted alternator. The lightweight unit provides portable AC power for operating power tools, pumps, floodlights and saws, as well as an economical method of obtaining home stand-by electrical power, the manufacturer claims. It comes in two sizes: The 2400-watt, Model 5678 unit provides 115 volts of AC power, and the Model 5679 produces 115/230 volts of AC power. Both are equipped with Generac’s revolving field alternator design, and can handle surges 25% above nameplate rating in addition to having high temperature insulation. For more details, circle (709) on reply card.