Record Sales by Davey Tree For Sixth Straight Year

Record levels in sales and net income for the sixth consecutive year were reported by Davey Tree Company in its 1969 annual report.

Sales of tree care, landscape planting and line clearing services increased 16% to $20,800,000, compared with 1968 sales of $17,806,000. Davey's wholly-owned Canadian subsidiary experienced sales of $667,000, a 6% increase over 1968. The companies showed a corresponding gain in profits.

Davey Tree Surgery Company, a wholly owned California subsidiary formed in June, 1969, showed good results for its first seven months of operation. Comparisons with prior periods are not available. Addition of the California subsidiary now provides Davey services from coast to coast, as well as Canada.

Davey president Alexander M. Smith reported that the company continued its capital expansion largely in equipment, and properties in the order of $1.5 million.

Roll out the barrel for this grass-catching mower, manufactured by Roto-Hoe Company, Newbury, Ohio. This Turf-Star Model Islander with Easy-Way Grass Catcher has a dual discharge safety deck that discharges one-half the clippings on the uncut side of the lawn, the other half into the barrel. Unit can be set to pick up all the grass or leaves. For more details, circle (719) on the reply card.

Largest property acquisitions were California properties for future expansion of Davey Tree Surgery operations, and a new operations and service center in Charlotte, N.C.

Officers were re-elected at the annual meeting. Shareholders paid tribute to Paul G. Hershey for his years of service as an employee and president of the company upon his retirement as a director. John H. Carson, Jr., was elected a director. Eugene W. Haupt was elected a new director of Davey Tree Surgery.
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insect report

TURF INSECTS
RED HARVESTER ANT
(Pogonomyrmex barbatus)
OKLAHOMA: Active in several areas of Payne County.

A CYNDID BUG
(Sehirus cinctus)
CALIFORNIA: Adults heavy in grass areas at Crescent City, Del Norte County.

INSECTS OF ORNAMENTALS
AZALEA LACE BUG
(Stephanitis pyricoides)
FLORIDA: Nymphs and adults moderate on 90% of 8,000 azalea plants in nursery at Plant City, Hillsborough County.

SOFT SCALES
(Ceroplastes spp.)
ALABAMA: C. floridensis (Florida wax scale) crawlers emerging and heavy throughout 60-acre magnolia planting in Conecuh County. Controls in progress. VIRGINIA: Ceroplastes sp. heavy on individual plants of holy and euonymus at several locations at Franklin, Southampton County.

WEEVILS
(Brachyphyllus spp.)
OREGON: Late instars of B. ovatus (strawberry root weevil) ranged up to 15 per plant on roots of arborvitae in field nursery at Gresham. B. rugosostriatus larvae ranged up to 10 per plant on yew in several Multnomah County field nurseries.

TREE INSECTS
ELM LEAF BEETLE
(Pyrrhalta luteola)
SOUTH DAKOTA: Larvae collected at Yankton. This is a new state record.

AN ERIOPHYID MITE
(Trisetacus alborum)
CALIFORNIA: Collected on sugar pine at Cobb, Lake County. Feeding induces lateral growths with multiple buds bearing primary needles. Not previously reported on sugar pine.

NANTUCKET PINE TIP MOTH
(Rhyacionia frustrana)
OKLAHOMA: Small larvae present in about 10 percent of terminals of young pine trees in McCurtain, Le Flore, and Bryan counties.

A SCOLYTID
(Poecilips rhizophorae)
FLORIDA: Adults collected from newly germinated mangrove seeds at Longboat Key, Manatee County. This is a rare species; no previous report of damage.
Dow Cites 2,4,5-T Impurity As Cause of Birth Defects

EDITOR'S NOTE: As the magazine went to press, the federal departments of agriculture, interior and health jointly announced the immediate suspension of certain uses of 2,4,5-T. The suspension affects the registration of liquid formulations of 2,4,5-T for use around the home and for registered uses on lakes, ponds and ditchbanks. These actions do not eliminate registered uses of 2,4,5-T for control of weeds and brush on range and pasture, forests, rights-of-way, and other non-agricultural lands. Users are cautioned that 2,4,5-T should not be used near homes or recreational areas.

The action was based on reports that nearly pure, 2,4,5-T caused birth defects when injected at high doses into pregnant mice, but not in rats. No data on humans are available.

In closely related action, Ohio Gov. James Rhodes halted use of 2,4,5-T, 2,4-D, and silvex by the state highway department along highways until further tests of the chemicals could be made. Both 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T had been used for some 20 years.

Scientists of The Dow Chemical Company have presented detailed evidence showing that a contaminant rather than the compound 2,4,5-T was probably the cause of birth abnormalities reported in test animals in a recent study. 2,4,5-T has been under fire since October of last year when it was announced that a study conducted by Bionetics Laboratories, Inc., under contract to the National Cancer Institute, indicated higher than normal rates of birth defects in test animals treated with massive doses of 2,4,5-T. Examination of data from the Bionetics test suggested to scientists at Dow that rather than 2,4,5-T, the real culprit might have been a toxic contaminant that has from time to time been a problem in the manufacture of the material.

The Bionetics sample material was analyzed and found to contain about 27 parts per million of the contaminant, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin. Production standards for the herbicide as produced by Dow require that 2,4,5-T contain less than one part per million of the dioxin. Dow established this specification in 1965 to assure safety in the production of the material.

In papers presented recently at the meeting of the Society of Toxicology in Atlanta, V. K. Rowe and Dr. J. L. Emerson cited detailed studies just completed that indicate no fetal abnormalities are produced by the herbicide when the Dow standard for dioxin content is met. The animal studies involved the feeding of rats with 2,4,5-T containing less than one PPM of the dioxin contaminant at levels comparable to those used in the earlier studies.

Results indicated very clearly that the herbicide containing less than one part per million of the dioxin had no effect on either mothers or fetuses. In addition, another group of test animals was given the dioxin alone at levels comparable to those in the impure sample used in the Bionetics work. Results in the test with the pure dioxin indicated a high level of maternal and fetal toxicity of the material. Abnormalities observed in these test were similar to those reported by Bionetics Laboratories.

ARE THEY PLANTING GRASS ON THE MOON? Not at all — but this spray-planting Bowie Hydro-Mulcher is typical of the modern NASA equipment used in turfing and maintaining the grounds including the slope shown left, which borders the edge of the acreage devoted to the simulated lunar surface.

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ONE BY ONE, the nation's historical trees are falling to Dutch Elm disease. The latest report is from Portland, Me., telling of the demise of the ancient elm that graced the backyard of the home of young Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The elm was supposedly planted by the poet's grandfather, General Peleg Wadsworth, shortly after the three-story brick house was built in 1786.

JIM BUNNING of baseball fame claims artificial turf is going to shorten the careers of players. Bunning was quoted by Associated Press as having complained to Commissioner Bowie Kuhn through the Baseball Players Association. The AP article also quoted Don Segar, trainer of the Phillies, as reporting that players suffered sore calves of their legs and in the achilles' tendon area after playing in the Houston Astrodome.

ARBOR DAY in California commemorated the 200th anniversary of the founding of the state's first settlement and mission, San Diego. To observe the event, the California Association of Nurserymen staged tree-planting ceremonies at each of the 21 California missions.

THE ST. LOUIS ARCH has shown up in the backbone of area nurserymen. They're seething at park officials of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial for choosing trees unsuited to the St. Louis environment. Lew Dinsmore of Dinsmore Tree Service said that the tulip trees, 50% of the total proposed, are subject to sunscald, drought and storm breakup. Ben Howley, president of the Western Association of Nurserymen, added that the trees would drop leaves all summer, creating a groundskeeping problem. John Masek, president of the St. Louis Metropolitan Shade Tree Council, said that although he sees little chance for a change, he would be surprised if more than five association members would submit bids. "Most don't want to touch a tree project with a 30-50% mortality rate," he said.
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