In Europe, engineering thermoplastics can be expected to continue to rake market share away from metals, despite oil price increases that would seem to hurt hydrocarbon-based plastics, according to a report by Frost & Sullivan, Inc. The report says, "Steel, aluminum, zinc, copper, and most other metals are more energy expensive on a cost per unit volume basis than plastics." The 286-page report, entitled "European Market for Engineering Thermoplastics," says, "The competition between engineering thermoplastics and zinc and aluminum diecastings has been won in almost all applications by plastics."

And it adds, "Pending legislation (to lessen automobile weight and improve safety) will also stimulate the use of more thermoplastics in automobiles, in particular." What this leads up to is that European consumption of 13 selected thermoplastics will increase from 0.5 million tons in 1976 to 1.25 million tons in 1981.

HERBICIDES

Devrinol gets label for use on ornamentals

Devrinol, a surface-applied herbicide, has been federal registered for weed control in ornamentals, field-grown nursery stock, liner stock, ground covers, and dichondra. The Stauffer Chemical Co. makes it.

Devrinol is labeled to control eight annual grasses including barnyardgrass, bristle foxtail, and large crabgrass, as well as 12 annual broadleaf weeds, including common purslane, lambquarters, and redroot pigweed. It can be applied as a broadcast treatment over young nursery stock or as a directed spray to larger stock either as a band or broadcast application. It is recommended on several different container potting soil mixtures.

ARBORISTS

Arborists to meet for week in Florida

The National Arborist Association will hold its annual meeting at the Orlando Hyatt House in Kissimmee, FL, from February 17-21. The major focus of the meeting will be on electronic data processing for tree service firms, labor relations, integrated pest management, and safety. As usual, there will be a general session, as well as a concurrent alternate session. The latter is particularly geared for additional members of the management team.

The four days previous to this program, February 13-16, the American Society of Consulting Arborists will convene at the same place.

Topics for the ASCA meeting include working with engineers, assistance to park personnel, trees on the golf course, value of trees from the shade they cast, the skill of arboriculture, casualty loss, appraisals for large trees, and tree injections.

HORTICULTURE

Volunteer program will help gardeners

A group of volunteer gardeners will be spending several winter weekends in classrooms studying the latest developments in watering, seeds, pest management and control, fertilizers, planting, and other gardening practices. Their goal: to become certified "Master Gardeners" and help community and family gardeners next spring.

This pilot program through the University of California's Cooperative Extension Service is operating in Riverside and Sacramento counties and plans for expansion to other areas are being developed. The program will identify and select local residents with experience in gardening and put them through a training program with the help of Cooperative Extension specialists and advisors.

These citizen volunteers will receive certification as "Master Gardeners" when they complete their training, and will become a part of Cooperative Extension's effort to help backyard, family, and community gardeners.

Master Gardeners have been used in 20 other states to be advisors at gardening clinics set up in libraries, shopping centers, or fairs. They also have become coordinators and teachers at community gardens; managed local Cooperative Extension public service telephone systems; and have written horticulture service announcements and booklets distributed through Cooperative Extension offices.
Letters from page 6

istence of these various associations, I have to admit that our AAN activities were primarily aimed at the needs of the wholesale nursery grower. Now it is my privilege as Executive Vice President to meet at least twice each year for many hours with those who govern these associations. In addition, at least one of our staff members who is responsible for administration of the association involved also attends these meetings which are really brainstorming sessions designed to develop the needs and ways to fill them of each segment represented. Every staff member meets with the AAN Board of Directors because that association in the final analysis represents all of the segments which operate separately in the so-called “family” of associations administered by our staff. In this way the “parent” is continually aware of the problems and needs of other members of the “family” and, as in any family, when a special crisis develops with one member, each of the others draws together using the assets of all to answer the need.

Over the years very fine organizations have been developed, representing other branches of this great industry. You mentioned the National Arborist Association, the Professional Grounds Management Society and even the brand new Professional Lawn Care Association of America in your Viewpoint article. These and others are doing a wonderful job of representing the needs of each segment of this environmental industry. It is our privilege through the Landscape Industry Advisory Committee to work closely with most of them, and we highly value the experience. Certainly we have learned that the American Association of Nurserymen does not have all of the answers nor is it capable of relating to all of the problems of this rapidly becoming vast industry. We have learned that, in addition to serving those organizations that are our direct responsibility, we can sometimes help a great deal with areas of concern to others. We stand ready to do that and proud to be able.

We appreciate your suggestion that members of LIAC cooperate together in every way possible, and I am sure, speaking for all of us, we intend to do just that. Based on the obvious will of this industry, each of the managers of the various groups involved, I think, carries a mandate to do everything possible for the segment of this industry he represents, protecting its separateness, but dedicated to accomplishing our overall goals with the least possible investment of association dollars required from our members.

There is very great strength in our separateness, and there is very great sense in our togetherness. I think, along with the industry we represent, the management of each association is learning that lesson well.

Robert F. Lederer
Executive Vice President
American Association of Nurserymen

Oak spit spot causes

In the November issue Dr. Funk was asked a question about the cause of oak spit spot and he asked for suggestions from readers as to the cause of this disease.

I have observed this problem in newly transplanted scarlet oaks on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette, IN. During the summer following the late fall planting of these 2-3 in. caliper trees, wet spots (sometimes foamy) began to appear at random places on the trunks. Almost always there was a small fissure or crack in the bark at the top, center of the wet spot. Using a sharp knife, I cut a small (1 in.) square of bark out of the trunk at the top of the wet area and almost always found a small flat headed borer. After removing the square of bark and the borer, I covered the wound with a good wound dressing and to my knowledge the trees are alive and healthy today (7 years later).

James Ross,
Technical Foreman
City of Reno Park Div.
Reno, Nevada
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16th Turfgrass and Environmental Landscape Exposition, San Mateo County Fairgrounds, San Mateo, CA, Jan. 30-31. Contact Emory Hunter, Chairman, NCTC, P.O. Box 268, Lafayette, CA 94549.


United States Golf Association Regional Turf Conferences, Feb. 4 Myrtle Beach Hilton, Myrtle Beach, SC; Feb. 6 Quality Inn, Cypress Gardens, FL; Mar. 3 Phoenix Country Club, Phoenix, AZ; Mar. 6 Holiday Inn West, Billings, MT; Mar. 7 Broadmoor Golf Club, Seattle, WA; Mar. 11 Lakeside Country Club, Houston, TX; Mar. 13 James River Country Club, Virginia Beach, VA; Mar. 18 Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY; Mar. 20 Oakmont Country Club, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact USGA, Far Hills, NJ 07931, 201/766-7822.

Colorado Nurserymen's Association Nursery Conference, Denver Merchandise Mart, 451 East 58th Ave., Denver, CO, Feb. 4-6. Contact Cary G. Hall, Executive Secretary, Colorado Nurserymen's Association, 10775 North 65th St., Longmont, CO 80501.

Wastewater Irrigation Course, Denver, CO, Feb. 5-7. Contact: The Irrigation Association, 13975 Connecticut Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 20906, 301-871-8188.


Northwest Pest Control Conference on Integrated Pest Management, Spokane Sheraton Hotel, Spokane, WA, Feb. 22-25. Contact: Chris Senske, P.O. Box 6258, Kennewick, WA 99336, 509-783-5461.

First Agri-Turf Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference, Houston, TX, Feb. 24-27. Contact: The Irrigation Association, 13975 Connecticut Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 20906, 301-871-8188.


Pennsylvania Turfgrass Conference, Hershey Motor Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA, Feb. 26-29. Contact: Arthur Wick, P.O. Box 362, Sewickley, PA, 15143 or Christine King, Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, 412 Blanchard St., Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Connecticut Groundskeepers Association, Conference, Hartford Civic Center, Hartford, CT, Feb. 27. Contact: Glenn Moore, 141 Hemlock Hill Rd, New Canaan, CT, 06840.

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The current issue of WEEDS TREES & TURF carries meeting dates beginning with the following month. To insure that your event is included, please forward it, 90 days in advance, to: WEEDS TREES & TURF Events, 9800 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102.


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Iowa Turfgrass Conference, Des Moines Hilton Inn, Des Moines, IA, Mar. 3-5. Contact: Ed Cott, Dept. of Horticulture, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, 50011.

Midwest Turf Conference, Stewart Center, Purdue University, Mar. 3-5. Contact: W.H. Daniel, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN 47907.


Ninth Vertebrate Pest Conference and ASTM Symposium, Hilton Hotel, Fresno, CA, Mar. 4-7. Contact: Jerry Clark, 1220 N. Street, Room A-357, Sacramento, CA 95814.


Northeastern Forest Pest Council Meeting, Holiday Inn Downtown, Portland, ME Mar. 11-12. Contact: James Nichols, Bureau of Forestry, 34 Airport Drive, Middletown, PA, 17057.

National Lawn Care Business Conference and Trade Show, Red Carpet Hotel, Milwaukee, WI, Mar. 16-19. Contact Lawn Care Conference, Box 1936, Appleton, WI 54913, 414/733-2301.


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