LEGISLATION COULD RESTRICT LAWN EFFORTS

Lafayette, Ind. — The do-it-yourselfer who cares for his lawn as a hobby, a challenge, or as a source of pleasure (even aggravation) could one day have his work restricted.

That's the feeling of W. H. Daniel, Purdue University extension turf specialist, who fears the time may come when homeowners are required to use the services of licensed firms for application of lawn pesticides.

Currently, competitive custom lawn services are available to those who wish to free themselves of turf management. But in most cities and smaller communities few people can afford this luxury.

The vast majority of homeowners institute their own weed control, crabgrass prevention, and grub control programs as a part of their outdoor activity, the specialist notes. An attractive lawn becomes a matter of pride with them. Furthermore, communities show concern when lots or lawns are unattended.

"The rising trend toward decrying all herbicides and materials, plus moves to restrict their application by anyone other than licensed services, may legally prohibit homeowner usage," warns Daniel. "Therefore, homeowners need to watch for environmental pollution legislation that may show up in their state."

Daniel believes there is a continuing need for education about and caution in the use of many herbicides. But, in the enthusiasm for pollution control, he fears well kept lawns by do-ityourselfers may become a thing of the past. He urges homeowners to study proposed legislation and ask themselves if they really need this much protection?

BALANCE OF NATURE NEVER WAS -

Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, who recently won the Nobel Peace Prize for his wheat breeding program to feed underdeveloped countries, talked about the so called "Balance of Nature" while in New York recently.

He said that as an ecologist, forester and scientist, he had never observed nature being in balance with anything. Rather, he said it had been his experience that nature dealt in one excess after another. Too much rain, too little rain, drought, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, disease, starvation and a host of other violent actions by nature which he has observed in his world travels have convinced him that any "balance" on the part of nature is simply another fairy tale.

