

The Chemistry and Mode of Action of Herbicides

by A. S. Crafts, Interscience Publishers, New York, N. Y., 1961. 269 pp. \$9.00.

A much needed reference for the ever-improving field of chemical weed control is *The Chemistry and Mode of Action of Herbicides* by Dr. A. S. Crafts, Chairman of the Department of Botany at the University of California at Davis.

Though mainly a chemical reference, the author reviews, in the first five chapters, biological aspects of chemical treatment and the classification of herbicides according to their action upon weeds. Pictures of plant parts, which have taken up dyes and radioactive Carbon 14, illustrate absorption and movement of herbicides through plants.

Remainder of this work is an elaboration on the many groups of chemical compounds, from 2,4-D, which heralded a new weed control era, to Zytron, one of the most recent. Each discussion begins with structural illustrations of the compounds concerned, which gives a chemically inclined reader an idea of the relationships between chemicals and why they act in similar or different manners. Pertinent research related to each compound discussed is cited, and the mechanism of action upon plants, as far

as it is known, is explained. Charts summarizing many research efforts are found throughout the text.

Dr. Crafts writes in a fluent manner which makes for easy reading, but technical terminology is used. On that basis this book is not recommended to the novice in chemistry, unless he is willing to devote serious study to the subject. No space is given to defining terms; instead this space is used for citing references.

Persons with training in organic chemistry will find this book a very good review, and one which will keep them abreast of herbicide research.

Since the beginnings of weed control were agricultural, this text is oriented in that direction, but it will prove useful to the urban vegetation controller as well. Discussions of chemical turf weed control, while not extensive, are also included.

Sudbury Offers Free Booklet

Information on soil testing, including sections on soil elements, pH preferences, and fertilizing, is available in a new booklet, "The Good Earth," offered by Sudbury Laboratory, manufacturer of soil testing kits used to determine chemical composition of soil.

For a free copy, write Dept. 411, Sudbury Laboratory, Sudbury, Mass.

Trimnings

Onward and upward. Veteran weed controller Dick Evans, proud president of Dick Evans, Inc., a pioneer in the industry, writes that he's moved company headquarters to Pampa, Tex., where he'll direct activities for the firm's several branches. Dick was one of the first to specialize in refinery and pipeline contracts for the oil corporations, and reports he has such giants as Phillips and Skelly on his books. We're glad to hear this success story from the Panhandle State, which bears out our prediction of the business boom this industry is now experiencing.

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Kitchen moves up. Another weedman on the advance is Dr. John T. Kitchin, formerly extension horticulturist at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Kitchin has been named chairman of the University of Rhode Island's horticulture department.

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Meade meets for weed meet. Northeastern Weed Control Conference secretary Dr. John Meade reports he and president Don Schallock are getting together with other NEWCC mentors in September to map final plans for the forthcoming conference in New York this January. We're glad to know everything is progressing on schedule for this industry conclave, which gives CAs a welcome chance to visit the big city, and update themselves on the latest chemicals and techniques the NEWCC scientists are testing.

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Better guard the yard. Just heard of a Chicago butcher who came home the other evening, happily planning a cook-out with his family, to discover his lawn was gone. Having worked long and hard over his prize turf, the butcher was understandably shaken. A quick quiz of the neighbors, who stood around shaking their heads sympathetically, revealed a suspicious-looking character had spaded up the yard, rolled up the sod, and sped away in a long, black truck. Our mystified butcher then wandered around the neighborhood in a daze and found another recently spaded plot, whose owner was industriously seeding and raking to beat the band, and who told the deprived butcher that he had ordered his lot plowed up by a nearby gardening company. Further investigation turned up the culprit, a gardener who sheepishly admitted he'd gone to the wrong address, and spaded up the butcher's yard by mistake. He said he was sorry, and promised to bring the lawn back right away.

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Stan's plans. Versatile Cornell researcher Dr. Stanford Fertig is about to launch a big new aquatic weed control research program, we learned recently. Dr. Fertig is laying out a series of one-tenth acre ponds to try new herbicides on, and will certainly come up with valuable information for the applicators. The program is still on the drawing board, and we'll have a more complete progress report in a later issue.



Members of the Horticultural Sprayers' Association of Florida met recently with the editors of *Weeds and Turf* to discuss mutual industry problems and map future plans for upgrading weed control business practices. Pictured above (left to right) are HSAF members William Murray, Charles Johnson, Pierre Nobs, Thomas Stokes, Elizabeth Newell, and Thomas Hamall. Hamall is state publicity director for the Florida group. Here the group examines a completely outfitted spray rig designed by Nobs for his contract spray business.