



Success of the 17th northeastern conference was due in large part to these '62-'63 officers and committee chairmen (l to r): Dr. Richard D. Ilnicki, Rutgers University, program; Dr. J. A. Meade, University of Maryland, secretary-treasurer; Dr. G. D. Hill, duPont, research coordinating; A. J. Tafuro, American Cyanamid, vice-president; Dr. C. R. Skogley, University of Rhode Island, public relations; Dr. Lawrence Southwick, Dow, awards; F. A. Ashbaugh, West Penn Power, sustaining membership; and Dr. D. A. Schallock, Rutgers University, president.

Science No Longer Divorced from Public, 17th Northeast Weed Conference Decides

Weed control leaders, both research men and applicators, are adopting a brave and dynamic new attitude towards their industry.

Over 700 delegates to the 17th Annual Northeastern Weed Control Conference agreed that the old concept of "pure science," which largely ignored public opinion, is now passing away, and responsible investigators recognize a new responsibility to tell their story to the public.

This public relations awareness was an underlying theme throughout the annual gathering of northeastern weed experts, held this year at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City, January 9-11.

Two keynoters sounded the prevailing theme in the early sessions of the conference. In a talk on pesticides and balanced environment, Dr. L. G. Merrill, Jr., Dean of Agriculture, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., reminded delegates that most pest control programs, whether insect or weed oriented, are aimed at the total physical environment, and take all aspects of this environment into consideration, despite what certain irresponsible popular writers may dream up to inflame the public.

"We must leave for future generations an environment favorable for procreation of desirable species, including, I hope, homo sapiens," Dean Merrill asserted.

"We are at the state that we must use pesticides to tip the balance of environment in our favor," he added. Otherwise, man would be forced to live on rootstocks and game, hardly diet

enough for today's teeming millions. But the scales are tipped, and Dean Merrill calls this favorable situation a genuine "chemical miracle."

Second in the impressive team of industry spokesmen was Parke C. Brinkley, President of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, Washington, D. C.

Brinkley cited the extreme expense suppliers must face in the development and marketing of useful new chemicals. These pesticides undergo formidable testing to make sure there's no possibility of ill effects on anyone if the chemicals are used properly.

In return, Brinkley continued, chemical suppliers have the right to expect a profitable return on the millions they invest in research and development of new weedkillers and insecticides.

Herbicide Production Doubles

The Washington executive also gave delegates a breakdown on the growth of America's chemical pesticide industry, and weedmen were particularly interested to learn herbicides have advanced from 10% to 18% of the total of all pesticides produced, including insecticides, nematocides, fungicides, algacides, etc.

Long noted for its technical excellence, the Northeastern Weed Control Conference once again demonstrated that its members are not ivory-tower-confined researchers with no direct communication with the practical aspects of weed control. Particularly noteworthy at this year's conclave was the increase in the number of contract applicators present.

Moreover, while much of the

program is given over to agricultural subjects, there was a wealth of urban/industrial seminars which are of utmost importance to progressive application companies.

Evidence that the NEWCC would get down to brass tacks was apparent from the beginning. Lead-off speaker on Wednesday



Hearty praise for our chemical world was voiced by keynoter Dr. L. G. Merrill, Jr., Dean of Agriculture, Rutgers University.

was A. T. Hanson of the Boston Edison Co., Boston, Mass., whose topic, "What a Utility Company Expects in Chemical Brush Control Work," was of vital interest to researchers and applicators alike, all of whom flocked to the Manhattan meeting to enlarge their knowledge of herbicides in all their varied phases.

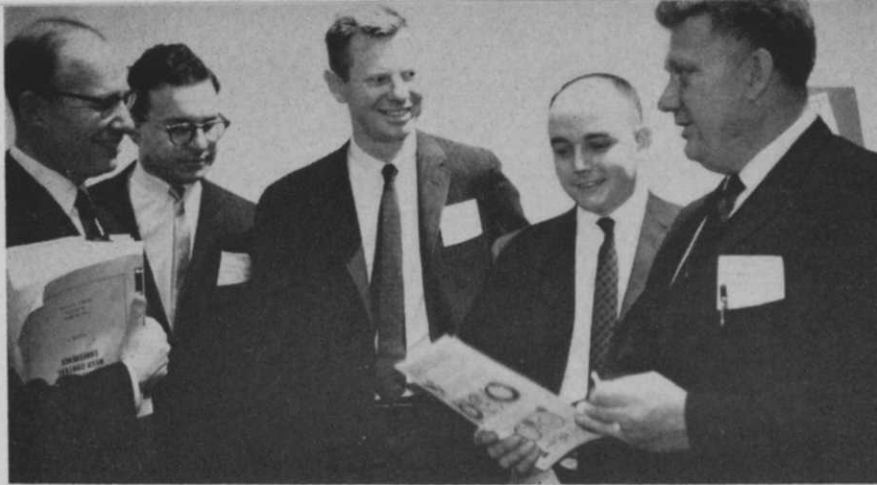
Hanson outlined what is to be expected from chemical suppliers and the utility company, and discussed in detail what he wants from contract applicators who perform brush control work on his lines.

Utilities Want Careful CAs

The New Englander pointed out, for example, that the hazards of drift must be carefully avoided,



An ample staff helped the 700 delegates speed through registration.



PCOs in increasing numbers are showing up at weed control seminars across the land. Here a group of pest controllers compares notes about the NEWCC program (l to r): L. Y. Goldman, New England Pest Control, Providence, R.I.; T. H. Cooper, Cooper Pest Control, Trenton, N.J.; Walter Blank, Abalene Pest Control, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Richard Sameth, Residex Corporation, Clark, N.J.; and Jim MacLachlan, also of Abalene in Utica, N.Y.

because even though the applicator takes responsibility for such occurrences (and is usually insured for them), the utility company nevertheless suffers from a public relations standpoint.

Hanson warned that failure of applicators to perform expert, successful jobs can only lead to development of new or different methods.

That applicators are already aware of this need for perfecting methods was upheld by the number of applying firms which send technical men and managers, and by the number of firms who contribute money through NEWCC sustaining memberships.

Following Hanson in the fast-paced opening session was Dr. Richard Ilnicki, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, who reported on research being conducted with promising new herbicides.

New chemicals of interest to readers of *Weeds and Turf* included Disan, a new pre-emergent herbicide for weed control in turf, which Ilnicki describes as "relatively effective." Disan is a product of Stauffer Chemical Co. The New Jersey scientist also said Banvel-D, from the Velsicol line, has appeared quite specific for control of clover and mouse-eared chickweed in lawns.

Chemicals still in the development stage, but which appear promising, include Hercules 9573, which looks good for pre-emergence weed control in turf.

A Whole Stable of New Chemicals

Another slant on the flock of new chemicals for weedmen was offered following the annual banquet Wednesday night. "New Chemicals from Industry," as this section was called, is now a regular feature of the Northeastern Conference.

More details were offered on

Hercules 9573. Company spokesmen maintain the experimental chemical is useful as a pre-emergent crabgrass killer, and indicate the product is currently offered as a technical material or as an 80% wettable powder for experimental use by qualified persons.

From the West Coast, U. S. Borax representatives discussed Monobor-Chlorate, a granular weed killer described as "a new and unique formulation of sodium borate and sodium chlorate." According to company officials, Monobor-Chlorate has high bulk density and high water solubility, and is effective on a wide range of annual and perennial weeds and grasses. "It is particularly useful and effective for control of Johnsongrass and certain other weedy grasses on noncrop land," *Weeds and Turf* was told.

Borax is also introducing Tritac, a new weedkiller for water spray application to control deep-rooted perennial herbaceous weeds on noncrop lands.

Tritac is chemically known as 2,3,6-trichlorobenzoyloxypropanol. Tritac is also manufactured and sold by Hooker Chemical Co.

Velsicol has, in addition to its Banvel-D, a new experimental herbicide called 59-CS-52, which will be available for limited field testing in 1963.

"Preliminary trials have shown that 59-CS-52 has considerable pre-emergence herbicidal activity against many broadleaf weeds and some annual grassy weeds," Velsicol said.

This new herbicide is available formulated as the potassium salt of 2-methoxy-3,6-dichlorophenylacetic acid in water at the acid equivalent of 4 lb/gal.

Amchem also has a new post-emergent herbicide, which, while primarily for agricultural uses, may be of interest to applicators.

Amchem 61-207 was used to control yellow rocket and several other broadleaf weeds in the Northeast during two years' testing.

This product is an emulsifiable concentrate containing 1.5 lb/gal. of the active ingredient. It is designated H-8043 by the Hercules Powder Co., with which Amchem is carrying on cooperative research.

Sessions Industry - Oriented

Whole sections of the 1963 conference were devoted to industrial weed and brush control, to aquatics, and to turf.

Utility, highway, and railway rights-of-way weed control practices were closely screened, with talks from several utility officials who've supervised such treatment programs.

Clarence E. Staples, Brush Control Engineer from the Central Maine Power Co., explained work his company has done on summer basal spraying of rights-of-way.

Basal spraying, of course, attacks the roots instead of the foliage of the infesting plant.

"Selective summer basal spraying on Central Maine Power Co. transmission rights-of-way has proved to be at least 40% cheaper than cutting," Staples said.

In a paper prepared by a trio of duPont researchers, analysis of a new formulation of Hyvar (*W&T*, July, p. W-4) was presented to the NEWCC section on railway work. Research was accomplished by C. W. Bingeman, R. W. Varner, and J. E. Prendergast, all of duPont's Wilmington, Del., research installation.

While Hyvar is now commercially available and successfully proven as an effective weed killer for industrial sites, the duPont spokesmen claimed, it was felt that



Delegates found time to visit chemical and equipment suppliers' booths. Here Dr. Dayton Klingman, (left) USDA, Beltsville, Md., chats with W. T. McClellan, also of the Beltsville station, while Amchem's John Gallagher looks on from the background.



Congratulations two ways. Outgoing president Dr. D. A. Schallock (left) welcomes new prexy A. J. Tafuro, who smiles his approval of the job well done in 1963. Tafuro, from American Cyanamid, heads the 1964 weed conference.

a different formulation might be useful.

Hyvar is 5-bromo-3-isopropyl-6-methyluracil. The new formulation, called Hyvar X Weed Killer, is 5-bromo-3-sec butyl-6-methyluracil.

Dupont says its new product has been extensively tested on railroad rights-of-way and on other industrial sites in the Northeast, and in other climatic areas of the country.

Tests indicate Hyvar X acts against grasses equally or better than the parent product, Hyvar, duPont maintains.

The chemical is expected to be commercially available in 1963. Experimental quantities are now being offered to qualified operators.

Reports from Amchem Products of Ambler, Pa., drawn up and presented by that company's John E. Gallagher (with Harold M. Collins), show that the terrestrial and now-established herbicide, Fenac, has possibilities as an effective aquatic herbicide.

These claims were presented in the NEWCC Aquatic Section, in which delegates homed in on new

developments of this increasingly important phase of weed control.

Gallagher maintains that Fenac, which Amchem manufactures, has successfully controlled both alligator weed and the water hyacinth.

Small plot treatments with Fenac in large bodies of water, however, have not been effective, Gallagher warns, apparently because of dilution of the herbicide.

Turf Data Plentiful

Applicators who are active in lawn spraying were treated to a series of papers on new lawn chemicals, and new results with old ones, in the NEWCC Turf Section. Inclusion this year of an open discussion was considered a real benefit by contract sprayers present, because it enabled them to quiz the experts on their individual problems.

One paper presented this year was the work of Dr. Ralph E. Engel of Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

Called "Crabgrass Control Obtained on Turf Treated with Several New and Developmental Pre-Emergence Herbicides," Dr. Engel's work outlined several test

results: (1) Bandane shows promise of a high degree of crabgrass control at 60 lbs/acre; (2) Diphenatril appears capable of a more consistent performance when used at the higher rate of 60 lbs per acre; (3) Triflurin gives excellent control with 3 to 4½ lbs/acre but less control at 1½ lbs/acre; and (4) Hercules H-9573 and Stauffer R-4461, experimental compounds, both show promise as pre-emergence crabgrass herbicides.

Windup of the industrial weed and brush section, which came Friday morning before the noon adjournment, was of considerable interest to contract applicators.

Scan Dormant Cane Broadcast

In a talk called "New Tools for Highway Weed and Brush Control" by R. J. Marrese of Diamond Alkali, several significant techniques were examined.

Dr. Marrese's paper was presented by his Diamond colleague, Dr. R. A. Sprayberry.

Increasingly in the contract applicator's eye these days is the concept of dormant cane broadcast. This process involves application of herbicides after late fall and before spring thaw. Chemicals are applied to dormant brush.

One big advantage of dormant cane broadcast, Sprayberry observed, is the increased safety which is a result of the timing which takes place when no valuable crops are growing.

Less obvious to researchers, but equally crucial to contract applicators, is the opportunity to use spraying equipment and personnel all year long. Besides the obvious economic advantage, this could mean spraymen might retain personnel for longer consecutive periods, hence providing industry with more highly trained, qualified

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spray operators to cope with the increased demand for industrial weed and brush control by contract firms.

Dr. Sprayberry, utilizing a series of slides, also showed results obtained with Diamond's new herbicidal formulation, Dacamine, a product described as "safe as amines, effective as esters." Dacamine can be used during the growing season.

Sprayberry referred his audience to an article which appeared in the January 1963 issue of *Weeds and Turf* (p. W-19).

It's important for spraymen to realize, Sprayberry continued, that fast browning is not a characteristic of Dacamine activity. This permits translocation of the chemical into the rootzone, the Cleveland scientist revealed.

More on MH-30

Another product very much in the news is Naugatuck's MH-30, a growth-regulating chemical which is in wide use on some of the nation's highway rights-of-way.

Naugatuck researcher Paul Bohne presented delegates with latest data on his company's product, which has its essential design the curbing of America's

staggering roadside mowing bill, estimated now in excess of \$50,000,000.

It is very possible that MH-30 will soon be in use on cemeteries, industrial parks, and other large turf areas, however, Bohne predicted.

Bohne said his company is working with the John Bean Division, FMC, an equipment manufacturing company, to develop machines which can effectively and economically apply maleic hydrazide (the common name for Naugatuck's trademarked MH-30) to these smaller areas. It is even possible MH-30 will find its way to the golf course, Bohne elaborated.

One thing applicators and highway officials must remember, Bohne warned, is that grass which has been treated with MH-30 remains dormant later in the spring than does untreated grass. When the grass greens up, however, it is every bit as attractive as untreated grass, and frequently has a more lush color.

E. W. Muller, landscape architect with the New York Department of Public Works, Cornell, outlined the successful testing he has supervised to discover the

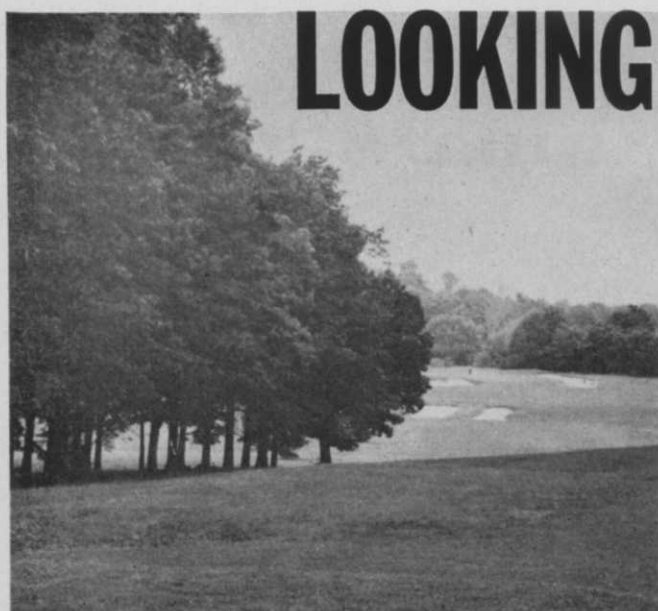
practicality of MH-30 on secondary highways.

"Treated secondary highways were considered satisfactory at the end of the growing season even though no mowing had been done," the landscape expert revealed.

A dramatic and enlightening presentation of the overall effectiveness of a statewide highway weed and brush control program was offered by K. R. Mattern, Assistant Landscape Engineer, Connecticut State Highway Department, Middletown.

After outlining the Connecticut program, which is described as highly effective, economical, safe, and practical, while retaining or enhancing the beauty of the countryside, Mattern flung a gauntlet in front of the harbingers of terror who, through misunderstanding and utter disregard for the facts, have leveled abusive criticism against the use of chemicals for weed control purposes on our highways.

"We will continue to have an herbicide program in the state of Connecticut based on safety and concern for the health of the people and for the maintenance of beautifully and efficiently land-



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scaped highways," the road authority declared.

In a related speech, J. L. Beasley, Highway Landscape Supervisor, Massachusetts Department of Public Works, Boston, described the current turf management program underway in his commonwealth.

Beasley praised some of the current chemicals, such as MH-30, and mentioned products which he uses, such as Urox and Urab, but he spoke cautiously when addressing himself to the chemical industry.

This Massachusetts official feels firms are not engaging in enough research to develop products specifically for the highway market. "The chemical industry today is bypassing our potentially lucrative market," he challenged.

Beasley says Massachusetts uses contract applicators, and has about 140 contracts for roadside work.

Other sources have pegged the Massachusetts budget for this program at \$1,500,000.00 yearly.

This year's varied program was too diverse and too detailed to be adequately summed up in a news report, but the entire proceedings have been published by the North-

eastern Weed Control Conference and are available for \$4.50 a copy. Those wishing to add this volume to their reference material may write to Dr. John Meade, Secretary, Northeastern Weed Control Conference, Department of Agronomy, University of Maryland, College Park.

In charge of the 1963 conference was outgoing president Dr. Donald A. Schallock, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. Dr. Schallock now becomes chairman of the 1964 awards committee.

New president, and the helmsman who'll guide the Northeast weedmen towards their next conference, is A. J. Tafuro, American Cyanamid Co., Princeton, N.J. Second in command is new vice president, Dr. R. A. Peters, University of Connecticut, Storrs. Dr. John Meade is secretary-treasurer again in 1963.

Program chairman will be Dr. G. D. Hill, Jr., E. I. duPont de Nemours, Wilmington, Del. Next year's coordinating committee is headed by Dr. C. J. Noll of Pennsylvania State University, and Geigy Agricultural Chemical's J. Flanagan will head up the important public relations committee.

Sustaining memberships will be

guided by A. Lohr of Hercules Powder Co., Wilmington, Del., and Dr. Don Schallock will head the awards committee, a tradition for the outgoing president of the Northeastern Weed Control Conference.

Dr. Meade told *Weeds and Turf* that the 1964 conference will be January 8-10 at the Hotel New Yorker in Manhattan. Those who want advance information may communicate directly with Dr. Meade.

Soil Fumigation

(from page W-9)

— producing thick, strong turf in a very short time. Because fumigation produces more vigorous turf, most of the problems with foliage diseases, such as dollar spot and brown patch, are eliminated. The same is true of the summer "browning out" in blue grass so common in certain areas of the country, notably the East.

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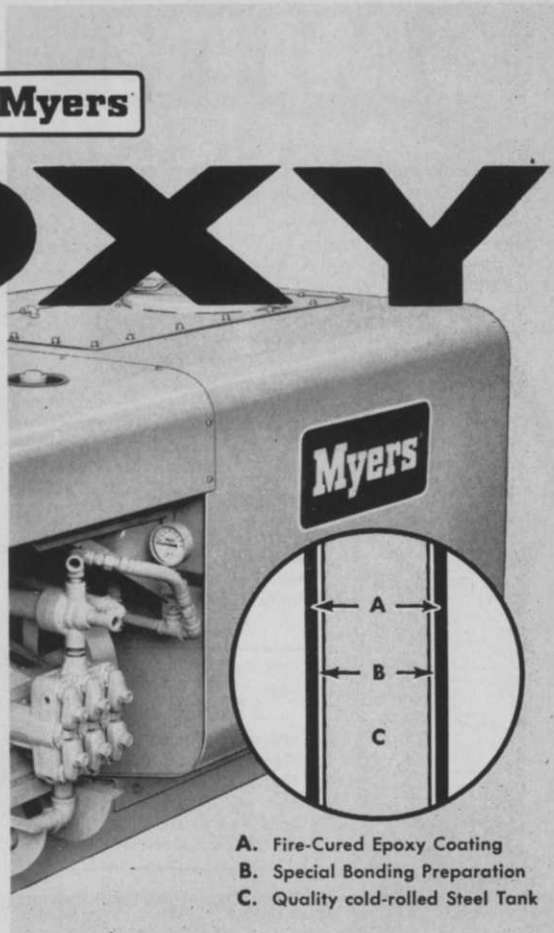
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