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WEEDS and TURF

PEST CONTROL

A SECTION OF PEST CONTROL MAGAZINE

October, 1963

Features

- Applicator's Manual of Aquatic Weed Control, Part I: Biology and Identification of Aquatic Weeds W-8
- Guide to Suppliers of Weed and Turf Chemicals W-18
- HSAF '63 Convention Program Like College Course in Its Diversity W-33
- Importance for Turfmen of Scientific Knowledge Demonstrated by Record Florida Conference Attendance W-35

Departments

- Calendar W-33
- Know Your Species W-36
- Trimnings W-38

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JAMES A. NELSON
Publisher

CHARLES D. WEBB
Editor

DAVID E. SCHNEIDER
Staff Biologist

R. J. HOFFER
Circulation Manager

Advertising Representatives
National Headquarters
1900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Phone: Area Code: 216 + 771-4169

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Speak up now!

Applicators of chemicals for weed control and turf and tree maintenance are currently being swamped with legislation.

From the far corners of the country, with increasing frequency, this magazine receives reports that contract applicators face more and more restricting laws about the use of chemical pesticides.

Astute industry observers will no doubt agree that once the pesticide question caught the public eye, such a rash of new laws was to be expected.

What is alarming to veteran applicators, however, is the fact that too many of the new restrictions are being recommended without consultation with the people who really understand *all* aspects of the pesticide problem. Who is better qualified to speak about the use of pesticides than the contract applicator who makes his living in constant proximity to the compounds some people fear?

We do not doubt that most critics of this chemical age are well-meaning folks who are unduly apprehensive or just misinformed. Some "authorities," qualified in their own fields, may not have the last word on the real or imagined dangers of pesticides. A skilled MD with a good bedside manner is not necessarily a toxicologist.

Because of the danger of unqualified guidance, we recommend that every applicator make himself heard in town hall forums, in state hearings, through local papers, and everywhere possible. Laws meant to govern CAs should not be passed without the good counsel of the governed.

There was once a revolution fought on these shores because a people refused to be taxed without fair representation. It would indeed be a sad comment on the industry if educated, experienced leaders fail to speak up now, in order to give lawmakers a truly proper perspective.