

## Roadside Tree Ailment Study Set at New Hampshire Univ.

Scientists at the University of New Hampshire have embarked on a three-year program to study the decline of trees along busy highways.

At the school's Agricultural Experiment Station in Durham, 400 young pines and maples have been planted to face the onslaught of different ice melters, including salt and commercial

types in use on roads in winter.

Plant pathologist Avery E. Rich will also spray the anti-ice materials on the pines in simulation of treatment trees receive from passing autos in winter months.

Rich has long studied the effects which salt and other materials exert on trees along roadways. Last year, he reported that salt, among other factors, is responsible for a weakening of some maples along roads.

## Trimmings

**Down on the Sod Farm.** We recently had a chatty letter from W. W. Nordan, who operates Nordan's Grass Farms in Abbeville, Ala. Seems this thriving sod grower learned of *Weeds and Turf* when a speaker at the recent Southeastern Turf Conference recommended it to delegates. Mr. Nordan's stationery, we found, makes an effective advertising medium, for plainly and boldly printed on his envelopes are the legends, "Look at your lawn, everyone else does," and "World's largest lawn grass assortment." No doubt turf managers throughout the South have seen the attractive mailers put out by this progressive supplier of turfgrass sod and seed, and we're grateful to learn he took the advice of the conference speaker and became a W&T reader!

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**Convention can't be topped.** While advance planning for the International Shade Tree Conference Convention in Houston this month has assured that the affair will be one of the year's top events, we are especially intrigued with the advice of convention local chairman O. J. (Ollie) Andersen. Ollie, it was revealed tongue-in-cheek during the ISTC Ohio Chapter meeting last month, urged tree people to be sure to bring sunglasses, sport shirts, and bathing suits, "even the topless kind." Since the program includes extensive activities for the ladies, including a Texas-style waterski demonstration in the swimming pool, we're convinced that ISTC delegates will be most attentive to poolside ceremonies. In all seriousness, we've heard that Ollie (who runs Trees of Houston) really did a fine job in arranging this year's affair, which looks like one of the best ever!

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**Don't fight city hall.** Weed control companies should heed the seeming trend in American municipalities to make it unlawful to permit rampant growth of weeds. Most recent news of such rulings comes to us from Phillipsburg, Pa., where the Town Commission agreed to fine property owners \$100 if they don't clear up weed growths five days after notified of the situation. This supersedes the town's previous law, which gave owners ten days to comply, and which necessitated a notice from the mayor himself, who probably has lots of things to tend to; now the town health officer makes the notification. So, tell your friends and neighbors who aren't weed-conscious that it is really unhealthy to ignore the pest plants; in this case, particularly, a \$100 fine could be most sickening!

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**Whee for Whitton.** Congratulations are again in order for our friend Gil Whitton, Pinellas County (Florida) turf expert who's well known to turfmen in the Sunshine State. Gil, who was formerly associate county agent for Pinellas, has been moved to the top spot of County Agent, and will continue his commendable work as advisor to Florida turfmen.

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