

Guiana originally captured 79 of the docile, herbivorous, aquatic mammals, and put them into canals in 1962 to eat weeds. Most have escaped since, because barriers in the canals were not maintained. British Guiana, too, gained independence, and the new government failed to follow through.

Allsopp, who is employed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, cannot continue manatee research because no funds are forthcoming. However, he firmly believes that these beasts can be effective biological controls against aquatic weeds.

Dr. Peter Sguros, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, is presently studying manatees over a three-year period, under a project sponsored by the Flood Control District. He hopes to determine their utility as biological controls. Five manatees were captured and introduced into canals near Fort Lauderdale in May of 1964. He reports that they have chewed their way through half-mile long sections of infested canals every two months. They eat all the weeds, even to the roots, Dr. Sguros reported.

"Shifty" Weeds Stymie Experts

Five years ago, experts hoped that weed problems could be tackled and solved in a short time. But time and the plants have proved otherwise. Experts hadn't counted on the phenomenon now called ecological shift (See WTT, March 1964, pg. 16).

"First we developed a spray to kill southern naiad, then elodea moved in (shifted) and took over," reports Robert Blackburn, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture laboratory, Fort Lauderdale. "We became so interested in controls that we overlooked these ecological shifts. I don't know why they occur," Blackburn confessed.

With each success, new problems are created; relatively speaking, experts know less today than they did five years ago.

The need for a no-drift spray gun prompted the Army Corps of Engineers in the New Orleans District to develop an instant on-

off trigger. William Wunderlich is the chief of the weed control section.

Old guns, Wunderlich explained, produce a fine mist when first triggered. They do not spray a coarse stream until the gun barrel is twisted. Fine spray droplets may drift on air currents and contaminate nearby crops or other desirable plants.

The new gun, which Wunderlich says costs only \$30.00 to assemble, produces a coarse stream when first turned on. It gives precise on-off control for operators.

No date was given for the next meeting. Future plans of the Hyacinth Control Society will be announced in *Weeds Trees and Turf*, the newly-elected president, Zeb Grant, director of operation and maintenance, Florida Flood Control District, reported.

Vermeer Builds Tree Mover

A completely automatic tree moving machine that digs, balls, transports, sets, and plants large trees has been introduced by the Vermeer Mfg. Co., Pella, Iowa.

The new Vermeer TM-700 Tree Mover makes it possible for nurserymen, landscape contractors, tree firms and general contractors to dig, move, and plant a large 7" or 8" diameter tree in very short time with no hand

John Bean Offers Catalogs

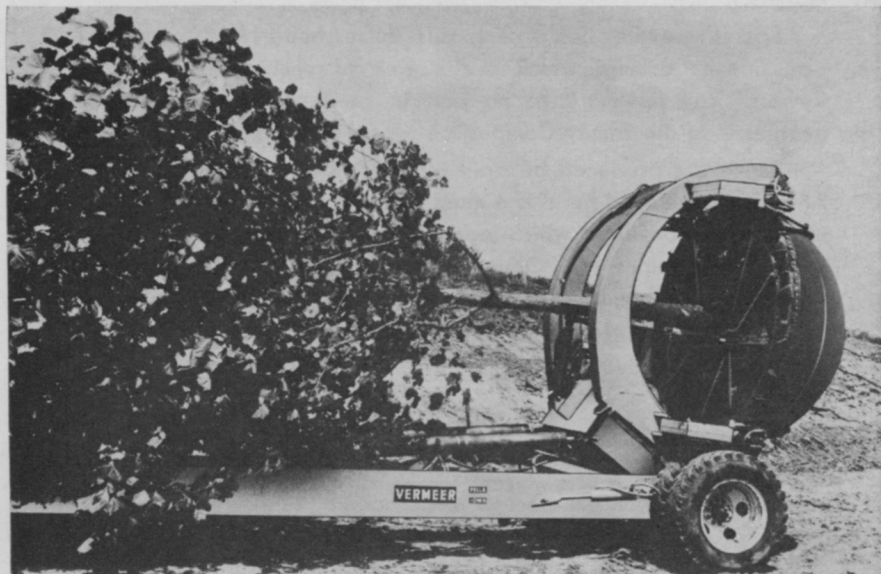
Free catalogs of John Bean power sprayers are now available from John Bean Division, FMC Corp., 1305 South Cedar St., Box 9490, Lansing, Mich. 48909. The new catalogs picture and report the complete line of John Bean sprayer models, attachments, and accessories.

labor, the company says.

The machine is a tree transporter equipped with two hydraulically operated "cutting cups" that dig the tree ball surrounding the tree in minutes. The machine then hydraulically lifts the tree and its ball out of the hole and lays it forward on the carrying trailer for transport. At the planting site, the tree is lifted upright and set into the receiving hole. The entire operation is controlled with a series of hydraulic levers.

According to Vermeer, this machine is highly suited to volume tree moving operations. The tree mover digs out the tree, and sets it into the balling stand with wrapping material in place, ready to receive the ball. Trees can then be lifted onto flatbed trucks for delivery to new planting area.

For additional information, literature, and demonstration, interested readers may write to Carl Boat, Sales Manager, Vermeer Mfg. Co., Pella, Iowa.



New on the market is this fully automatic tree moving machine which is equipped with huge cups that cut their way into the soil around and under the tree. The machine lifts the tree out and transports it to a new location where it sets tree into hole. Machine's "bite" is 7' in diameter, 40" deep.