



Heading the Weed Society of America for 1966 are (left to right) F. W. Slife, treasurer; E. G. Rodgers, editor, *Weeds*; R. Behrens, president-elect and chairman of the program committee; W. R. Furtick, Society president; G. C. Klingman, executive committee; D. L. Klingman, secretary.

## Experimental Herbicides for Weed Control Described at Annual WSA St. Louis Meeting

New approaches to selective weed control with new and experimental herbicides highlighted talks during the February meeting of the Weed Society of America at the St. Louis, Mo., Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel.

Nearly 800 weed specialists from throughout the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Hungary registered for the Weed Society Conference which also included discussions of public acceptance of the industry, weed and woody plant control on rights-of-ways and other industrial sites, weed control in turf, and aspects of the employment problem in the industry.

### Chlorophyll Inhibitor

An experimental herbicide, Rowmate, known chemically as 3,4-dichlorobenzyl methylcarbamate, was described by Union Carbide Corp. scientists, Dr. Richard A. Herrett and Robert Berthold, discoverers of the compound. They reported the material kills susceptible weeds by inhibiting the synthesis of chlorophyll, the green components vital to growth of plants.

Weed control over an extended period under relatively dry conditions is made possible because

the herbicide remains in the upper one-quarter inch of the soil profile, the two Carbide scientists explained.

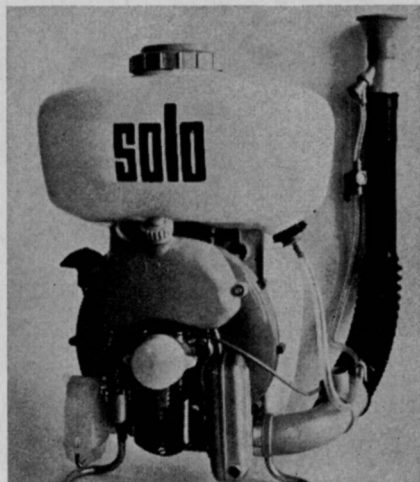
### Weed Reports on Siduron

Another new approach to weed control was presented by E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co. senior research biologist, Dr. Mark B. Weed, who told how research indicated the compound siduron prevents crabgrass root growth while not affecting roots of common cool-season lawn grasses. The chemical is the active ingredient in duPont's "Tupersan" siduron weedkiller, introduced in 1965.

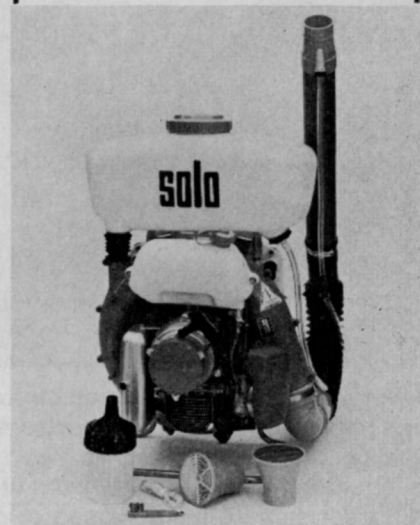
Dr. Weed described one test where siduron was positioned in a layer one-half inch below the surface of soil seeded with crabgrass and bluegrass. Crabgrass seed germinated but roots were unable to penetrate the chemical barrier. In contrast, bluegrass roots passed through the siduron layer.

Dr. Weed also reported that repeated yearly applications of siduron had little or no effect on root systems of many established cool-season turf species, even when the chemical is applied at extremely high rates. He based

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this conclusion on tests that extended for four years.

One series of plots was treated with siduron at five times the maximum recommended rate, or 60 lbs. per acre per year for three years. Another series was treated with 16 lbs. per year for four years, and a third series received 15 lbs. for one year. Then root samples of three different turf species were removed, observed, and weighed. They showed even the overdoses of siduron had little or no effect on root species, Dr. Weed reported. He said studies indicate the major means by which siduron disappears from the soil is through microbial degradation.

**NIA 11092 for Broadleaves**

NIA 11092, an experimental industrial herbicide for soil sterilization and brush control on railroad, highway, and utility rights-of-way, shows promise according to a discussion of the chemical developed by Niagara Chemical Division, FMC.

Soil sterilization, according to the report, can be accomplished with 4 to 6 lbs. of NIA 11092, 80 WP per acre, for annual weeds. For fibrous-rooted perennial weeds, from 8 to 12 lbs. of NIA 11092, 80 WP per acre, was recommended. Applications from 15 to 25 lbs. per acre were suggested for long-term residual control of perennial weeds having underground rootstocks.

The compound was described as excellent for brush control (including hardwood and coniferous species) when mixed at a rate of 2.5 lbs. NIA 11092 80 WP plus surfactant or 2 gals. of 1 EC per 100 gals. of water and sprayed to thoroughly wet the foliage.

**Experimental SD 11831**

Shell Development Co. experimental herbicide SD 11831 was another preemergence selective weed control product spotlighted at the meeting. SD 11831, at a dosage of 1 to 2 pounds per acre, was suggested for weed control in turf.

It was reported that sprinkler irrigation has been an effective means of incorporating SD 11831 following surface applications. For turf work, experimental

granule formulations containing 0.25-1% active ingredient will be available.

### Money in Weeds?

Speaking of the opportunities available in the weed control industry, T. J. Sheets, weed control scientist with North Carolina State University, said:

"There are more than twice as many jobs available in the industry than there are people to fill them. Salaries range from 9 to 15 thousand dollars a year in the weed control industry for people with Ph.D. degrees." Sheets commented that many of the jobs require master's degrees or Ph.D. training, but research technicians are also needed.

In charge of the Society's job placement service, Sheets added that the program comes to a climax each year at the annual meeting, when interview rooms are reserved and lists of openings and applicants are provided to bring prospective employers and employees together.

### Furtick Elected President

Agronomy professor at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Dr. W. R. Furtick, was elected WSA president for 1966. President elect for the coming year is Dr. Richard Behrens, professor of Agronomy at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. Elected secretary is Dr. Dayton L. Klingman, Research Branch, United States Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. New executive committee members at large are Dr. Glenn C. Klingman, North Carolina State University, and Gideon D. Hill, weed control researcher with duPont in Wilmington, Del.

### Tree Wound Dressing Is Handy

A new 16-oz. container with a built-in applicator is now used by Seymour Smith & Son, Inc., for distribution of its tree wound dressing.

Use of the tree dressing in this new container makes it easy to apply while tree pruning is in progress. More details can be obtained from the company at Oakville, Conn. 06779.

### Merck Acquires Metalsalts

In a statement jointly issued by Merck & Co., Inc., and Metalsalts Corp., it was announced that the latter has been acquired by Merck.

Metalsalts, a privately owned company, has its offices and plant in Hawthorne, N. J., and a subsidiary near Montreal. Its principal products are industrial chemical specialties used extensively to protect against fungus and bacterial growth in many products and in agricultural fields. Metalsalts will continue to operate under its own name with its present staff and facilities.

Henry W. Gadsden, president of Merck, said, "The acquisition provides Merck with a growing research-oriented operation in a field that is new to us."

### Frit Fly Is Turfgrass Pest

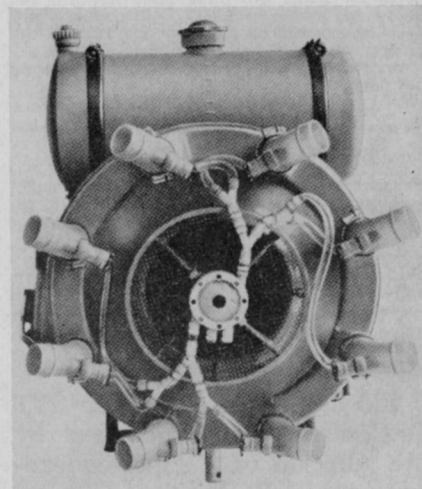
The frit fly has recently become a pest of turfgrasses, reports Gordon Watts, head of the department of botany and entomology at New Mexico State University.

Watts reveals that the frit fly is now a pest of grasses used on golf greens at University Park and in El Paso. So far, he says, this condition has not been reported as a problem in northern New Mexico. The frit fly, usually smaller than the common fruit fly, has been a problem to European farmers for many years, attacking small grains and corn. It has not attacked these crops in the United States.

Two reasons may account for the recent attacks of the insect pest on turfgrasses. One is that resistance to the insect has been bred out of the grasses used for turf, and the other is that a mutation may have occurred in the insect. Watts stresses that this is a speculation and not a scientific fact.

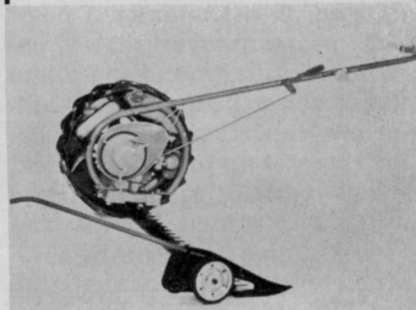
The frit fly's ability to travel great distances would limit control measures to a local pattern, because of reinfections from migrations of the fly. A safe insecticide such as malathion might be used as a stopgap, Watts advises.

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