

HSAF Convention Report

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sible from using larger equipment make better buys of the bigger item. Consider its design and construction second, he advised. In particular, it should have more than "just enough" power. Third, consider the economy of maintenance. Larger items require more expensive parts, but not nearly as much replacement; small machines often eat up too many parts. Keep in mind, too, the availability of replacement parts. Finally, according to Griffes, consider the initial cost of the equipment; but do it last, not first.

Relay Panelists Answer Queries

Concluding HSAF's educational sessions, a panel of experts, so large it was divided into two sections, took questions from the floor. First team consisted of Dr. John Cabler, Turf-Grass Specialities, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. T. E. Freeman, Associate Plant Pathologist, University of Florida, Gainesville; Dr. Stratton Kerr, Associate Entomologist, University of Florida, Gainesville; and Doug Palmer, Junior College of Broward County, Ft. Lauderdale.

What is new for brown patch control? the panel was asked. Rohm & Haas' Fore and Diamond Alkali's Daconil 2787 look promising, was Dr. Freeman's reply.

What new chemicals look good for chinch bug control? Dursban from Dow and Akton from Shell have given good control at the rate of 1 lb. active ingredient per acre, Dr. Kerr said. Akton is available only with an experimental label for testing.

What are the prospects for a fungicide that will control all fungus diseases? Dr. Freeman expressed doubts that such a fungicide will be developed. In all likelihood, various chemicals will still be required for optimum control of the different fungi. Several of the broadest spectrum fungicides on the market now are Fore, Daconil, Thiram, and the organic mercury compounds.

What about reference guides for control of insect pests in Florida? The University of Florida's "Insect Control Guide," covers all

up-to-date recommendations, Dr. Kerr replied. This book can be obtained for \$5.00, which includes supplementary information as it is made available, from James Brogdon, Extension Entomologist, Department of Entomology, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Taking the baton at midpoint in the question and answer session were Dr. Evert Burt, Associate Turf Technologist, Plantation Field Laboratory, Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. Thomas Stringfellow, also from the field lab; Al Wills, Junior College of Broward County, Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. Huey Borders, Plantation; Dr. Tom Kochis, Plantation; and Lew Watson. Questions came thick and fast during the panel session, which was moderated by Ralph White, who was later named a director of HSAF for the coming two years at the business meeting.

Others chosen for key association offices included Larry Nipp, American Power Spray Co., Ft. Lauderdale, who will serve a second term as HSAF president; Craig Anderson, The Professional Sprayer, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale, who moved into the newly created position of president-elect; Ray Meyers, American Power Spray, Orlando, who becomes vice president; and Bill Murray, Greenlawn Spray Service, Lake Worth, who was named secretary-treasurer for the coming year. Selected as new directors-at-large were Robert Perry, Sunset Nursery, Tampa; and Earl Waldman, Earl's Lawn Spray Service, Port Charlotte.

But the convention was not all business, as the large turnout of almost 150 discovered at the annual banquet, the biggest yet, held in the host hotel, Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. With longtime sprayman Charlie Johnson, of Charlie P. Johnson Spray Service Co., Inc., Miami, and Willard Fifield, Director of the Florida Agricultural Research Institute, Gainesville, as master of ceremonies and guest speaker, no dinner could end on a dour note. In a genial mood, HSAF members filtered from the hotel to return to the task of improving their industry in the state of Florida.

Trimmings

Topless Illustration. A frequent correspondent of ours has written in to ask what happened to the top of the photograph that appeared on page 24 of WTT's November issue. A group illustration of past presidents of the Northeastern Weed Control Conference, the photo was cropped just above the head of '65 president, Dr. Gideon Hill, of duPont Chemical Co. Now, we could claim that Dr. Hill just happened to be the tallest participant in the photo. And, we might add that we're not in the habit of running pics of walls and ceilings, preferring to leave this to interior decorators' journals. However, in truth, this would only be a half-truth. Those who have seen the ballroom of the Hotel Astor, longtime meeting place of the NEWCC, may recall the semidraped maidens adorning the wall. In defense of our cut, we quote Dr. Homer LeBaron, conference public relations chairman, of Geigy Agricultural Chemicals Corp.: "I might mention in passing that the background of this photograph was somewhat coincidental, but I hope it will not prevent your magazine from being distributed in the U.S. mail." What troubles us is that the background was only "somewhat" coincidental, and we're wondering what we'll run into when the NEWCC meets next January 4 to 6. Of course, the Hotel Astor will be no more, and we assume the maidens will be shipped off to a roadside museum. But then, there's always the possibility they are being removed to the Hotel Commodore, where Northeast weedmen will meet in '67. Shuddering thought.

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Year Round Use for Yule Tree. With the holiday season close upon us, we hear that some cities plan to provide their residents an extra use for discarded Christmas trees. City chippers will chew up trees and homeowners will receive the chips for mulching their trees and shrubs. Sounds like a good idea, but it still doesn't remove the vexing necessity of taking down the Christmas tree, most unpleasant task of the holiday season. Wonder when someone will invent ornaments suitable for mulch?

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Bit of the Auld Sod. Recently received some correspondence from County Down, Ireland, pertaining to the 18th Cen. practice of planting lawns not with grass, but with moss. Seems to have been an aristocratic preference adapted to Ireland's humid climate and highly acid soils. We're told that some moss lawns were of "many acres" and yellowish-golden in color. Just when moss ceased to be cultivated in lawns of the elite, we can't say. But we can say this: the more we travel around the country and view the tremendous strides being made in commercial sod production, the more we realize that an Irish aristocrat of centuries past would have difficulties bettering the cultivated sod readily available on today's market.