

Ft. Lauderdale HSAF Convention, Nov. 2-5, To Cover New Laws, Trends, Methods, Equipment

New laws and regulations affecting spraymen are subjects of an idea exchange to be led by John Mulrennan, Florida Board of Health, and Dempsey Sapp, Florida Pest Control Commissioner—just one of the topics set for the Horticultural Spraymen's Association of Florida Annual Convention, Nov. 2-5, at Pier 66 Motel in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Starting the action-packed four-day program will be a Board of Directors dinner meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2.

After Thursday morning registration, the convention talks open with welcoming remarks to the afternoon session by Larry Nipp, HSAF president, and Craig Anderson of The Professional Sprayers, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale. Speakers and topics they will cover in the afternoon include Dr. Gene Nutter and Ralph Jones: "New Trends in Our Industry," and John Mul-

rennan with Dempsey Sapp set to discuss "New Laws and Regulations." A poolside get-together and a Hole-in-One Golf Tournament, hosted by Sid Kirkpatrick, will top off the day's activities.

Friday's schedule offers an informative series of lawn care discussions during the morning session. Speeches programmed include "Available Lawn Grasses; Their Characteristics and Problems," by lawn expert Ralph White, Jr., general manager, Ousley Sod Co.; "Renovation, Aerifying, Verti-cutting of Lawns," by Lew Watson, Associate County Agent, Broward County, Fla.; and "Lawn Maintenance Equipment, and its Practical Uses," by Art Griffes, Ft. Lauderdale.

Weeds, fungus, and fertilizer forum discussions by Florida plant experts, Drs. Burt, Cabler, Edwardo, Border, Kerr, and Freeman will offer delegates new information Friday afternoon. After the forum a business meeting is scheduled and officer elections will take place.

The convention banquet is set for 8 p.m. Friday evening.

An equipment demonstration will be another feature of this year's HSAF meeting.

Formation of a Horticultural Pest Control Association of the

Eastern United States will be the central topic at the convention's business meeting Saturday morning, Nov. 5.

Convention registration fee is \$10, which includes the banquet. For reservations and more information write to Larry Nipp, American Power Spraying, 3675 S. W. 1st St., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Dormant Hormone Research Continues

How can dormancy be speeded in plants? Withholding water and fertilizer helps bring about dormancy, but what could be a more effective method is now being developed, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports.

Researchers have isolated and structurally identified a natural chemical in plants that makes them "grow-old" faster, or speeds leaf drop and other dormant functions, the USDA points out. This natural hormonelike chemical promotes dropping of leaves, flowers, and fruit in a process called abscission. Because of this role, the chemical has been named abscisin II by scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the University of California.

Working to isolate abscisin II, researchers crystallized 1/3160th of an ounce of the hormone from about 500 lbs. of cotton bolls, 4 to 7 days old. They then determined the structure of the compound by elemental analysis and by comparing it with known chemical compounds through mass magnetic-resonance comparisons. Currently researchers are attempting to synthesize the hormone.

Three major groups of plant hormones are now recognized: Auxins, gibberellins, and kinins. Abscisin II may be one of a fourth group of hormones that promote or accelerate abscission. The three known plant hormone groups are currently synthesized and are widely used in agriculture. Auxins, for example, kill weeds and promote rooting of cuttings. Gibberellins accelerate growth and flowering of trees and shrubs, and kinins are used to keep produce fresh.

AAN '65 Plant Patent Directory Now Available

The only publication in existence which annually summarizes information on new plant patents has again been updated by the American Association of Nurserymen and is now available.

Announcing the availability, AAN president Martin W. Ursey points out that the 1965 Supplement to the Plant Patent Directory, not only gives patent information, but also shows the common name assigned to each new introduction.

The original directory, "Plant Patents with Common Names—1-2207," covers those plant patents granted from the inception of the U. S. Plant Patent system in 1931 through December 31, 1962. Supplements for 1963, 1964, and 1965 are available for 50 cents each, and the original Directory for \$2, from the American Association of Nurserymen, 835 Southern Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20005.



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