

Massachusetts Requires Seed Test; Honest Packaging

"All seed intended to be sold for seeding purposes in Massachusetts must be tested and properly labeled," reminds William N. Rice, director of the State Seed Laboratory, University of Massachusetts. "False or misleading statements or pictures that imply the seed is better than it is will be considered violations of the state seed law," Rice said.

Typical statements considered misleading are "all-purpose," "unconditionally guaranteed," "engineered for you," or "no finer seed for your money." A picture of a beautiful lawn on a package containing coarse or hay grass seed is misleading and unlawful.

The State Seed Laboratory in Amherst, as part of a campaign to encourage proper and truthful labeling of seeds, will examine labels and printed materials on all seed packages and will analyze contents to see if they meet the requirements of the law. Grass seed labels must show germination percentage and the date of test. The purity percentage must be stated for all field crops or lawn seeds.

Seeds for testing should be identified properly, packed in strong envelopes, wrapped securely and sent to the Massachusetts Seed Laboratory, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Fee schedule, a summary of the

seed law, and current seed inspection bulletin are also available from the laboratory.

Prompt Care Avoids Cankers

Prompt treatment of tree wounds caused by storms, lawn-mower bumps, or construction will help keep canker diseases to a minimum, according to R. E. Partyka, Ohio State University Extension plant pathologist. Cankers, a local disease caused by several fungi, originate when specific organisms enter trees through wounds in the bark.

Cankers are often recognized by water-soaked areas that are darker than the surrounding healthy bark. Edge of the diseased area cracks and as woody tissue grows under the cracks, it becomes infected and dies. Concentric rings of dead tissue accumulate eventually and when this canker completely surrounds a trunk or branch, the portion above dies.

If cankers are not too large, they can be cut out and the exposed wood treated with a tree-wound dressing. Large cankers may necessitate removal of an entire branch. Good fertility level in the soil promotes vigorous growth of the trees and helps reduce cankering. Cankers are found on birch, elm, linden, black walnut, chestnut, crab apple, dogwood, hemlock, maple, mountain ash, oak, poplar, redbud, spruce, sycamore, and willow trees.



A hydraulic tiller, said to be the first in the compact tractor field, has been added by the J. I. Case Co. to its line of implements available with its garden tractor. Named the Case Hydrastatic-Drive Tiller, it provides a smooth, powerful rotor action to work the toughest soils, the company says. Only one pump is required to drive the tractor and the tiller. Control valve for the tiller actually controls the ground speed of the tractor. This gives operator finger-tip control of rotor speed to work soil to desired texture. Tiller has 40-inch cutting width. Six 14-inch diameter tines work soil to 9-inch depth. Rotor is reversible. For complete details on this equipment write J. I. Case Co., Racine, Wis.

WTT Mailbox

Last month *Weeds Trees and Turf* was among the 600 who attended the National Academy of Science's Public Symposium on the Scientific Aspects of Pest Control in Washington, D. C. All major pesticide firms were represented, along with top-level government and university authorities on pesticidal chemistry and toxicity, and those developing new control techniques. We talked with Dr. Warren Shaw, and the new President of the Northeastern Weed Control Conference, Dr. Richard Ilnicki, and scores of others, but were disappointed not to see more representatives of other trade groups in the vegetation maintenance and control field. To date, official talk about alleged pesticide toxicity and residue hazards has been focused primarily on the agricultural and structural segments of the pest control field, but decisions affecting these areas have a direct relationship to what weed, tree, and turf men will be permitted to do in the future. It won't be too long before applicators in the urban/industrial vegetation control and maintenance complex will also be regulated by legislation which has, for the most part, omitted specific reference to them. Some 36 experts addressed the conference, held in the State Department Auditorium, and there seems to be a changing attitude on the part of many who now feel there really isn't the kind of hazard from pesticide residues so many have claimed as an eventuality, a la Rachael Carson. While the advantages of pesticides far outweigh any claimed ill effects, proper use of them is absolutely necessary, just as it is when taking a drug, or driving an automobile, for that matter. This was the theme that ran through the symposium. Wish more of our industry had been there.

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With all due respect to one of our good advertisers, we do believe the "what shall we call it" department of Smith-Douglass outdid itself recently when it came up with a name for its new extruded turf food. It's to be known as TLC. And, dear reader, do you know what these initials stand for? TLC is an abbreviation for "Tender Loving Care"! The turf food is bright pink, cylindrically shaped, and packed in polyethylene bags. A 20-lb bag is said to be enough to feed 5,000 sq. feet of turf ... with tender loving care, of course.

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Bright Future. According to the Stanford Research Institute Report on Pest Control, which is going the executive rounds these days, clearance of brush and weeds along rights-of-way costs more than \$97 million annually, and railroads spend a total of \$30 million. This market may increase, SRI says, at a faster rate than other segments of the overall pest control market.