

## Southern Weedmen Confer In New Orleans, Jan. 24-26

Nearly every aspect of weed control relating to agriculture, industry, and public utilities will be covered when southern weed specialists convene at the Jung Hotel in New Orleans, La., for the 20th annual meeting of the Southern Weed Conference, Jan. 24-26.

The three-day session is scheduled to bring together researchers and educators representing colleges, chemical companies, public health and regulatory agencies, public service organizations, equipment manufacturers, and others from 12 southern states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

President of the Southern Weed Conference is Donald Davis, Botany Department, Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.; Robert A. Mann, Tennessee Valley Authority, Chattanooga,

Tenn., is vice president; secretary-treasurer is Dr. H. Hanly Funderburk, Botany Department, Auburn University; Dr. John Baker, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, is program chairman; and Robert Z. Torrance, of E. I. duPont de Nemours, Baton Rouge, is in charge of local arrangements for the conference.

## Noncrop Weed Sessions Set For Jan. 24-26 Calif. Meet

Headlining the Jan. 25 session on noncropland weed control, D. W. Yazell, Engineer of Vegetation Control, Santa Fe Railroad, will describe the Santa Fe's "Railroad Electric Weed Spray Car" to participants in the 1967 California Weed Control Conference, Jan. 24-26, at the Hilton Inn in San Diego.

The railroad has converted two baggage cars into modern spray units, equipped with diesel-driven centrifugal pumps for weed control on trackage that runs from California to Illinois,

Texas, and Louisiana. In the same session, Mike Palermo, engineering commission, 11th Naval District Headquarters, will discuss the Navy's increased reliance on herbicides to control unwanted vegetation on shore establishments, and the cost reductions that have resulted.

Other papers to be presented during this session include "Weed Control Under Asphalt Paving," by Carl F. Lind, Asphalt Institute district engineer; "Weed and Brush Control Under Transmission Lines," by C. Elmer Lee, Southern California Edison Co.'s manager of line clearing; and "A Distributor's View of the Industrial Herbicide Market," by Bob Brunner, industrial herbicide specialist for Van Waters & Rogers, Inc. F. R. Ogilvy, western regional manager for agricultural and industrial products, U. S. Borax and Chemical Corp., Los Angeles, will chair the non-crop session.

## MSU Sees Possible Turf Uses for Subsoil Asphalt

Water holding capacity of the soil is doubled, Michigan State University scientists say, by their newly developed process for installing a thin layer of asphalt two feet under a sandy soil. Asphalt layering may prove valuable for raising turf in such locations as a sandy golf course, they point out. The asphalt layer, about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. thick, provides an artificial barrier and allows water to be stored in the zone where it can be readily used by plants.

Developed by two M.S.U. researchers, agricultural engineer Clarence M. Hansen and soil scientist A. Earl Erickson in conjunction with the American Oil Co.'s Research and Development Department, this asphalt layering process is said to have a potential for reclaiming millions of acres of droughty, sand soils. Cost, using the researchers' experimental equipment, is about \$225 per acre, but developers feel equipment and application methods can be improved and cost reduced. They expect the asphalt layer would last about 15 years.

"Roots can penetrate the asphalt



Participants in the Annual Turfgrass Short Course of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Turfgrass Assn., at Auburn University, included (l. to r.) Dr. Henry Orr, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University; Bryson L. James, technical representative, Hercules Inc., Raleigh, N.C.; Marshall Dugger, Dugger Grass Co., Tuscumbia, Ala.; and Dr. R. D. Rouse, associate director and assistant Dean Auburn University School of Agriculture. Altogether, more than 100 participants and researchers discussed problems in turfgrass management during the Sept. 8-9 meet. Speakers included James, who discussed "Preemergence Treatment for Control of *Poa Annua* on Overseeded Grasses"; Dr. Orr, who talked about "Trees, Shrubs and Their Care"; James B. Moncrief, southeastern agronomist, USGA, Greens Section, Athens, Ga., who delved into the loss of bermudagrass on golf courses in northern Alabama; W. A. Rocquemore, Patten Seed and Turfgrass Co., Lakeland, Ga., whose topic was "Renovation and Reconstruction of Tees"; and Tom Mascaro, West Point Products Corp., West Point, Pa., who reported on problems, including soil compaction and turfgrass wear, caused by golf carts. Dr. D. G. Sturkie, Department of Agronomy and Soils, Auburn, was chairman of arrangements for the meet and directed a tour of turf experiments on fertilization of zoysia, Tiflawn bermuda, and centepedegrass. Dr. Sturkie also described new strains of bermudagrass and zoysia under test at the Auburn plots.