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Spraymen East and Spraymen West

Apparent collapse of the National Association of Spraymen before it ever emerged from the planning stage seems to have led to renewed emphasis on area associations for spraymen. This may well be a desirable development that will allow spraymen to calibrate their thinking and goals before tackling the big job of organizing nationally.

A proposal to form a Horticultural Pest Control Association for the Eastern U.S. is now being deliberated by Florida spraymen. It's our hope that a true area association will evolve from these deliberations and that, eventually, East and West will get together, work out their differences, and nationalize their programs. Now as never before, spraymen need a coherent voice in legislative and other matters affecting all in the profession.

What can a spraymen's association accomplish? Last month, WTT reported on the newly organized Pacific Northwest Spraymen's Assn., which includes Oregon and Washington. Conferences, short courses, public relations and education, insurance and legislation committees: these are among self-professed aims of Northwest spraymen. Is this just a nice sounding platform to placate the dues-paying membership? No, PNSA has shown it means business.

President Bill Owen writes that their '66 Spray-O-Rama was an outstanding success, both from attendance and from program participation. Through the organization's actions, accident and health insurance programs are now available to members on a *group* basis. The association has been active at meetings called to consider changes in Oregon pesticide applicator laws, and plans to be there when similar meetings occur in Washington. Further, PNSA is investigating establishment of a permanent chair at a state agricultural university for research and extension work in ornamentals.

In short, Northwest spraymen are neither standing pat nor waiting around to see what happens. This is the sort of action required to snap spraymen out of the doldrums and move a spray association into public recognition. Culminating years of organizational effort, a PNSA letter outlining its program drew an excellent response, along with a number of requests for information and meeting dates. Perhaps, and WTT hopes this will happen, once spraymen grow accustomed to acting on an area level, they will be ready, with the advantages of far more experience and background, to consider a larger group geared for action on a national level.

WEEDS TREES AND TURF is the national monthly magazine of urban/industrial vegetation maintenance, including turf management, weed and brush control, and tree care. Readers include "contract applicators," arborists, nurserymen, and supervisory personnel with highway departments, railways, utilities, golf courses, and similar areas where vegetation must be enhanced or controlled. While the editors welcome contributions by qualified freelance writers, unsolicited manuscripts, unaccompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes, cannot be returned.