



Helicopter fertilizer/seed spreader, called the Sling-King, has been developed by Transland Aircraft, Inc. The unit is radio controlled and requires no hydraulic lines to the helicopter. Thus, no power take-off is needed from the helicopter engine. The unit has a 27 cubic foot fiberglass hopper, weighs less than 150 pounds and covers swath widths up to 85 feet. Capacity of hopper is 800 pounds of pelletized urea. A 3½ hp, 4-cycle, gasoline engine powers the spreader. (For more information, circle (710) on reader service card).

## California Golf Courses Almost Triple Since 1955

California has been opening new golf courses at the rate of 3 per month since 1960, according to William B. Davis, Extension Turf & Landscape Horticulturist at the University of California at Davis.

A survey taken by the university's Agricultural Extension Service in 1967 revealed that the state's golf courses actually in play totaled 665, with more than 50 courses either under construction or on the drawing board for

completion by 1970, Davis reports. This figure is a far cry from 1955's total of 234 golf courses.

Almost 60 percent of California's courses are regulation 18-hole, ranging from 5000 to 7000 yards with pars between 65 and 72, says Davis. About 22 percent are regulation 9's with pars from 32 to 36.

How much land is occupied by California's 665 golf courses? About 67,679 acres, according to Davis. Few crops produced in the state, he adds, require the amount of irrigation, fertiliza-

tion and continuous harvesting that must go into producing acceptable areas for the game of golf.

## Bunton Offers New Equipment Catalogue

The 1969 Bunton mowers and trimmers catalog is now ready for distribution. The catalog features self-propelled rotary power mowers, rider attachments, conventional push-type rotary power mowers, trimmer-edgers, trimmers and complete specifications for the complete line.

The Bunton Company manufactures this complete line of mowers and trimmers which includes: 21, 24, 28, 32, 36 and 52-inch self-propelled mowers; 18, 20 and 21-inch push-type mowers; and 8, 10, 12, and 18-inch power trimmers.

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## Denver Trees Suffer From 'Gastric' Ailment

Denver's elms, cottonwoods and poplars can suffer from a gastric ailment known as wetwood, according to city forester George Stadler.

The non-infectious malady, not to be confused with Dutch elm disease, can be arrested and cured, Stadler reports. Bacteria causes carbohydrates and other tree materials to ferment and produce gas. Abnormally high sap pressures build up inside the tree trunk as the result. Up to 60 pounds per square inch have been recorded, Stadler reveals.

The pressurized sap, which produces a water-soaked condition, seeks the nearest escape route—cracks in the trunk or any other opening. Wilting of branches and twigs may also occur.

Stadler explains that holes are bored into the heartwood of the tree and pipes are inserted to drain off the sap to remedy the situation.