



Grass and some weeds up to three feet high enabled mower companies to demonstrate the maximum effectiveness of their machines. The top picture shows a Servis rotary mower; the bottom, a Caldwell flail mower.

ence of prescription," pointed out Turney Hernandez of duPont. You must define your objective, he explained, in terms of whether you want bare ground, abatement, selective weeding, chemical trimming, or weedy plant control.

If the work is to be done through contract, it is important, said one applicator, that bids are asked for and evaluated on similar specifications.

Concerning vegetation management through mowing, as with chemicals, there is a "best-suited" and "most economical" machine for a particular need, said Cecil Willis of the Houston Parks Department.

"I personally prefer the flail-type mower because of the safety factor," he said. "But regardless of type of mower used or money and equipment available, if you cannot main-

tain what you have created, you have defeated your goal in vegetation management.

"Let quality control and ease of maintenance be your guides."

Safety will become a stronger factor in mower selection in Texas when a liability law goes into effect at the beginning of the year. The law makes the state vulnerable to suit over personal injury or property damage caused by mowers.

Conference sessions closed with a panel of industry representatives reporting on the latest chemicals and equipment in use for vegetation control. Some of these products were demonstrated the final afternoon of the three-day conference.

Dr. Wayne G. McCully of Texas A & M was conference chairman. His program committee consisted of Robert Haas, Garlyn O. Hoffman,

B. J. Ragsdale, E. D. Robison, Allen F. Wiese, and Lambert Wilkes.

The new advisory committee is: Gene Bockholt of Houston, Otha Birkner of Bay City, Tom Mobley of Kilgore, Dave Yazell of Albuquerque, N. M., Henry Steiner of McAllen, J. D. Maples of Houston, R. L. Robinson of Ft. Worth, J. C. Bouvy of Tyler, Clifford E. Cross of McAllen, James D. Grant of San Benito, Huett C. Cloud of Houston, W. R. Churchwell of Plainview and Johnny Pustka of Rosenberg.

Hercules Says Toxaphene Is Not a 'Hard' Pesticide

Toxaphene is a different kind of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticide, claims its manufacturer, Hercules, Inc., Wilmington, Del.

Recent publicity about the so-called "hard" pesticides has resulted in a rash of inquiries about toxaphene, said a company spokesman. To clear the air, a news release has been distributed to explain how toxaphene is different.

To begin with, toxaphene is made from the gum of southern pine trees; other chlorinated hydrocarbons are petroleum-based, the company stated.

Toxaphene is not persistent, listing 10th in residue occurrence of the ten most widely used pesticides, according to Food and Drug Administration surveys.

The Hercules release says that USDA tests have shown that toxaphene actually de-magnifies in the food chain. And since it does not magnify biologically, it cannot become toxic through increasing levels of magnification, the statement concludes.

"Most chlorinated hydrocarbons are, to varying degrees, toxic chronically," the company release stated, "however toxaphene is not. It produces, for example, no toxic effects in chronic feeding studies at 25 ppm, compared with 1 ppm for DDT and 0.5 ppm for dieldrin.

"In fact, when toxaphene-organo-phosphate combinations have been used to replace organo-phosphates alone, acute toxicity hazards to the applicator and wildlife have been reduced."

A half-dozen institutions were listed as having done research on toxaphene. The product has been in commercial use for more than 20 years, the company spokesman said.