

The Cover



Oil well site pictured on cover is located just south of the state capital building at Oklahoma City, Okla. Well pulls oil from directly beneath capital dome; the well shaft is angled to reach the pool. Sprayman is Claude Abbott. Oil well sites in urban areas as well as outlying oil fields typify the type of industrial weed control handled by Tom Graham, veteran in the business. See his story which begins on page 12.

Georgia Pre-Tests Seeds To Abate Roadside Weeds

Georgia has recently taken steps to prevent grass seed containing noxious weed seed from being used in highway rights-of-way plantings, according to Commissioner of Agriculture Phil Campbell.

The new program, a cooperative project between the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the state's highway department, insists that all seed to be used for roadside planting must pass laboratory tests for quality higher than the minimum requirements of state law — essentially the same quality standards of certified seed.

The pre-testing is performed in the Department of Agriculture's labs. Only bags of seeds that have been tested and marked with a special seal of approval can be used in such plantings. Beneficial to highway contractors who can now save on replanting costs, the program has resulted in lower annual maintenance expenditures for the Highway Department and more attractive roadsides.

The cooperative project was initiated to remedy a problem begun some years ago when low-quality seed was used on rights-of-way plantings.

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