

most twice that of the first application and the bids were rejected.

"It must be remembered that the decision to accept a bid is not ours alone. These are cooperative programs. Funds are provided by States, counties, and private property owners. Budgeting people look at figures—they are not aware of your problems with aircraft, maintenance,

labor, or weather that influences operations. Budgets during pre-planning are now figured closely, based on the costs of previous similar programs. As stated before, the funds for a program must be available before bid invitations can be issued. When the bids are opened, if the cost for the program exceeds that amount, we could neither accept the bid nor treat only a portion

of the program. To do this would perhaps exclude parts of several counties and property owners who provided some of the funds," Gieser concluded.

The 1969 NAAA convention, slated again for the month of December, will be held at the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La.

Michigan Nurserymen Want Effective Licensing Law

The Michigan Association of Nurserymen, Inc. Board of Directors is interested in calling a meeting of the state's leading sod growers to consider stricter regulations concerning the growing and transporting of sod in their state.

Inspection and certification of sod and licensing of growers has been required by law since 1933, but the Department of Agriculture has been unable to effectively enforce the law, especially since mushrooming of the sod industry in recent years. Michigan reportedly raises more than twice as much sod as any other state.

The Plant Industry Division inspects and certifies sod shipped to states requiring such actions, but there has been no inspection or certification of sod shipped to other states or even within Michigan itself.

As it now stands, nursery stock must be inspected and certified before being transported and growers and dealers must be licensed, but a neighboring sod farm may ship turf at will without such safeguards to prevent the spread of pests and plant disease.

The MAN directors feel that stricter regulations would be beneficial to responsible sod growers, but they want to find out exactly what such a program would involve before any enforcing is done.



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