

Vincennes University Adds Aerial Applicator Training

Agricultural Aviation Technology is the name of a new course being added to the Career Division Program at Vincennes University in Indiana.

It requires five semesters of classes and two summers of on-the-job training. The program is being offered in cooperation with the National Aerial Applicators Association.

At the present time, admissions will be limited to 12 students.

Applications are now being taken for the fall 1969 term. The University's Advisory Committee plans final screening of all applicants July 18.

Before a student will begin his applicator training, he will be required to earn a commercial pilot's license. Training during this phase will be given in Cessna 180s.

It is estimated that this highly skilled profession probably will pay the highest beginning salary of any of the technology programs offered at Vincennes University.

Elm 'Odor Code' Can Be Altered to Repel Beetles

University of Wisconsin researchers under the direction of Dale M. Norris are studying chemical codes in trees in order to break and alter the codes to repel insect pests.

Plants possess certain chemical combinations that give off "odor signals" to insects, Norris reveals. Certain signals attract pests, while others repel them.

If these chemical "odor codes" can be disrupted, the researchers reason, insect pests can be confused and repelled from feeding on valuable ornamentals and other economically important plants.

In experiments with American elms, Norris and his colleagues injected safrole or isosafrole into the basal trunk of 30-foot elms to change their odor codes. When elm bark beetles were given the choice of feeding on twigs from treated trees or starving, they consumed 52 percent less than when feeding on untreated twigs, Norris reports.

In natural conditions where beetles would be free to fly to untreated trees, the reduction of feeding on treated elms should be even higher, he contends.

Norris is also studying insect feeding responses to chemical stimuli. Test results show that bark bee-

ties are generally stimulated to feed by plant sugars, phenols and alcohols, many of which also stimulate man to eat, Norris reports.

Such studies of insect feeding responses are of value not only in saving trees from insect attack but in increasing man's knowledge of such mechanics in himself, Norris says.

Malathion Looks Good As Lake Fly Control

Low-volume spraying of malathion has a lot of potential for controlling adult lake flies, reports University of Wisconsin entomologist W. L. Hilsenhoff.

Tests show that application of malathion at 2 ounces per acre in shoreline areas produces good control for 48 hours or more, he said. The insecticide is also safe for controlling lake fly larvae, he added.

Drawbacks for using malathion, however, include a prohibitive cost for big lakes and the fact that it may spot the finish of some cars, Hilsenhoff revealed. Treating an area such as Lake Winnebago, for example, would require about \$250,000, he said.

The use of certain viruses or natural predators to control lake flies also is being studied, the entomologist reported.

Record AAN Membership

American Association of Nurserymen reports a net membership increase of 25% over the last three years. Membership in the 94-year-old organization now lists some 1,711 firms.

According to President Hoskins A. Shadow of the Tennessee Valley Nursery in Winchester, Tenn., "The AAN is providing so many important and new services that it only stands to reason that we are experiencing a dramatic increase in membership."

The Landscape Council — the Association's new marketing arm—is beginning to account for healthy membership increases, Shadow continued. He maintains that since Association membership is necessary for the Landscape Council membership, about 20% of new Council members are joining the Association for the first time.

Trimmings

DICK BEELER, editor of *Agricultural West*, gets our vote for a Nobel prize for touches. Says Beeler:

"A conservationist is a guy who wants to make sure the 40 billion gallons of raw sewage going into Lake Erie each year contains no DDT.

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TREE CONSERVATION and preservation is serious business, though. Ask three men in the Ohio Penitentiary who were sentenced recently to one to seven years for stealing six walnut trees valued at \$5000.

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EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS certainly are taking trees more seriously, especially palm trees. They now count the number of palms on the Israeli-held east bank of the Suez Canal each day. They discovered the Israelis are using movable palm trees as spy towers.

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SPEAKING OF MOVING TREES, the Davey Tree Expert Company, Kent, Ohio, claimed recently in its company publication to have moved the largest tree. The record, the article stated, was a copper beach moved in 1930 for the Toledo, Ohio, Museum of Art. The tree was 31 inches in diameter, about 60 feet high, and had a spread of 40 feet. By the Davey formula, the ball should have weighed 107 tons. Can anybody beat that?

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THIS WRITER has the unusual knack of training a golf ball to find nearly every tree on a golf course. After a swing into the Midwest in June, he has found someone to play with. The person, who shall remain anonymous for obvious reasons, was described as one "who could get more golf out of playing nine holes than most players could in 27."

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SOME HOG FARMERS require you to change shoes before entering their farrowing house. Will the time come when a sod producer will make you change pants before walking onto his fields?

Consider the experience of Sir George Taylor, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Great Britain. He walked around a farm recently then turned out his trouser cuffs and from the material in them germinated 300 plants, of which 20 were different weed species.

August Is the Shade Tree Issue