

causing some birth defects." Based on the 25,000 food samples, he calculated the woman would have to eat no less than 1,000 tons of food per day just to consume one milligram of the herbicide. "I submit this is meaningless," he concluded.

Dr. E. P. "Dutch" Sylwester, a weed control specialist from Iowa State University and conference key-note, said troubles with herbicides have arisen in many instances "from misuse rather than use."

"If we are using dangerous things, let's drop them so as to be beyond reproach," Sylwester said. "Let's use only the best. There are more than 800 materials, and not all of them pesticides, which are under close scrutiny but while they are at it, why not look at some of the things which we have always taken for granted like aspirin, tetraethyl lead, fingernail polish, turpentine, alcohol, tobacco or exhaust fumes."

Conference participant Clyde Elmore, a botanist and turf specialist from the University of California at Davis, stressed the importance of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D to the turf industry.

"I would say if any homeowner is interested in killing weeds in his lawn, he would use one of these," Elmore said. "There is a tremendous acreage just in the homeowner and turf industries which could be or would be hampered by the loss of any one of the compounds in the 2,4,5-T family."

Elmore said an overdose or a misapplication of the herbicides is easy to detect from crop damage, and therefore the chemicals are not likely to be used near food crops or at strengths for which they are not registered. He also noted 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D break down relatively quickly into harmless components, in contrast to "persistent" pesticides such as DDT, and they do not accumulate in food chains.

"We know that weed control chemicals are safe if used according to label instructions and no one need worry about any chemical residue on their food," said UC farm adviser Vincent H. Schweers of Visalia, president of the weed conference. "Weed control chemicals are checked and rechecked and then registered with the federal and state governments for specific safe uses. The University of California gathers its own performance data and spot checks residue data on weed control chemicals before giving a University recommendation. As a follow-up, the federal Food and Drug Administration and the State Department of Agriculture participate in monitoring crops for residues. The facts are in our favor."

A Chewings Fescue Variety Licensed for Canada Use

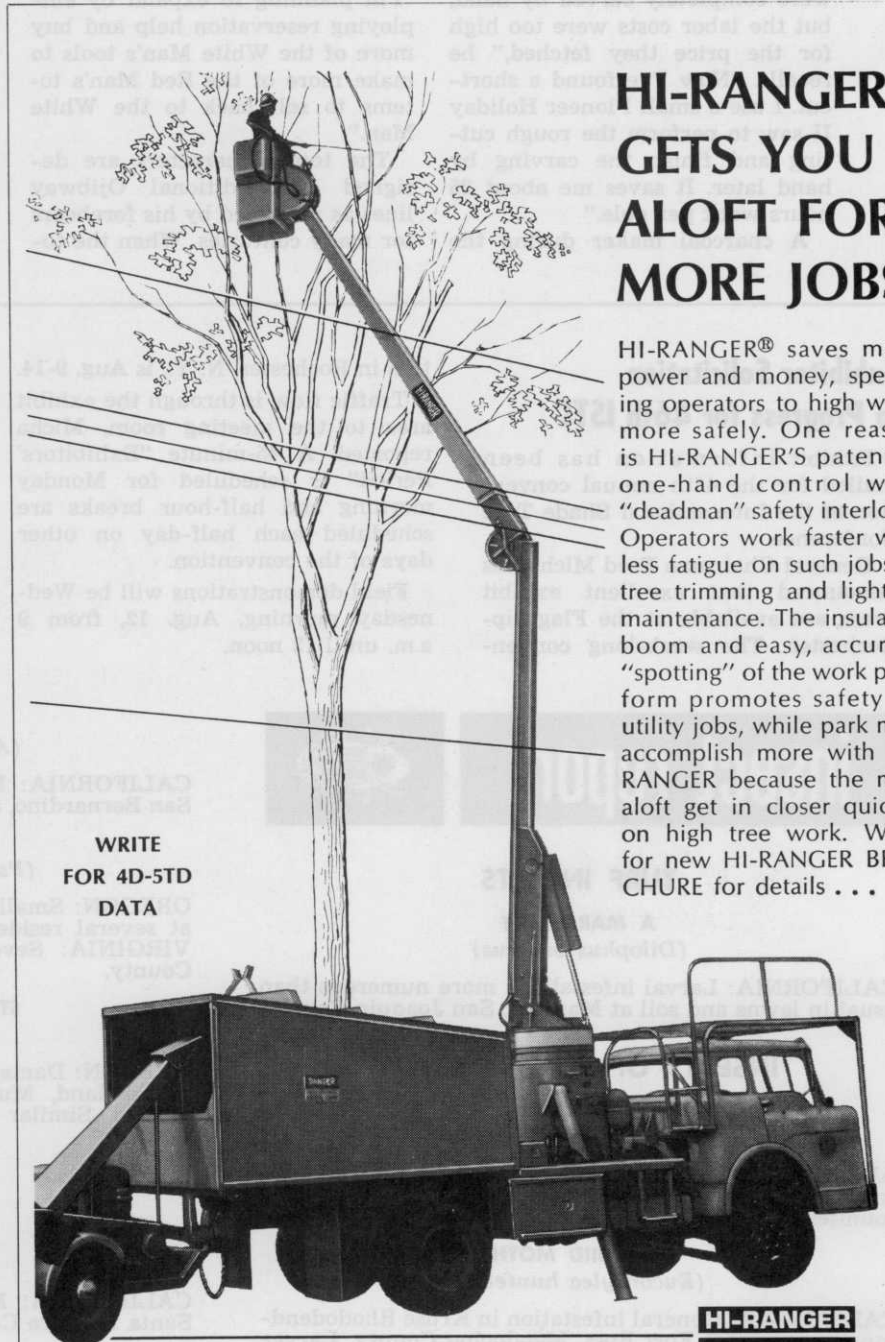
A new turfgrass variety, Highlight Chewings Fescue, has been licensed for sale in Canada by the Canadian Department of Agriculture.

A product of Ontario Seed Cleaners and Dealers, Ltd., of Brampton, Ontario, Highlight is said to be the first variety of Chewings Fescue to show sufficient winter hardiness to be used safely across Canada. It has been tested and is in use also in

the U.S. and Europe.

Ontario Seed Cleaners says Highlight should be used in a mixture with a blend of Kentucky Bluegrass for lawns and fairways. It can be blended 50/50 with Penncross Bentgrass in golf greens or other places where close mowing is desirable. The seed firm says Highlight tends to "lift" Penncross and reduces thatching.

Highlight is said to have good disease resistance, excellent color and fine texture, and ability to thrive under both sun and shade conditions.



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