



Nurseryman Digs Trench With Power Saw

Dig a 30-ft. ditch in 60 seconds? Bernard Wherry claims he can do it with his saw. Actually, it's a Homelite chain saw — modified.

Wherry had been working on a chain-driven trenching tool for 3½ years. He needed one for fast digging around trees and shrubs. He's owner of Wherry Nurseries, St. Marys, W. Va.

His idea took practical shape when he modified an XP-1130 Homelite head. Instead of saw teeth, the chain mechanism contains a series of canted cutting heads. It will cut a ditch from two to six inches wide and 2½ feet deep, says Wherry.

"It's geared down and will last for ages," he said. "Works any-

where, any position, by simply guiding it with one hand. Digs around 2,000 feet of ditch per 1½ pints of gasoline.

"We even use it for draining swamps, water holes and digging fence post holes."

Considering that the base unit was made by Homelite, a division of Textron, Wherry figured the company would be interested. It was. Thomas Hunter, new products manager, and Bill Boracheck, project engineer, visited Wherry. Hunter tried the saw . . . uh . . . trencher. He claims a 10-foot ditch in 28 seconds.

Production plans aren't completely worked out yet, but if you want more information, circle (711) on the reply card. No doubt, sample lots will be undertaken before full production begins. But Homelite knows it has at least 100 units sold. Wherry wants 'em.

Midwest Sod Growers Set Soil and Seed Specifications

With the introduction of specifications for soil preparation and sodding, the Midwest Turfgrass Growers Association has reported that an increasing number of landscapers, architects and builders are meeting with sod producers to discuss turfgrass and sodding.

The Midwest group shared experiences at its annual meeting recently

in Lincoln, Neb.

Members also discussed a committee study and recommendation for turfgrowers' seed specifications. A resolution was passed that declared Association members would use only seed that met the specifications. These specifications are being published and will be distributed to members.

Growers discussed the possibility of the Midwest group becoming affiliated with the American Sod Producers Association and of indi-

vidual state associations becoming a part of the Midwest group.

Joe McDermott, Loveland Lawns, Omaha, Neb., was re-elected president; Ed Keeven, Emerald View Sod Farms, Inc., O'Fallon, Mo., as vice-president; and William Latta, Latta-Scholes, Inc., Kansas City, as secretary-treasurer.

New board members elected to two-year terms are: Jack Meyers, Stilwell, Kan.; Bruce Huffaker, Hastings, Neb.; and Duane Thompson, Arlington, Neb.

Insect Report

WTT's compilation of insect problems occurring in turfgrasses, trees, and ornamentals throughout the country.



TURF INSECTS FIRE ANT

(*Solenopsis geminata*)

TEXAS: Heavy along highway roadside near Clay in Burleson County and south of Navatota in Grimes County, also near College Station in Brazos County.

A HARVESTER ANT (*Pogonomyrmex californicus*)

UTAH: Collected at St. George, Washington County. This is a new county record.

INSECTS OF ORNAMENTALS

A SOFT SCALE

(*Ceroplastes ceriferus*)

FLORIDA: Adults infested stems of 10% of 11,300 plants of *Podocarpus sp.* in nursery at Lake Monroe, Seminole County.

TREE INSECTS

PINE NEEDLE SCALE

(*Phenacaspis pinifoliae*)

CALIFORNIA: Eggs and adults heavy on Monterey pine at Yuba City, Sutter County.

OYSTERSHELL SCALE

(*Lepidosaphes ulmi*)

CALIFORNIA: Heavy on maple tree nursery stock at San Jose, Santa Clara County.

TWIG GIRDLER

(*Oncideres sp.*)

TEXAS: Heavy damage on oaks 3 to 8 feet tall in Sam Houston National Forest in Montgomery County.

A CLEARWING MOTH

(*Paranthrene robiniae*)

CALIFORNIA: Larvae medium on cottonwoods at Solvang, Santa Barbara County.

OBSCURE SCALE

(*Melanaspis obscura*)

ALABAMA: Medium to heavy on many oaks along streets and walks at Auburn, Lee County. Many small to larger lower limbs dead; others weakened.