the national GREENSCAPE

NO IMMINENT HAZARD TO PUBLIC HEALTH! That's the decision on remaining uses of DDT, aldrin, dieldrin and 2,4,5-T. The announcement came Mar. 18 from William D. Ruckelshaus, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The significance of the decision, prompted through court action initiated by the Environmental Defense Fund, is two-fold: The products will not be immediately suspended from interstate shipment and use; and, secondly, that benefit-risk values can now be considered before determining whether registered uses should be cancelled. Notices of cancellation had been announced for all remaining uses of the products, but manufacturers filed protests within 30 days, as permitted by law. This action necessitated the conduct of an "administrative review," either by a scientific advisory committee or public hearings, or both. Such a review is under way on the four products. The review opens the way for a more reasonable decision, because as a part of the EDF vs. Ruckelshaus decision the court recognized that the "cancellation decision does not turn on a scientific assessment of hazard alone. The statue leaves room to balance the benefits of a pesticide against its risks."

FERTILIZER PRICING should remain extremely competitive through 1971. The reason is that it still will take several years for demand to catch up with production capabilities, according to a Chase Manhattan Bank chemicals technical director. There still is over-capacity in manufacturing facilities, says Richard E. Anderson, but he forecasts a limited improvement in profit and pricing in 1971. The over-capacity developed, he said, primarily because companies outside the chemical industry got in the business hoping for higher returns. Now that investments in chemicals are less attractive, he concluded, there should be a showdown in capacity buildup.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA has announced the establishment of the American Registry of Certified Entomologists. The Registry, the result of a 10-year study, will identify specialists with the training and technical ability to advise the public on matters pertaining to man and his environment, according to Robert H. Nelson, Society president. Initially, 15 classifications are available. They include: Agricultural entomology, physiology, toxicology, medical and veterinary entomology, regulatory entomology, pest management, pesticide research, and urban entomology.

WHITE-FRINGED BEETLE QUARANTINE has been extended to all or parts of 30 previously unregulated counties and two cities in seven states, reports USDA. These areas are: Counties—Clay, Lawrence and Union in Arkansas; Hamilton in Florida; Appling, Carroll, Chatham, Columbia, Douglas, Haralson, Jenkins, Madison, Mitchell, Rockdale and Whitfield in Georgia; Caddo, Grant, Iberville and West Feliciana parishes in Louisiana; Rowan and Pitt in North Carolina; Decatur, Giles, Hamilton, Lewis, Maury, Rhea, Roane, Rutherford

and Wayne in Tennessee; Cities—Arlington and Falls Church in Virginia. White-fringed beetle quarantine restrictions are now in effect in all or parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana. Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

USDA IS COMPUTERIZING its plant pest interception records. The first computerized version of its annual List of Intercepted Plant Pests (ARS 82-6-4) is now available. This 56th annual report lists pests of known or potential importance to agriculture that are not known to occur or are not widely distributed in this country. It covers July 1, 1968, to June 30, 1969. Some 11,658 significant interceptions at U. S. ports of entry of insects, mites, mollusks, diseases and nematodes are tabulated by country of origin.

AN ADDITIVE FOUND TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF HERBICIDES may lead to effective weed control with fewer applications at lower herbicide rates, believes a USDA scientist. Phenylcarbamate herbicides are readily degraded by soil micro-organisms, said Dr. Donald D. Kaufman, and repeated applications often are needed to control weeds effectively. But research has shown that certain methylcarbamate chemicals (some of which are insecticides), when applied along with certain herbicides, temporarily inhibit the degradative action of the soil micro-organisms. Dr. Kaufman said he and Dr. Charles S. Helling found that p-chlorophenyl methylcarbamate (PCMC) strongly inhibited the biodegradation of propham and chlorpropham. They also learned that to obtain the least herbicide degradation, the inhibitor must remain close to the herbicide. If the technique is to be effective, Dr. Kaufman said, care must be taken to match the mobilities of the inhibitor and of the herbicide.

A SPECIAL ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM with guidelines for suggested two-year courses has been published by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The curriculum was developed to aid in planning and developing two-year post high school programs, or in evaluating existing ones. Areas covered are landscape, nursery, floriculture, turfgrass and arboriculture; and includes suggested course outlines, lists of text books, and related subjects. One chapter of the book is devoted exclusively to facilities and equipment and cost with each broken down for the five horticulture curriculums.

GRASSHOPPERS could be more of a problem on western and midwestern rangelands in 1971 than they were last year, warns USDA. A fall survey indicated the potential severity; a spring check will give a more accurate estimate of the infestation and pinpoint areas likely to require control efforts. Ranchers are being encouraged to treat infested areas before grasshoppers leave their breeding grounds.