



NEW PESTICIDE BILLS were introduced in both houses of Congress Feb. 10. They are H.R. 4152 and S.745. The Senate Bill is essentially an updating of previous acts to underline the responsibilities of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. There are some new provisions, however. The EPA administrator has the power to classify usage of a pesticide, upon registration. He may designate it for "general use," for "restricted use only," or for "use by permit only." The restricted use classification is defined to cover any material that "if used without restriction could cause injury to the applicator, or when care is needed in its application to protect the environment." Restricted pesticides could be used "only by or under the direct supervision of approved pesticide applicators." Permit-only pesticides could be used by anyone "who has a license issued by the state in which such operations are conducted, upon the basis of a demonstration of his competence in the use and other handling and knowledge of the toxicity and antidotes of the pesticides involved, according to standards approved or prescribed by the Administrator." Pesticides in this category will be made available only with approval, in writing, for the amount and type of article for each particular application, of an approved pest management consultant (presumably a designated state or area federal official). The EPA administrator also has the power to change the classification of a pesticide by 30-days' prior notice in the Federal Register. The bill does not bar states from enacting more restrictive regulations.

URBAN TRAVEL CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE 75% by 1990, predicts F. C. Turner, Federal Highway Administrator, given a 50% increase in urban population. Heavy additional demands for highway transportation will develop—and be met with increasing efficiency and minimal crises . . . if. Addressing the 50th meeting of the Highway Research Board, he contended that long-range highway planning had been reasonably accurate, except for private development that followed. "The public expects us to plan highways properly, but it refuses to work with us by advising us of its plans," he charged, citing as examples a sports arena, shopping center, or hotel-motel complex that is built after the highway is finished. He asked for and foresees a public agency that would coordinate and integrate the total land development as a part of highway planning. Turner sees no great change in the physical appearance of highways nor in the vehicles that travel them by 1990. The big change will be in how highways are planned, "with increased attention given to social and environmental factors."

A "FANTASTIC FUTURE" is predicted for the nursery industry by Robert F. Lederer, executive vice-president of the American Association of Nurserymen. But it may not be realized by those who continue to "do business in the same old way because 'this is the way we have always done it'." New corporations are entering the industry with new concepts, he told the Allied Horticultural Trades Congress. "They see the tremendous future and are either going to



share it or take it over. Citing a recent survey indicating people would most like to spend their "discretionary income" on home improvement, Lederer interpreted this desire in terms of nursery stock sales. "The nursery industry is getting only \$2 billion of the \$17 billion a year earmarked for home improvement. A great deal more is available if we only learn to speak up for our share."

REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES now under study may make possible the reclamation of 250,000 acres of strip mining spoil banks in Virginia and West Virginia and similarly devastated areas throughout the nation, says USDA. Two methods are being explored: (1) using plants that can tolerate the toxicity present from excess amounts of minerals and soil acidity; and (2) neutralizing the acidity of the soil through fertility management. In the first year, best results with plants after soil fertility treatments came from weeping lovegrass and tufted bermudagrass. Mulch is extremely important, researchers found, to prevent loss of moisture and formation of a hard crust that is nearly impossible for young seedlings to break through.

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY may be causing undue concern regarding pesticide residues, according to an article by three Wisconsin soil scientists in a recent issue of *Pesticides Monitoring Journal*. The trio, B. E. Frazier, G. Chesters, and G. B. Lee, found "apparent" residues of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides in soil sealed since 1909-1911, some 35 years before chlorinated hydrocarbons were discovered. Though the gas chromatograph can detect to parts per billion, the device cannot necessarily distinguish pesticides from compounds in nature each and every time. Confirmatory testing should follow before statements are released, the scientists advised.

ELEGANT TOOLS BUT POOR CRAFTSMEN . . . that's how an industry researcher describes "a weak link" in the safe use of pesticides. Dr. Julius E. Johnson, vice-president and director of research and development for Dow Chemical Co., has called for more training of pesticide applicators. Though not wishing to discredit "those competent professionals who do a good job," he urged training in agricultural schools leading to the granting of professional licenses. Two categories should then be used to classify agricultural chemicals: those for licensed professionals only and those for non-professionals.

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE wants to research the theory that man is genetically programmed to "warm, humid air, green growing plants, and the presence of warm-blooded animals." The project has been okayed, but delayed, because of the lack of a particular kind of green stuff—money.