

Trimmings

A SMOKE-FREE MOBILE BURNER and field sanitizer is now being tested in Oregon as a possible substitute for open field burning in grass seed production. Dr. D. O. Chilcote of Oregon's state university reports some removal and utilization of straw may also be possible, as paper, animal feed, wall-board, or fuel. A state law bans such burning beginning Jan. 1, '75.

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GOLF COURSES HAVE BECOME NO. 3 in the pecking order in environmental relationships. Golf course architect Desmond Muirhead says people like to live on the seashore. The No. 2 spot is a lake, then a golf course. Thus, corporate land developers, where possible, try to develop property where new residents can overlook a lake to a golf course.

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THE 10 MOST POPULAR SHADE TREES — as determined at a recent National Landscape Association meeting—are (in order of importance): pin oak, red maple, honey locust, sugar maple, red and scarlet oak, linden, ash, Norway maple, sweet gum, and birch. Choice was based on designer and landscaper demand, disease resistance, and success in transplanting.

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MISTAKING KENAF FOR MARIJUANA, people have been regularly stealing plants from Dr. Gordon B. Killinger's 2-acre kenaf test plot at the University of Florida. Kenaf's ragged leaves, he says, look something like marijuana and local law enforcement officials report kenaf has shown up in raids. "Grass" peddlers have been getting \$20 an ounce for the product, which is under test as a possible livestock feed or a wood pulp substitute.

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FINE-TEXTURED SOILS are doing a good job in removing phosphorus from sewage effluent in Penn State tests. A newly reported test shows phosphorus remained within the upper 12 inches of soil after 6 years of effluent applications where 2 inches were applied weekly. Reed canarygrass grown on the area took up 25- to 63% of this excess. Morrison sandy loam soil, by contrast, increased in phosphorus content as deep as 3 feet.

National Irrigation Show Begins Feb. 29 at Denver

A national exposition of irrigation equipment — Irri-Tech '72 — is being held Feb. 29-Mar. 2, at Denver, Colo., at Currihan Exhibition Hall. The Hall is a part of the new Denver Convention Complex and will accommodate the big irrigation equipment.

Exposition Manager Bernie Manuel says the event amounts to bringing an outside irrigation show inside, where more than 50,000 square feet of clear-span space is available. The exposition, he says will include both agricultural and turf irrigation equipment, pipe, pump hoists, turbine pumps, drilling rigs, turf equipment and other supplies.

Show sponsorship is by Water Well Associates and Irrigation Journal. Official opening is an exhibit preview and party on the exhibit floor at 6:00 p.m. Feb. 29. This immediately follows the close of the annual Technical Conference of the Sprinkler Irrigation Association which is headquartered at the Brown Palace in Denver. Main exhibit days are March 1-2.

Irri-Tech '72, according to Manuel, is an irrigation trade show, primarily for distributors and contractors. But with the exhibition of all types of equipment and supplies, a special effort is being made to invite all persons interested in both agricultural and turf irrigation, including consulting engineers, golf

course superintendents, commercial turfgrass managers of all phases of the industry, plus dealers, distributors and others.

Details of the show may be obtained from Manuel at 610 South Cook St., Barrington, Ill. 60010; telephone (312) 833-6540.

Thompson-Hayward Releases Research Report Brochure

A color illustrated research report on aquatic weed control is available from Thompson-Hayward. It shows results of Casoron for control of alligatorweed, fragrant water lily and spatterdock in the Southeastern U.S.

All uses shown in the report do not appear on the present Casoron AQ label, but the company believes the information accurate and that it will appear on the next revision of the label.

The brochure also includes detailed line drawings of nine common aquatic weeds. (For a copy of the brochure, circle Reader No. 720 on the reply card).

Slow Release Via Rubber In Pesticide Research

A new way to use pesticides by dissolving them in rubber for slow and controlled release is being researched.

At the American Chemical So-

On Protecting Your Business

The state of Virginia's department of Agriculture and Commerce gave a recent assist to the legitimate commercial turf industry recently when it warned homeowners to deal only with known, reputable operators.

The department in a Consumer News release pointed up the big increase in the tree, shrub, and lawn care businesses within the past several years. Some of these professional companies, the department reported, are offering a complete line of services such as trimming, pruning, treating for insects and diseases, installing so-called proper cabling for trees, and the feeding of lawns, trees and shrubs.

Some, according to the state, are long-established, reputable, and have the expertise to do the job properly. Others—according to the warning—are only mediocre and often do not do the job as they should for the home owner.

Before doing business, the state suggests that the homeowner have some personal knowledge of the operation or that he contact the Better Business Bureau to check on reputation, honesty, and ability. The department also suggested that it be contacted to see if Virginia's fertilizer and pesticide laws are being complied with.

The report indicates one problem area includes rate of dilution of fertilizer applications where the homeowner may be paying for 99% water.

ciety's annual meeting, held last month at Washington, D.C., data on the new method were presented.

A nonpersistent pesticide or herbicide dissolved in natural or synthetic rubber is released slowly to maintain a very low level of the chemical in the environment. The overall amount of a chemical needed will probably never exceed 3% of that conventionally used, and may be 0.1% or less, explained N. F. Cardarelli, associate professor at the University of Akron and chief scientist at the Creative Biology Laboratory, Barberton, Ohio.

"Conventional pest control techniques rely mainly upon the application of a chemical agent to the infested habitat," said Professor Cardarelli in an interview. "Since the dose-time relationship is critical and most pesticides deteriorate rapidly and are lost through natural processes, very large dosages are necessary. The target animal or plant succumbs to chronic intoxication. Economics dictate the use of massive dosing of short duration followed by periodic retreatments.

"However, most organisms will succumb to a much lower dose of the same agent applied continuously through chronic intoxication. This fact is well recognized as a source of concern where persistent pesticides, such as DDT, last for months or years affecting both target and nontarget life.

"Nonpersistent control agents can be effectively used as chronic toxicants through the slow release mechanism. A very low concentration of a specific pesticide can be continuously maintained in the aquatic environment, eliminating the pest in question through chronic effects. The overall amount of a chemical needed will probably never exceed 3% of that conventionally used, and may be 0.1% or less.

"The slow release mechanism is based upon the fact that certain biocides are soluble in elastomers such as natural rubber, chloroprene, styrene-butadiene polymers and a few others. Solution equilibrium results and dissolution of the toxicant molecules on the surface results in the migration of internal molecules to the depleting surface. A continuous release is thus established. Loss rate can be adjusted through proper formulation.

"The principle was first exploited in antifouling rubber, now a commercial product, early test specimens showing 100% biological con-

trol over 84 months. The concept has been extended to aquatic snail control and more recently, water weed control.

"Snail vectors of the trematode parasite causing Schistosomiasis, a tropical malady affecting upwards of 300 million people and second only in economic importance to Malaria, have been effectively destroyed by slow release molluscicides. Minute concentrations of various agents are lethal within minutes to the aquatic form of the

parasite, and at levels sub-lethal to the host snail.

"More recently, slow release herbicides have been formulated and found effective against specific water weeds. Elastomers, by their nature, lend themselves to shapes and forms conducive to the release of the herbicide in the phytozone of interest, thus still further reducing environmental contamination by concentrating the agent in that portion of the water course inhabited by the pest.

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