

Trimmings

ALFALFA LEAFCUTTER BEE DEATHS are not being caused by pesticides as previously thought. Kills have been due to saponin in the alfalfa the bees eat. This new finding is based on research by Dr. Oscar Bacon, University of California at Davis. Bee deaths, he has reported, occur in direct proportion to the amount of saponin in the plants. Saponin is a naturally occurring toxic substance in the plants.

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BALANCE IN NATURE NEVER WAS says Nobel Peace Prize recipient Dr. Norman E. Borlaug. He states that as an ecologist, forester, and scientist, he has never observed nature being in balance with anything. Rather, nature deals in one excess after another. Too much rain, too little rain, drought, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, disease, starvation and a host of other violent actions within nature led him to this conclusion.

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GYPSY MOTHS CONTINUE spreading down the East coast. The USDA now reports trapping gypsy moths in Virginia's Fairfax, Accomack, and Northhampton counties and the cities of Chesapeake and Hampton. Three were found last year but finds this season are all new locations. Some 300 males have also been trapped in Maryland and government entomologists are warning residents of these states and the Capital to watch for egg clusters.

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FOAM RUBBER ROLL-UP TURF MATS are a new development. In vogue at Vienna, Austria, the mats consist of laminated foam, peat, fertilizer, moisture regulating additives and foamed-in grass seed. Mats are laid in position and watered. When grass seed sprouts and forms a lush, green lawn, they can be watered, mowed and maintained as regular turfgrass. Called "Sempergreen" the roll-up mats can be rolled up once seed is sprouted and laid just as sod, in a new location. The company (Semperit AG.) says transplanting results in no loss of quality since roots quickly knit in.

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ONE HERBICIDE, 2,4,5-T, according to the USDA remains a valuable asset to the nation. Should this herbicide be banned (as has been talked) added costs of farm and non-crop operations would range from \$52- to \$172 million, depending on restrictions placed on other herbicides.

Mississippi Turfgrass Assn. Sets Nov. 8-9 Conference

The Mississippi Turfgrass Association has set up what promises to be the best series of demonstrations ever on overseeding bermudagrass putting greens. So reports Professor Coleman Y. Ward at State College.

Ward further states that the remainder of the program is tailored for a broad spectrum audience in the turfgrass industry.

Dates are Nov. 8-9 at the State College campus, State College, Miss. Demonstrations include those on topdressing used at time of overseeding, degree of vertical mowing prior to overseeding, influence of preemergence herbicides at time of overseeding, effect of grasses used on overseeded turf quality, and the effect of height, initial date, and subsequent frequency of mowing and fungicides on newly overseeded greens.

Other program highlights include winter mulching of greens and pythium control techniques. Further details are available from Professor Ward.

National Golf Foundation Schedules Activity Meeting

Members of the National Golf Foundation will review activities and assess their '72 program at a November 3 meeting at Hilton Head Inn, Hilton Head Island, S.C., according to Arthur W. Goettler of the Foundation. The session follows the fall meetings of the National Association of Golf Club Manufacturers, the Golf Ball Manufacturers Association, The Athletic Institute, and the Athletic Goods Manufacturers Association, all being held at the same location.

The Foundation's luncheon meeting begins at noon.

From the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.,
Arborist Newsletter, Summer 1971

The Years B.C. & A.D.

To the professional arborist struggling to restrain the insects and disease organisms, the weeds, the mites and the nematodes or the bacteria that constantly threaten to upset the environmental equilibrium that man has found desirable the years Before Carson now, in retrospect, hold a certain charm. Subsequent years may now be classed as the years Approaching Disillusionment!

A tour of the Connecticut countryside during the last week of June let the traveler see the picture. The widespread damage to the foliage of our trees and shrubs where the oak leaf tiers, elm span worms, gypsy moth larvae, elm leaf beetles, canker worms, aphids and other insects have not been subjected to any chemical controls is appalling. The insects could not have done better if they had been the ones to vote for restraining ordinances that prevented the arborists and the foresters from controlling them.

Many commercial arborists have done much better in the years A.D. At least, they have made a lot more money. By selling greater volume of the less effective chemicals demanded by the "no risk" environmentalists these arborists have been fully and lucratively employed. And the unsprayed woodlands plus the unsprayed properties of the aforementioned "no risk" people have provided a great reservoir of insects to assure a repetition of the program—perhaps for years to come.

Our municipal arborists, with their limited budgets for insect control, have had little reason to be happy in the years A.D. They are doing their best.

Our foresters have been pretty well stumped to provide protection for forest trees—the fuelwood, pulpwood and lumber of the future.

The private owner of trees and shrubs that he feels important enough to protect is undergoing frequently unnecessary expense. When he runs out of money he is free to wade through the piles of squirming larvae that have fallen from his denuded trees.

How can we work to change the years A.D. to the years of Applied Discretion?