

Noise, the non-melodious sounds in an action environment, is under something more than a silent attack by the Federal government. Recently released criteria, developed by the Office of Research and Standards Development, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, carries strong evidence that workers in the country are being exposed to excessive noise levels. If the criteria and standards are accepted by the Department of Labor, we can expect them to be implemented through the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA).

The study was conducted under the auspices of the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Called "Occupational Exposure To Noise," it clearly states that the exposure limits are primarily designed to conserve hearing since this is recognized as the most serious physical problem that noise may cause in humans.

Currently, rules and regulations of OSHA as published in the Federal Register set 90 dBA occupational exposure level for an 8 hour day as the maximum. If the study is accepted and made part of OSHA, an 85 dBA, 8 hour exposure level to all newly designed occupational exposure environments would become effective within 6 months

from date of acceptance. Those occupational exposure environments (industries) currently in operation but for which no data has been collected would have additional time in which to comply. No one currently knows how much.

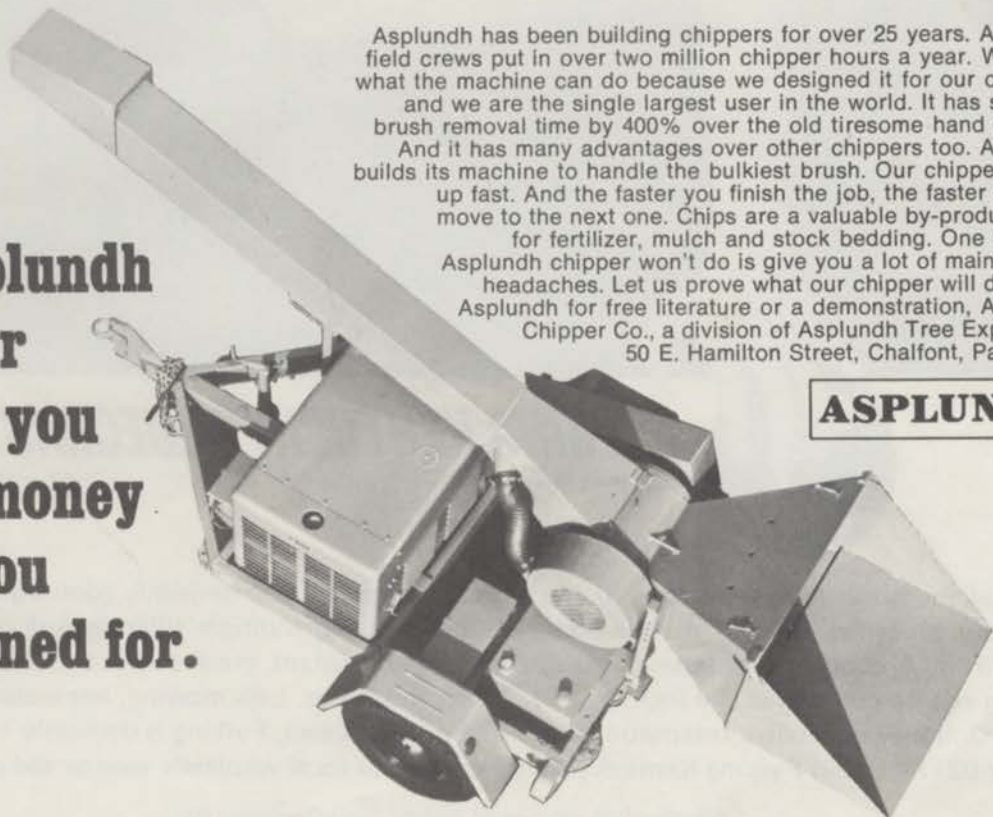
The crux of this report is that many parts of the "Green Industry" are in big trouble. Tractors, mowers, chain saws, chippers — nearly every mechanical piece of equipment — stand a good chance of creating noise levels in excess of the maximum limits. For example, audiograms on 53 tractor drivers of different horsepower tractors showed noise levels ranged from 92 dB to 106 dB, and occasionally as high as 114 dB. While data is not available, contrast this in your mind to a chipper chewing on a three-inch log or a chain saw winding through a seven-inch limb.

But many of these operations are only temporary; that is, lasting only a few minutes at a time. The study takes this into account. At least three different rules have been proposed in order to assess the hazard of exposure to intermittent noise.

What can "Green Industry" personnel do? The study is not without recommendations. It initially advises the consultation of an acoustical engineer

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ASPLUNDH

EDITORIAL (from page 9)

in developing noise abatement programs. This may be fine for big industry, but for a fewer than 15 man operation the services of this type of person is not economic.

The study also suggests operating only one piece of noise making equipment at a time, substituting belt drives for gears, dampening vibration, installing flexible mounts for motors, hoses or couplings, isolating the noise source and a host of other controls. If this fails, as it will most likely will in the case of chain saws and chippers, then the last alternative is to establish administrative controls. These would arrange work schedules for employees, rotate employees around the noise source, divide the work among several workers, and shut equipment down when the upper limit of duration for a high noise level is reached.

We submit that now is the time to be acting on this proposed study. The evidence in favor of adopting it is supported by data that leaves little to be questioned. We predict adoption of the study by OSHA. A word to the wise is sufficient.



Officers who will serve the Central Plains Turfgrass Foundation for the coming year are Larry Runyon, Kansas City, Mo., vice president (at left); Dr. Ray Keen, Kansas State University, secretary-treasurer (standing); and Edmer Easley, Wichita, president. Both Keen and Easley were reelected at the annual meeting, which was held in conjunction with the annual KSU turfgrass conference.

insect report

INSECTS OF ORNAMENTALS

CONIFER APHID

(*Cinara canadensis*)

VIRGINIA: Taken on juniper in Montgomery County July 6, 1972. This is a new State record

CRAPEMYRTLE APHID

(*Tinocallis kahawaluokalani*)

MARYLAND: Very heavy and injurious to plant at Baltimore. Population included males, oviparous females, new eggs and viviparous females. Sexual forms rare.

CERAMBYCID BEETLE

(*Leiopus variegatus*)

NEW JERSEY: All stages very heavy under bark of large mimosa tree on property in Haddonfield, Camden County in June 1972. Mimosa so badly weakened by several years of frequent defoliation by *Homadaula anisocentra* (mimosa webworm) that tree was cut down. *L. variegatus* found when bark stripped from tree. This is a new State record. Larvae are known to occur in many varieties of hardwood. It is not known if this cerambycid has been found in mimosa previously.

TREE INSECTS

WHITE PINE APHID

(*Cinara strobi*)

SOUTH CAROLINA: Populations increased in white pine plantations in Piedmont area.

ELM LEAF BEETLE

(*Pyrrhalta luteola*)

NEW MEXICO: Damage heavy to Siberian elms at Farmington, San Juan County.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

(*Dendroctonus frontalis*)

NORTH CAROLINA: Increased over Tusquittee Ranger District in Cherokee and Clay Counties. Population ex-

panding rapidly. Survey revealed 60+ newspot infestations. Also problem in Randolph, Surry, Davie, Davidson, and Stanley Counties. ALABAMA: Established infestation killed 100+ Virginia pines along main highway near top of Cheaha Mountain State Park in Cleburne County. Recently emerged adults seen.

VARIABLE OAKLEAF CATERPILLAR

(*Heterocampa manteo*)

OKLAHOMA: Heavy infestation on oaks in Bryan County declined. Fully grown larvae left trees in Payne County. ARKANSAS: Specimens submitted from Benton County. Much lighter in northwest area than farther south. Attacked by diseases and parasites in most areas. WEST VIRGINIA: Larval damage heavy on about 300 acres of scattered red and black oaks in Hardy County.

TORTRICID MOTH

(*Archips semifervans*)

PENNSYLVANIA: Outbreak of past 6 years declining. Defoliation, over 1 million acres previous 2 years, decreased to 610,000 acres in 1972. Timber loss heaviest in State for many decades. Entire forests killed over large areas of Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, and Lycoming Counties.

OBSCURE SCALE

(*Melanaspis obscura*)

KANSAS: Heavy on bur oaks near Wichita, Sedgwick County. Overwintering nymphs averaged 400+ per square inch, many twigs and branches dead.

PINE NEEDLE SHEATMINER

(*Zelleria haimbachi*)

CALIFORNIA: Scattered infestations damaged ponderosa pines on Klamath National Forest in Humboldt drainage area. Some of better plantations affected. Active in Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Infestations to be checked in spring 1973 after new growth appears.

BENEFICIAL INSECTS

AN ENCYRTID WASP

(*Ooencyrtus kuwanai*)

RHODE ISLAND: Released 60,000 against *Porthetria dispar* (gypsy moth) eggs in Providence County October 3. OHIO: Total of 10,000 specimens of this egg parasite of *Porthetria dispar* (gypsy moth) released in immediate area of Auglaize County where male moth previously trapped.