

Grounds Maintenance Conference Scheduled

A Grounds Maintenance Conference sponsored by the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service and the Southern Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association will be held Wednesday, February 23, in Cheshire, Conn. The conference will present new ideas, recent discoveries in research and practical recommendations as they apply to trees, shrubs and turf.

This program has been arranged to meet the needs of commercial or professional grounds maintenance personnel of parks, golf courses, industrial buildings, cemeteries, residential and recreational areas, as well as those involved in the wholesaling and retailing of garden products.

Safety Act Booklet Available

Widespread concern on the part of members of the nursery industry over regulations and penalties covered by the new Federal Occupational Safety and Health Law has prompted the distribution of a special booklet prepared by the American Association of Nurseriesmen.

Called "Occupational Safety and Health Act — And You," the booklet is being distributed to AAN members.

Standards covered in the new law apply to everyone who is not strictly agricultural, according to AAN Administrator Richard F. Turney. "This means retail garden centers, landscape operations, etc., are covered by the general standards," Turney says.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act covers virtually all employers engaged in commerce, the AAN booklet points out. Enforcement of the act is through a series of inspections, administrative hearings and appeals, all governed by an Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Willful repeated violations by an employer may subject him to fines up to \$10,000 for each violation. First violation citations and less serious violations may incur fines up to \$1,000 for each. Any employer who fails to correct a violation within the time period permitted may be penalized up to \$1,000 for each day the violation continues.

These are some of the general

standards explained in the AAN booklet:

"All places of employment, passageways, storerooms, and service rooms shall be kept clean and orderly and in a sanitary condition. The floors of work areas shall be dry; when wet processes are used, drainage shall be maintained and platforms, mats or other dry standing places shall be provided where practical."

"Every wall opening from which there is a drop of more than 4 feet shall be guarded by rail, roller, pick-

et fence, half-door, or equivalent barrier."

"Portable wood ladders and fixed ladders are the subject of detailed standards with respect to type of wood used, joints, dimensions, thickness of handrails, rungs, etc."

"No lock or fastening to prevent free escape from the inside of any building shall be installed."

"Fire extinguishers shall be conspicuously located where they will be readily accessible along normal paths of travel and immediately available in the event of a fire."



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