

## Trimmings

**GREEN GRASS IS HAPPINESS** according to a recent poll conducted by the Agricultural Research Service. Among 26 things people were asked to consider important to their happiness, 95 percent chose green grass and trees. Next were good neighbors, modern kitchens, nearby shopping areas or good schools.

**HERBICIDE IN A GLOVE** is the latest development to be tested. A garden glove which contains herbicide in a cavity in the palm is being tried by John Holroyd, principal scientific officer at the Agricultural Research Council's Weed Research Organization in Oxford, England. The user "strokes" the weeds thereby distributing a lethal dose of herbicide. It may be the next best thing to pulling them.

**ANOTHER BRITISH INNOVATION** has surfaced for areas of eroded waste land. It's a new soil stabilizing process that helps germination of sown seeds or grasses. Called Unisol 91, this soil stabilizing product is a permeable film made from a synthetic rubber ingredient. After preparing soil, spray it on and Unisol 91 will last up to eight months. British manufacturer is looking for U. S. companies interested in making the product. Synthetic rubber may possibly have off- as well as on-the-road use.

**THE AGE OF MOBILITY** is certainly upon us. Federal Highway Administrator F. C. Turner says we traveled 1,170 billion vehicle miles in 1971. Miles per vehicle per year is now above 10,000. Miles traveled per gallon is dropping, however. Now down to 12.14. Ten states accounted for nearly 53 percent of all the travel in the U.S. In order they are: California, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Florida, New Jersey, and Indiana. These represent large population centers or recreational areas.

**DUTCH ELM DISEASE** is a threat, a problem, an expense and a hazard. Dead elms awaiting removal can be a hazard to passersby if they should fall on them. Not so ridiculous as evidenced by the death of a young boy in Kansas City recently. He was crushed by a crashing dead elm standing adjacent to a sidewalk. Science is working hard on a cure, but dead elms represent many tons of wood standing vertically waiting for a place to fall.

**FUNGUS KILLS WITCHWEED** is a different twist. Low quantities of the fungus *Sclerotium rolfsii* infect witchweed at the base of the plant and cause it to topple over. Witchweed invades many grass areas and attaches itself to the roots of the host plant where it lives as a parasite. In tests, the fungus killed every witchweed plant, seed and seedling. While it appears to be an answer to some, others like peanut farmers still regard this fungus as a threat. They call it southern blight.

**NUMBER ONE IN AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE** in the U.S. annually is insects. They cause an estimated \$4 billion in losses. Plant disease accounts for \$2.7 billion, followed by weeds at \$500 million and rodent damage at \$500 million. If man is to survive, he must use all tools, materials, machines and methods to protect his crops and himself against agricultural pests. Without crop protection the U.S. farmer could not have more than doubled the agricultural production from 1955 to 1970.

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From the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, Inc. Newsletter, The Key-noter, November 1971.

### A GRASS ROOTS VIEW OF PESTICIDES

by Dr. Herbert Cole, Chairman, Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Pesticide Committee  
What can a practical golf course superintendent or owner of a landscape service do about the (pesticide) situation?

Take a positive attitude with golf club management, members, and customers. Determine from attendance at meetings, personal reading, and other sources which pesticides will do the job with the least hazard to people or the environment. Use these materials and tell people that you are using these materials and are planning pest control programs with the view of preventing side effect damage. Tell the club greens committee, the members, or your landscape service customers what you're attempting to do. If you use a non-hazardous material that costs more maybe of somewhat lesser effectiveness tell them this is a positive vein. Grumbling and apologizing will create disdain; a forthright positive approach will create respect. More people are concerned with pollution and the quality of our earthy environment than you have ever realized. People will pay for the high priced material or live with a few insects if they understand the situation. Become competent and knowledgeable; pest control is really population management, you are an applied ecologist. Turf management is also applied ecology involving the management of various grass and other plant species so that the desired species predominates over a long term.

Rise above the attitude of the novice who attempts to eliminate every last plant pathogen or every last insect or "weed" plant. Obtain realistic goals of pest suppression and population management. Push for research support for integrated pest management systems including genetically diverse lines of turfgrass and other plant species.

View pest control as part of total turf or landscape management rather than part of a pill oriented society that takes pills to sleep, pills to wake up, pills to eat, pills to stimulate grass, pills to stop grass and pills to cure grass of all its ills.