

—trimmings—

TRITON CS-7 agricultural spreader-binder is detailed in a new brochure from Rohm and Haas Company. When added to various sprays, it promotes better spray distribution and retention and helps rewet and respread the spray deposits without product loss. It also aids in mixing of wetttable powders and liquid chemicals in tank-mix combinations. For a copy of the new brochure, write Rohm and Haas Company, Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105.

HYDRILLA HIDEOUT was recently discovered in Florida's Lake Okechobee, reports Robert D. Blackburn. He and his staff at the USDA Agricultural Research Service station in Ft. Lauderdale, have found that in spite of active isolation and quarantine programs, hydrilla has "holed up" in the big Florida lake. If permitted to gain a significant foothold, this weed could disrupt the aquatic environment of this shallow-bottom lake, Blackburn said.

CONSUMER ALERT is the word from the Georgia department of human resources. They say a double infestation is moving through Georgia pine trees. Officials are cautioning property owners about the dangers caused by the southern pine beetle, and they are also sounding a danger signal about unscrupulous "tree doctors" who are pretending to cure the sick pines—usually unsuccessfully, but always at exorbitant cost. Georgia forestry commission director Ray Shirley says that an unusually severe invasion of beetles is damaging pine trees in the metro Atlanta area and a number of counties south of there. He stresses that self-styled "tree experts" are little more than confidence men, and will possibly do more harm than good in applying their remedies.

DOZING AT THE WHEEL is by far the most frequent cause of interstate truck and bus accidents where the physical condition of the driver is involved, says the Federal Highway Administration's bureau of motor carrier safety. In 400 accidents, 76 percent of the drivers fell asleep at the wheel. Use of alcohol was the second largest cause of accidents. Eleven percent of the 400 accidents were attributed to drinking. Other physical conditions found in the study were heart disease,

drug usage, and blackouts.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE has built up to explosive numbers in Ashley county, Arkansas. Left uncontrolled, it could virtually wipe out the pine forests of the state. It attacks and kills trees of pulpwood and saw log size. The beetle has caused heavy losses to timber stands in Texas, Louisiana and other southern states for several years. The Arkansas Forestry Commissions is making aerial surveys and issuing written notices by certified mail to landowners where infected pines are found. Owners must initiate control measures within 15 days. These include cutting and marketing infested trees and all pines within a 50-foot radius; cutting and burning of infested trees and all pines within a 50-foot radius; and cutting and spraying with BHC or Lindane in diesel fuel.

NITROGEN FERTILIZERS present no evidence of danger to man, animals or global environment, according to an investigation by the National Research Council. Dr. Charles R. Frink, Connecticut agricultural experiment station and a member of the council's committee that made the study, says that locally excessive levels of nitrogen compounds most commonly occur where wastes contribute nitrates to the ground water. These wastes include municipal

wastes, septic tanks and concentrations of animal wastes. Urban runoff and industrial wastes may also add nitrates. Frink says that continued research is needed to find ways of controlling possible entry of nitrogen into waterways from farmlands.

CONGRATULATIONS MR. J. G. PAGE of Walnut, Calif. We just received your reader inquiry card for more information about the International 2444 tractor and 70 flail mower mentioned in WTT August 1969: We're not sure whether this is due to post office error or that you were house-cleaning and noticed this ad in an old issue. One thing for sure, we'll expedite your request. We don't want the grass to get too tall before you receive an answer.

FIFTY PERCENT of the birch trees in many southern Michigan cities are or will become infected with the Bronze Birch Borer, Michigan State University's Dr. Melvin Loelling estimates. The extension forester says that his beetle is greenish-bronze and invades birch trees planted in locations not native to the tree. Birches prefer the cooler, damper climate of northern Michigan and other northern tier states. Plantings elsewhere are generally subject to more insect and disease problems.

By **DR. ROBERT W. MILLER**
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Management Steps For Better Water Use

1. Mowing Practices—Lowering the mowing height reduces the efficiency of water utilization. As the height of mowing is lowered the number of roots produced and the depth of the root system is reduced. Higher mowed grasses actually have greater water use rates than low cut grasses but the loss in uptake of water because of poorer root systems more than overrides any advantage of lower mowing. Infrequent mowings also reduces the efficiency of water utilization for the same reasons. The use of a dull or improperly adjusted mower will increase the water use rate of grasses.

2. Irrigation Practices—Excessive watering of grasses result in a poor root system, increases the water use rate, and decreases water absorption by the plant.

3. Fertility Level — Excessive nitrogen fertilization of turfgrasses stimulates top growth, reduces root growth, increases the water use rate and lowers turf quality.

4. Turfgrass Pests — Turfgrasses injured by disease or insects will have higher water use rates than healthy grasses.

5. Traffic — Grasses worn by traffic have higher water use rates. Traffic should be managed whenever possible to prevent concentration of traffic.

6. Soil Aeration—Grasses grown on poorly aerated soil are inefficient in water utilization. Several management factors mentioned above effect soil aeration. Good management along with the use of mechanical devices for soil aeration will improve water use efficiency.