

## —trimmings—

**EPA ESTIMATES** that air pollution costs the nation more than \$16 billion a year in material losses — lost working hours because of health effect and damage to plant life and property. Water pollution accounts for nearly \$13 billion a year in damage. Strict enforcement of antipollution efforts spread among the nation's 60 million families would cost each family an average of \$481 a year.

**GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL** is on the march again. This time USDA has placed under Federal regulation on an additional area in Dade county, Florida. It includes nearly two square miles of North Miami in the Biscayne Gardens section. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service personnel describe the giant African snail as one of the most destructive mollusk pests known to man. Under the regulation, items such as sod, soil, compost, manure, sand, gravel, bricks, stones, pipes, nursery grown plant, plant debris, etc. are restricted to **INTRA**-state movement. Restricted items may be moved **INTER**-state under permit if they are going to certain approved destinations.

**COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**, in a third annual report, has stated that our air is getting cleaner but our water dirtier. Based on air samplings between 1969 and 1970, emission of carbon monoxide has dropped 4.5 percent and particulates 7.4 percent, primarily through controls applied to smokestacks. But water pollution from sources such as municipal sewer systems and industry had not decreased. A further source of increasing water pollution, which the council has underestimated, is the runoff from construction projects and agricultural lands.

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY** extension agronomists say that weed control in turfgrass lawns can be accomplished any time. However, late fall herbicide applications are better than those in midsummer for broad-leaf weed control.

**PETROSET SB EMULSION** is a new soil binder developed by Phillips Petroleum Company. It's easy to use. Dilute with water and apply with conventional spray equipment. Field performance from a half-dozen or more states indicates that the material can prevent erosion and soil

loss until grass is established. For more information, write Phillips Petroleum Company, chemical department, 15 B1 Phillips Building, Bartlesville, Okla. 74004.

**"BUG IN"** is the latest twist in the anti-pesticide crusade. A bulletin of the New Jersey Federation of Shade Tree Commissions reports that distribution of lady bugs and praying mantis egg cases is a big ticket item. Recommendations for an average lot are three mantis cases and a half pint of lady bugs. In Maplewood, N. J., boy scouts distributed egg cases throughout a twenty acre park.

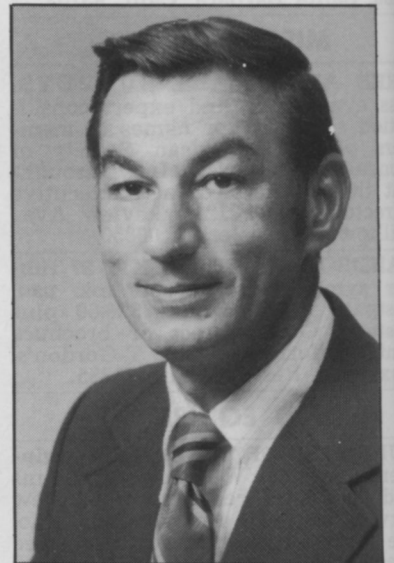
**SUPERIOR COTTONWOODS** for the south is paying off for the Forest Service, USDA. More than 615,000 cuttings of genetically superior cottonwood trees have been shipped to state and private tree nurseries in the lower Mississippi Valley. The

trees, a result of Forest Service research initiated 15 years ago, will grow as much as 12 feet in height each year — 20 percent faster than ordinary cottonwoods. An estimated 750,000 acres of land in the south is suitable for growing cottonwoods. "We expect that the availability of the genetically improved stock will increase reforestation efforts on this land," said John R. McGuire, Forest Service chief.

**THE WHITE AMUR**, a herbivorous fish being tested to control aquatic vegetation in Florida, is generally docile. When excited, however, it can jump out of the water like the Navy's Poseidon missile. Cases have been reported where people have been knocked unconscious by speeding white amur weighing 20 or more pounds. That's a hit and swim accident that won't make the police blotter.

## CRABGRASS (*Digitaria sarguinalis*)

By **DR. JOSEPH DUICH**  
Department of Agronomy  
Pennsylvania State University



Crabgrass is one of the major weeds confronting both the homeowner and professional turf manager. It is simply notorious—if life had existed on the moon, the astronauts would have anticipated finding crabgrass!

Prevalent in most areas with over 70 frost-free days, crabgrass is a pale green summer annual. Germination begins in mid-spring, shortly after lilacs bloom, and may extend for over six weeks. The finger-like seed heads produce thousands of seeds for next year's problem. Researchers have found over 400 seedling plants per square foot.

Physiologically, crabgrass is able to thrive during hot weather and even withstand drought better than most turfgrasses. After the first heavy fall frost, crabgrass dies leaving unsightly brown patches in the turf. Its only known weakness is inability to grow in the shade, including that provided by a dense turf.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** An 8½ x 11-inch color print of crabgrass shown at the right is available, at no charge, by writing to: O. M. Scott & Sons Company, Marysville, Ohio 43040.