



New officers of WSSA are: (l-r) F. W. Slife, Univ. of Ill., exec. secretary; E. L. Knake, Univ. of Ill., president-elect; R. P. Upchurch, Monsanto Company, past-president; E. G. Rodgers, Univ. of Florida, president; R. D. Ilnicki, Rutgers Univ., secretary; and C. R. Swanson, USDA Agr. Research service, vice-president.

WSSA REPORT

Scientists And Industry At Work Together

FOR three days put 700 weed scientists into one hotel, mix thoroughly with 224 technical papers accented by 11 sections and what do you have? The Weed Science Society of America's 13th annual meeting.

This year's meeting was in Atlanta and more than one weed scientist was seen soaking in February's warm Georgia sunshine while trying to forget about the winter chill back home.

The theme this year was "A Glance Backward — A Look Forward," and there was a note of this portrayed throughout most of the papers given.

Society president, Dr. R. P. Upchurch delivered a challenge to delegates in his president's address. "To those of us who are concerned with the scientific aspects of weed problems and their resolution there is unquestionably the need to bend every effort to understand the nature of weeds and the role which they play in human affairs," he said. "Our subject is a difficult one and individually we cannot but help feel inadequate for the task which confronts us. Only by banding together as a group of dedicated professionals can we hope to meet the obligations which we must choose for ourselves and fulfill on behalf of society."

Upchurch pointed out that "more energy is said to be expended for

the control of weeds than in any other human endeavor. Millions of people are chained to a sub-human level of existence because of weeds."

He cited the challenges of the

future—maintain and improve a professional approach, participate in the setting of courses of action for the environment, and speak out in favor of the proper use of a properly managed technology.

President Upchurch spoke of the Society's achievements over the past year. Active committee involvement; liaison support for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology and other organizations; steady contact with the Environmental Protection Agency, USDA and other governmental agencies; and, an active awards program for research, teaching and extension were mentioned as major accomplishments.

EPA assistant administrator, David D. Dominick next spoke on "improving agriculture and the environment." He highlighted the enviable history American agriculture has achieved and said that even though total number of acres is down, production is up. The increases have been due to technological advances. Better farming, new equipment, new hybrids, lower farm failure rate, farms have become large businesses and the role of chemicals—all have helped productivity, he said.

"The one practice which remains the most controversial today is the use of chemicals for insect and weed

(continued on page 28)

EPA Liaison To WSSA

Dr. Jake McKenzie, chief of the pesticide program in the Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco regional office has been named official EPA liaison with the Weed Science Society of America. The announcement was made during the 13th annual meeting in February.

McKenzie has been a member of WSSA since 1964. He has a B.S. degree in farm management from Edinburgh University, Scotland and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in crop science from Oregon State University. He studies under W. R. Furtick, a past president of WSSA.

In making the announcement, David D. Dominick, EPA assistant administrator said, "I am certain that by working through Dr. McKenzie this organization can be assured that its views will be made known to EPA, and that you will have full knowledge of our progress in implementing the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act."

WSSA REPORT (from page 24)

control," Dominick said.

"The Environmental Protection Agency realizes that the use of farm chemicals in this regard is essential for the foreseeable future."

Dominick then went on to explain the framework of the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act. "Before this law was passed, under the old FIFRA of 1947, we were in the untenable position of being forced into deciding the use of a pesticide as an 'all or nothing' proposition . . . In the past we licensed and oversaw labeling of pesticide products for interstate shipments. But, there was no control over the actual use of products," he said. "Under FEPCA pesticides have been distinctly categorized."

The EPA official said that the timetable for implementation of the law is staggered over a four-year period. Although an EPA task force is already at work on implementing the law, Dominick invited WSSA's views in working out the details of the Act. Public participation has already been solicited.

Dominick concluded by expressing his support of pest control methods beyond those of chemical control.

Parasites, biological methods, rotation of crops and mechanized removal of unwanted growth were cited.

In the area of weed control of turfgrasses, Dr. Robert W. Schery, director, The Lawn Institute, Marysville, Ohio discussed "Weed Influences on Lawnseed Quality." Based on the findings his tests which involved random commercial samplings of lawnseed offered for sale in major market areas. Schery said few had to be severely criticized for formulation. Germination was almost never deficient, and purity claims for the most part were only mildly if at all questionable.

Noxious weeds, according to the director, were not a problem. More serious were crop inclusions, fairly frequently present and sometimes rather abundant on a seed count basis. Ryegrass and field forage species were the chief culprits.

Schery concluded that bentgrass and annual bluegrass seemed not too serious a problem. Generally, lawnseed is of good quality. Seed growers have shown vast improvement in commercial responsibility over the condition prevailing only two decades ago, he said.

S. W. Bingham, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,

presented an interesting review of his work involving the influence of herbicides on rooting in turfgrass sod. Unlike other studies in this area, Bingham applied herbicides over the top of *freshly* laid sod. The herbicides used in the study were Betasan, Balan, Dacthal, and Tupersan.

Results? Betasan and Balan gave similar responses on the rooting of turf. Least inhibited was Kentucky 31 fescue. At rates normally used for crabgrass control, bluegrass rooting strength was reduced more than 50 percent. Dacthal and Tupersan had little effect on fescue and bluegrass. However, Tupersan completely inhibited the rooting of Tifgreen bermudagrass and Dacthal reduced rooting by 30 percent.

One month after the last treatment in the fall evaluations were again made. Dacthal and Balan did not reduce the rooting of Tifdwarf bermudagrass sod. On the other hand, fall rooting was reduced by spring treatments with Betasan and Tupersan.

In a similar study J. A. Jagschitz, University of Rhode Island, reported on the effect of 2,4-D, Banvel D, silvex and mecoprop and combinations of these herbicides on the root-

(continued on page 64)



WSSA Outstanding Teacher's Award winner F. W. Slife (l) receives plaque and \$1000 check from E. R. Laning, Jr. of Dow Chemical Co., award sponsor.



D. E. Moreland, N. C. State Univ., receives Outstanding Research Award. J. J. Hood, (r) Ciba-Geigy Corp. presents plaque and trophy as award sponsor.



J. L. Hilton, USDA, (r) is the recipient of the Outstanding Research Paper. C. L. Foy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute makes the presentation.



Outstanding Extension Award went to E. P. "Dutch" Sylvester, (l) Iowa State University. G. C. Klingman, Elanco Products Co. makes presentation of \$1000 and plaque.

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WSSA REPORT (from page 28)

ing of transplanted Kentucky bluegrass sod. He found that herbicides applied closer to the time of sod lifting caused greater root inhibition. Silvex and combinations containing silvex caused greater root inhibition than mecoprop, Banvel D or 2,4-D alone or in combination.

Does vitamin C help in the uptake of phenoxy herbicides? According to J. R. Baur of Texas A&M University it does. When combined with 2,4-D

and 2,4,5-T in the herbicide solution, it increased the uptake of the herbicide in mesquite leaflets in the laboratory. Why? He's not exactly sure, but he suggests that it is possibly a metabolic process.

Delegates showed much interest in a speech on aquatic weed control by Harold Brown, Southeastern Helicopter Services, Inc., Fort Pierce, Fla.

"Every person involved in aquatic weed control faces the same dilemma," he said. "We used to have about 20 compounds to work with in controlling aquatic weeds. Since the signing of the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act, we have only two or three compounds left. They are the only ones with a Federal label.

"The only aquatic herbicide that has been granted a residue tolerance in citrus is 2,4-D . . . Some of the producers of herbicides have been sitting on their hands," he said.

Brown outlined what use to be his weed control program for the audience. For floating weeds—Water Hyacinth — he's been using 2,4-D, Diquat and Amitrol. For alligatorweed, he reports that 2,4,5-T has been doing a superior job. In controlling emerged species he relies on 2,4-D and Casoron. Submerged weeds such as hydrilla, southern naiad, coontail and chara are controlled with Hideout, Mariner E and copper sulfate.

Ditchbank grasses — marginal weeds—can be controlled with Dalpon, says Brown. "We don't want to eradicate, only hold back growth. Monuron (Telvar) and diuron (Karmex) are also good materials."

The WSSA this year named four men to become Fellows of the Society. They are: Drs. G. C. Klingman, Elance Products Co., E. K. Alban, Ohio State University, W. R. Furtick, Oregon State University and R. Behrens, University of Minnesota.

Winners in the award program are: J. L. Hilton, USDA, for the outstanding research paper; F. W. Slife, University of Illinois; for the outstanding teachers award; E. P. Sylvester, Iowa State University, for the outstanding extension award; and, D. E. Moreland North Carolina State University, for the outstanding research award.

New officers for this year are: Dr. Earl G. Rodgers, University of Florida, president; Dr. Elery L. Knake, University of Illinois, president-elect; C. R. Swanson, USDA agricultural research service, vice-president; and R. D. Ilnicki, Rutgers University, secretary. □

—Advertisers Index—

Ackley Mfg. Company	36
Adelphi Kentucky Bluegrass	50
Amchem Products, Inc.	2nd cover
American Arborist Supplies	45
Applied Biochemists, Inc.	64
Arps Corp.	50
Asplundh Chipper Co.	15
Auto Hoe, Inc.	50
John Bean Div., FMC Corp.	51
Brillion Iron Works, Inc.	62
Bunton Company	43
Certain-teed Products Corp.	37
Creative Sales, Inc.	48
Coursigns, Inc.	58
Deere & Company	13
Diamond Shamrock Chemical Co.	61
C. B. Dolge Co.	25
Dow Chemical Co.	21, 34-35
E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.	7
Elm-R, Inc.	46
Ford Tractor & Implement Operations	3
Clifford B. Hannay & Son	46
Hypro, Inc.	45
International Harvester Co.	16-17
Jacklin Seed Co.	9, 40
Jacobsen Mfg. Co.	63
Jenkins Equipment Co.	48
Jobe's Tree Food Spikes	52
Lofts Pedigreed Seed Inc.	4th cover
J. J. Mauget Co.	5
Manhattan Ryegrass Growers Assn.	6
Merck & Co., Inc.	59
Mobile Aerial Towers, Inc.	41
Mott Corp.	49
National Mower Co.	60
Niagara Chemical Div., FMC Corp.	10
Nugget Kentucky Bluegrass	30
Oregon Chewings & Creeping Red Fescue Commission	57
Pioneer Chain Saws	22
Product Development International	30
Rain Bird Sprinkler Mfg. Corp.	3rd cover
Ryan Turf Equipment	39
O. M. Scott & Sons	29
Servis Equipment Co.	31
Smithco, Inc.	58
Sod-Master, Inc.	53
Spraying System Co.	52
Stauffer Chemical Co.	56
Telco Industries	33
Thompson-Hayward Chemical Co.	27
Twin City Seed Co.	43
Vermeer Mfg. Co.	38
Waldon, Inc.	47
Wheel Horse Products, Inc.	11