

## Weed Eating Insects Can Be Beneficial

Weed-eating insects can have an important role in the non-chemical suppression of weeds. About 70 weed species are under study throughout the world for such biological control, according to a U. S. Department of Agriculture entomologist.

Dr. Lloyd A. Andres of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Albany, Calif., says that the weed-eaters are well adapted for the role because they multiply so fast and because they pick out only certain specific weeds to feed on.

"When a specific weed is suppressed, the particular insect feeding on it decreases in numbers, and if the weed "takes hold" again, the insects increase in numbers," Andres says.

"The successful control of Klamath weed on Northwestern ranges in the 1950's, the control of pricklypear cactus on Santa Cruz island off the coast of California, and the partial suppression of alligatorweed in the Southeastern United States, are but three examples of the use of insects

for weed control."

The entomologist says that while insects do not completely eliminate weeds they keep them within manageable limits with minimal environmental disturbance and at comparatively little cost.

There are some disadvantages to this type of control, he notes, including the slow rate of control—it may take from 3 to 10 years for suppression to be noticeable; and conflicting interests. As an example, conflicts may come when a plant is considered a weed by farmers in one part of the country and of value by wildlife enthusiasts in another part.

## U. of Cal. Frank Robinson Given S. I. A. Award

Dr. Frank E. Robinson, associate water scientist at the University of California, was named 1973 recipient of the "SIA Man of the Year Award" at the recent Sprinkler Irrigation Association Technical Conference.

The award was presented at the Annual Banquet of the organization

during the meeting in Dallas, Texas, and is the highest recognition given by the Association and the industry. It is presented annually to university or government personnel "for significant contributions in the field of sprinkler irrigation."

Robinson, whose major interest is in irrigation management and soil salinity control, has been with the University of California since 1964.

## Professional Turf Manual Released By DuPont Co.

A Professional Turf Manual which highlights the causes and symptoms and control of most turfgrass diseases has been released by the Du Pont Company. The manual also features fertilization and weed control recommendations.

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