

Federal Seed Act Violations Cost Illinois Firm \$1300

New Jersey secretary of agriculture Phillip Alampi has been informed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that a court judgment of \$1,300 for violations of the Federal Seed Act has ended a case against the Seaboard Seed Company, Bristol, Ill.

The case involved one shipment of mixed lawn seed made into New Jersey in 1968. The seed was picked up by a New Jersey Department of Agriculture inspector and was tested in the Department's seed laboratory. It was found to be falsely labeled as to the percentages of annual ryegrass seed, perennial ryegrass seed, tall fescue seed, other crop seeds, and the date of test. In addition, the shipment contained a cited New Jersey noxious weed seed, Bermuda-grass.

Other shipments which were in violation of the Federal Seed Act had been made by the same company to Pennsylvania, Virginia and South Dakota.

The judgment against Seaboard Seed Company was issued by the U.S. District Court for the northern

district of Illinois.

The Federal Seed Act is a truth-in-labeling law designed to protect consumers in the purchase of seed. In part, it requires that lawn seed be truthfully and completely labeled.

New Jersey has similar legislation, but has no legal recourse when an out-of-state firm is found to be in violation.

Northeast Severely Hurt By Gypsy Moth In 1973

Leaf-eating gypsy moth caterpillars defoliated an estimated 1,773,846 acres of woodland in nine northeastern states this summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports. This is an increase of about 400,000 acres over the 1972 defoliation.

Pennsylvania was the hardest hit northeastern state this year with approximately 856,710 defoliated acres. Other states with defoliated acres include an estimated 333,215 in Connecticut; 254,865 in New Jersey; 248,441 in New York; 43,970 in Massachusetts; 35,925 in Rhode Island; 490 in Maine; 200 in Vermont; and 30 in New Hampshire.

A single 2-inch caterpillar can eat a square foot of leaves every 24 hours.

Sprinkler Zone Control Patent Granted Tork Time

Michael Bizzoco, vice president of Tork Time Controls, Inc., has been granted a patent for the water-saving zone control feature of sprinkler controllers manufactured by Tork.

Bizzoco developed an "automatic interrupt and restart" which makes possible intermittent watering of any zone within a single sprinkling period. The Tork controller advances from section to section, up to 12 sections or zones, and while other controllers do permit for individual sprinkling programs for each zone, it is the patented feature which makes for water saving.

Water is wasted by run-off in sprinkling operations, particularly in slope or shrub sections. The intermittent feature provides watering in short bursts — as little as 2½ minutes — with rest periods so that the grounds may fully absorb all the water, and yet receive their full required watering.

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