

trimmings

CLAUDE W. GIFFORD, USDA director of communications, has appointed Ray Brush, administrator of the American Association of Nurserymen, to the 1974 Yearbook of Agriculture Committee. The yearbook, which is a collector's item for some, draws attention in articles and chapters to significant changes and technologies taking place throughout the nation. The 1974 yearbook will be released in late 1974. It will give practical and research-based advice on how to buy everything from lawn seed to food to wood to clothing. Of primary interest to readers of **WEEDS TREES AND TURF** will be the thoroughness and credibility of articles and whether authors are selected who represent the subject and the Green Industry.

HOW LONG WILL BURLAP LAST on a B & B planting? The New Jersey Federation of Shade Tree Commissions decided to find out. They studied the rate of breakdown in the soil of a variety of burlaps and containers used for B & B (balled and burlapped) and containerized plants. Untreated burlap deteriorated in 6 months. In the same amount of time Format pots had just begun to break down at the base and at the soil line. Burlap treated with 0.2 percent copper naphthenate lasted 18 months. Treated Format pots began to deteriorate at the base and rim after 1½ years. Same was true for Hercules pots. Their deterioration at 18 months was at the base and along the seam. Green plastic burlap remained completely intact for the full 30 months of the study. Item to note: there was ample root penetration from all types of burlap including plastic. Plastic did not result in any noticeable effect on moisture differences between the sod and the soil ball.

WHAT IS ECOLOGY? Briefly, ecology is the study of the relationship of an animal to its environment. It attempts to understand how animals, plants, organisms, climate, soil, air and water fit together and affect one another.

LIKE THE CIRCUIT RIDER the gypsy moth keeps popping in for a devastating lunch in new areas. Latest victim states to find his tale-tale presence is Illinois and Indiana.

Leo G. K. Iverson, deputy administrator for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) says that the gypsy moths probably didn't invade the area, but were brought into the states by recreational vehicles. It might not be a bad idea to install a free drive-through vehicle wash stand at the border of potentially endangered states.

EARL L. BUTZ, Secretary of Agriculture, said in addressing the Society of American Foresters, recently, one of the dangers of overreaction to the environmental-economic balance is pointed out in the effort to control the tussock moth. "The dying forests are reminders that we were a little precipitous in banning the only effective control method before we had found effective substitutes," he said. ". . . I was shocked by the devastation. No one can tell me that either nature or man is better off for this insect epidemic. . . . I agree whole-heartedly that we must step up research and development of alternatives to persistent pesticides. But at the same time, contingency approval for use of DDT appears to be the only course to seek for this next year. Effective and safe substitutes will be found. But we may not have trees on which to use these substitutes if the epidemic isn't stopped. "I am ready to lend my full sup-

port to seeking approval from the Environmental Protection Agency for making DDT available in the event we need it," he said.

BIOBEGRADABLE DDT has been patented by the University of Illinois Foundation, according to one report. Scientists have been able to alter one of the phenyl rings of the DDT molecule and cause biodegradability. No period of time for biodegradation has been mentioned. However, it was reported that the effectiveness of the Bio DDT is the same as regular DDT in laboratory tests.

POLITICIANS GOING FOR THE POT has been leaked from sources on Capital Hill. Seems that the National Botanical Garden has been supplying plants for congressional offices for a number of years. Sources say that what with the need for something green, demand has risen from 6000 potted plants in 1968 to over 9000 pots for politicians this year.

LOOKING FOR A GIMMICK? The National Bank of Commerce in San Antonio, Tex. has one that works. They gave evergreens to persons opening a new account, or depositing \$50 or more to an existing savings account. Total evergreens given in the six week promotion was 2200. Now that tradin' green for evergreen.

No Place To Exit?

Locking and/or chaining of exit doors in public buildings, theatres, sports arenas, and schools for "security" or other reasons is a serious violation, says the National Safety Council. Persons responsible for such violations are not only blamed, but subject to heavy fines and imprisonment.

Here's what the National Fire Protection Association Manual says about exit doors:

- 5-2131. An exit door shall be so arranged as to be readily opened from the side from which egress (exit) to be made at all times when the building served thereby is occupied. Locks, if provided, shall not require the use of a key for operation from the inside of the building.
- 5-2132. A latch or other fastening device on an exit door shall be provided with a knob, handle, panic bar, or other simple type of releasing device, the method of operation of which is obvious, even in darkness.
- 5-2162. Required panic hardware shall not be equipped with any locking or dogging device, set screw, or other arrangement which can be used to prevent the release of the latch when pressure is applied to the bar.
- 5-2171. No lock, padlock, hasp, bar, chain, or other installed or maintained at any time on, or in connection with any door on which panic hardware is required by this Code if such device prevents, or is intended to prevent, the free use of the door for purposes of egress (exit).