



## Government News / Business

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Sod production and sod installation are agricultural enterprises, says the Department of Labor. The ruling was determined following conferences, briefs and personal contact by William Harding, an attorney on retainer with the American Sod Producers Association. According to ASPA president, Jack Kidwell, the ruling has significance in that OSHA obligations will be "much easier for members to meet. It is significant that the opinion from the Department indicates that sod installation is exempt only if it is also tied in with a sod production operation," he said. "Sod installation by itself if not performed jointly in production of sod could possibly be interpreted as being part of a landscaping operation which includes principally construction activities. Thus OSHA regulations would cover construction restrictions."

Thompson-Hayward Chemical Company is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of North American Philips Corporation. It had previously been a subsidiary of PEPI Inc. which in turn had been a majority-owned subsidiary of North American Philips. A company merger has simplified the operation. No change in operations is expected.

What we have done in this country during the past few years to provide for the protection of our environment "will count for nothing if progress and the constant striving for the highest standard of living is valued more than basic environmental balance and simple survival," intoned John R. Quarles, deputy administrator of EPA. He told the Magazine Publishers Association in October that the nation requires a radical transformation of the basic life processes in our society. But we must not abandon all technology and dismantle our factories, he said. "Like it or not, we will still be dependent upon our technology, and it has brought us great blessings. But we must now begin to differentiate between the blessings and the curses of technology."

American Garden Products, Inc. has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Perry's Plants, Inc. of La Puente, Calif. Perry's Plants is believed to be the largest grower of ground covers in the U. S. and a leading producer of flowering annuals. The acquisition will involve a consideration of \$2.7 million in cash, \$300,000 in American Garden common stock and contingent payments based upon future earnings of Perry's Plants.

This year about two percent of our natural gas was used to manufacture nitrogen fertilizer. This percentage will have to increase to three percent if the nation is to produce enough nitrogen for projected food for the nation and for export to help balance our trade deficit in the years ahead, says Malcolm H. McVickar, national manager, agronomy, Chevron Chemical Company. It takes about 33,000 cubic feet of natural gas to produce a ton of the type of nitrogen material used in fertilizer. McVickar estimates that by 1980 our needs will be for 80 percent more nitrogen than currently and 43 percent more phosphorus. "If we're going to have ample food in this country and continue to increase exports of farm commodities, we'll need huge supplies of fertilizer," he says. "There's no way to change that fact."

Hoffco Inc. of Richmond, Inc. has announced the acquisition of 51,000 additional feet of manufacturing and warehouse space for the firm. It will be used to meet the expanding marketing requirements for manufacturing and warehouse space.