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BUDGETS UP WEEDS OUT (from page 33)

to treat 225 miles of roadside. In 1972 we spent less than \$8,000 and treated 255 miles. Yet we got control that was better. We're getting a lot of good reaction to the program from the farmers."

This Idaho weed program on paved roads really starts when new roads are planned. In recent years about 15 to 20 miles of roads per year have been built in the Canyon county highway district and almost as many in the adjacent Nampa district. Shoulders and pits are built to provide good drainage, but they are also planned so a single chemical treatment can provide long-lasting weed control without erosion — thus minimizing the need for costly roadside mowing. As a result, mowing has been all but eliminated in county roadside maintenance. Last year, for example, it involved just one man in Pettis' nine-man crew for the equivalent of a few weeks.

"Our objective in our program for unpaved roads has been a clean borrow pit," says Pettis. "One problem on paved roads, of course, is salt grass and other weeds that germinate right at the edge of the paving or oil. And we all know that some weeds come right through asphalt. That's why we have worked so hard to build understanding with our maintenance supervisors. A good weed program does rest on well-planned roads and on teamwork between those who build and maintain the roads and those who control weeds.

Three-hundred gallon spray rigs mounted on a pick-up truck with an eight-foot boom and an auxiliary hose are standard equipment in both the Canyon county district and Nampa district. Two trucks are used for roadside spraying in the fall in both these districts. In the summer they switch to control programs on noxious weeds. But economies have been established. Puncture vine formerly involved four or five treatments with 2, 4-D. Now a single annual treatment with Krovar I will control it. As a consequence of this and other improvements, the county weed department operates only five spray rigs instead of nine. Yet it still handles a wide range of weed programs — roads, (in the Canyon county district) and railroads, shopping centers, vacant lots, etc. (throughout the county).

The weed department spray rigs can apply either an eight-foot or a twelve-foot wide pattern. They are handled by skilled operators who have other jobs in seasons when spraying is not scheduled. Pettis, a former farmer himself, knows the importance of weed know-how and care in herbicide application and he has a crew of experienced men working with him in the country weed program.

"Weed control is a job for specialists," agrees road maintenance supervisor Floyd Davenport of the Nampa district. "We have lots of people in the county who welcome our spray program because it helps keep weeds out of fence lines and out of ditches bordering the fields. They know that our spray crews do

a real job; that's one reason we find some of the farmers moving their crop lines right out to the edge of the road."

Impact of the area's weed control can be judged best by the men who have been using the new compound. Spray operator Tommy Didge in the Nampa district says he's been looking for sandbur — one of the district's tough weeds — but hadn't seen any on roadsides by early June, following last fall's treatment. Maintenance supervisor Davenport looks for added reductions in mowing this season.

Road maintenance budgets are up in Canyon County, but weed control costs are being kept down. "It's a matter of better planning, better training of our spray operators, and better weed compounds," sums up Floyd Davenport. "We've got better control of the weed problem than we have ever had." □

Ackley Distributor To Cover Rhode Island And Mass.

Goodall and Sons Tractor Company has been named distributor for Ackley hydraulic tools for Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The announcement was made by Harry Goodall of Goodall and Sons Tractor Company and Harold DePue, Ackley's vice-president of marketing. The Ackley line includes hydraulic hand tools for utility, construction, marine, agriculture, governmental and industrial use.