

## trimmings

**WASH, RINSE AND SQUASH** is a new twist on the Rinse and Drain procedure with chemical containers. A new tool, called Posi-Drain, makes the difference. It looks a little like a punch and a can opener rolled into one. As recommended, rinse and drain the container twice. Then a simple wrist action of the tool punches a hole in the top of the container. A third rinse is drained through the puncture. Last, puncture the bottom of the can. Posi-Drain is nine inches long and weighs about 1/3 pound. Current design is for one and five gallon cans. Write: B. W. Norton Manufacturing Co., Oakland, Calif.

**WOOD CHIPS AND WASTE** materials are now being experimentally combined. The result hopefully is a fertilizer and soil conditioner that will strike the public fancy. The Maryland Environmental Systems is sandwiching wood chips and sludge from Washington D. C. They lay a layer of chips down, cover it with sludge and mix two or three times a day for 15 days. The mixture is then screened and the dried sludge is piled for 30 days to let the aerobic and anaerobic bacteria do their job. The mixture appears much like organic matter which has had a shot of fertilizer added.

**TRACTOR ACCIDENTS** and age of operator have a lot in common, according to the National Safety Council. In a recent survey, results showed that 48 percent of the tractor accidents were accounted for by operators in the 15 to 44 years age bracket. Those between 25 and 64 years racked up a total of 57 percent of the accidents; these operators are those who regularly drive tractors. USC says that 91 percent of all tractor injuries happened while on the job.

**SIXTY PERCENT** of the projected chain saw market in 1974 will be recorded in professional and farm sales, according to Frank McDonald, Pioneer product manager. Speaking to about 75 Pioneer distributors he estimated that the casual and professional chain saw market in North America was a projected \$250 million. "Suburban growth is having a significant impact already on casual chain saw sales," he said. "Seventeen markets alone in the United States have increased their subur-

ban populations by more than 50,000 persons in the last two years. The suburban homeowner is an important potential buying influence."

**OREGON'S BOTTLE BILL** is making a hit within the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA reports that as long a result of the law in Oregon, can and bottle litter along the state's roads has been reduced by a maximum of 81 percent in the winter months of 1972-73 as opposed to the same period in 1971-72. What's the law entail? It requires a minimum two-cent refund to purchasers on the return of beer, malt beverage and carbonated soft drink containers acceptable for re-use by more than one manufacturer and a five cent refund on soft drink and beer containers acceptable to only one manufacturer. EPA has much more to say about the results of this law. Send for the pamphlet "Oregon's Bottle Bill: The First Six Months" by writing: Solid Waste Educational Materials Control Section, Environmental Protection Agency, 5555 Ridge Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45268.

**DIAL-AN . . . ANSWER** is the newest and hottest consumer service available to the public on lawn care problems. It's part of the O. M. Scott & Sons clever idea to be of greater service to its customers. Scotts has sent out direct mail information to its clients about the new service. You can call toll free and talk to a friendly, sympathetic expert. In Ohio dial 800-762-4010. In California dial 800-772-2426. In Washington, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming and Arizona dial 800-227-0333. All other states dial 800-543-1415.

**MICROWAVE WEEDING** is the latest type weed control to be tested and demonstrated in Texas. Known as the Zapper, a machine was built in cooperation with the Oceanography International Corporation, Texas A&M University, the Texas agricultural experiment station and the USDA agricultural research service. The Zapper slays weeds by applying microwaves directly to the soil. It gets the weeds . . . and fungi, and nematodes, and soil insects, and anything else which happens to get in the way. OIC president John Hughey says that the system is safe, non-polluting, and provides long duration control of weeds and soil-borne pests. Zapped soil is immediately ready to be seeded, with no concern for toxic residues. The big plus is in increased yields. Hughey reports that cantaloupes and onions planted in

zapped soil jumped their yields 35 to 60 percent over those in hand-weeded plots.

**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY** has developed a noise meter which makes instant readings of sound levels and also accumulates the "dose" for daily readouts. The meter is about the size of a pack of cigarettes. Currently, only experimental models exist.

**PLANT RESPONSE** to increased ultraviolet radiation intensities will be studied by scientists of Utah State Univ. USDA has granted \$79,000 to the university to determine the interaction between ultraviolet radiation and air pollution, investigate the effect of increased ultraviolet radiation and temperature stress on selected plants and determine whether more irradiation increases plant susceptibility to disease pathogens.

**CHECK THE LOCAL IRS** office if you have temporary employees who earn less than \$2050 for the year. If this is the case, wages may be tax-free and the employee can avoid taxes being withheld by filing Form W-4E with the employer.

**HOW YOU SPRAY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE** is the title to a set of 75 slides produced by the H. D. Hudson Company. It could be used as a training aid or in a talk given to a service club or garden club. Write the company at 154 East Erie Street, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

**THE SAME PRODUCT** that controls scours in baby pigs has been found to control lethal yellowing disease in south Florida's coconut palms. Terramycin, an antibiotic, has shown 100 percent success in controlling the blight which has swept through the palm population. Tests have proven that the lethal yellowing disease is caused by a mycoplasma, a living cell that is neither a virus nor a bacteria. Terramycin has been injected into the trees through a hollow lag bolt and under pressure.

**THE FOREST SERVICE** says that by the end of 1976, owners of off-road vehicles will have designated areas and trails in the National Forests System lands where they may and may not operate. The Forest Service has begun a three-plus year process to establish controls over use of off-road vehicles on all 187 million acres of national forests, grass lands and other lands.