

## SALES UP

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also handles spraying activities at a number of cemeteries. In addition, Lytle and Sons keep over 500 area billboards free of obstructing weeds and fast-growing vegetation and also maintain a large number of golf courses, swimming pools and tank farms. Recently, he sprayed a 6½-mile section of Interstate 75 near Cincinnati but doesn't plan to take on any more highway contracts.

One of the most unique aspects of

Lytle's operation is the cost of equipment. For most of the sterilization work, ordinary 55-gallon oil drums are used as spray tanks. "I use drums for two reasons," expounds Lytle. "First of all, they are cheap." Secondly, at the end of a use period, I can dispose of them and there is no expensive spray tank to clean out, repair or replace. Along with these bargain basement tanks, Lytle combines another cost saving innovation—his spray pumps. A Hahn 5-horsepower gear pump with a 15-gallon per minute capacity is used. Attached to this is a light ¾

inch, two-braid chemical hose.

In the final analysis, the key to Lytle and Sons' success seems to lie in Forrest Lytle's all-out enthusiasm to do an unconditionally first-rate job.

"A lot of guys have tried this business part time—but it's not a part-time business. Any job in this field—if it's worth doing—it's worth doing right."

Lytle's several hundred customers seem to agree. □

## Water Hyacinth Nutrient Potential Explored

Complete removal of the water hyacinth and subsequent disposal in soil would alleviate the nuisance in affected water, lower the nutrient content of those waters, and benefit the receiving soil. This is the conclusion of two University of Florida researchers.

J. V. Parra and C. C. Hortenstine contend that the organic matter content of water hyacinths would improve the sandy soils in Florida. Characteristics such as structure, cation exchange capacity, buffering capacity and water holding capacity would be improved.

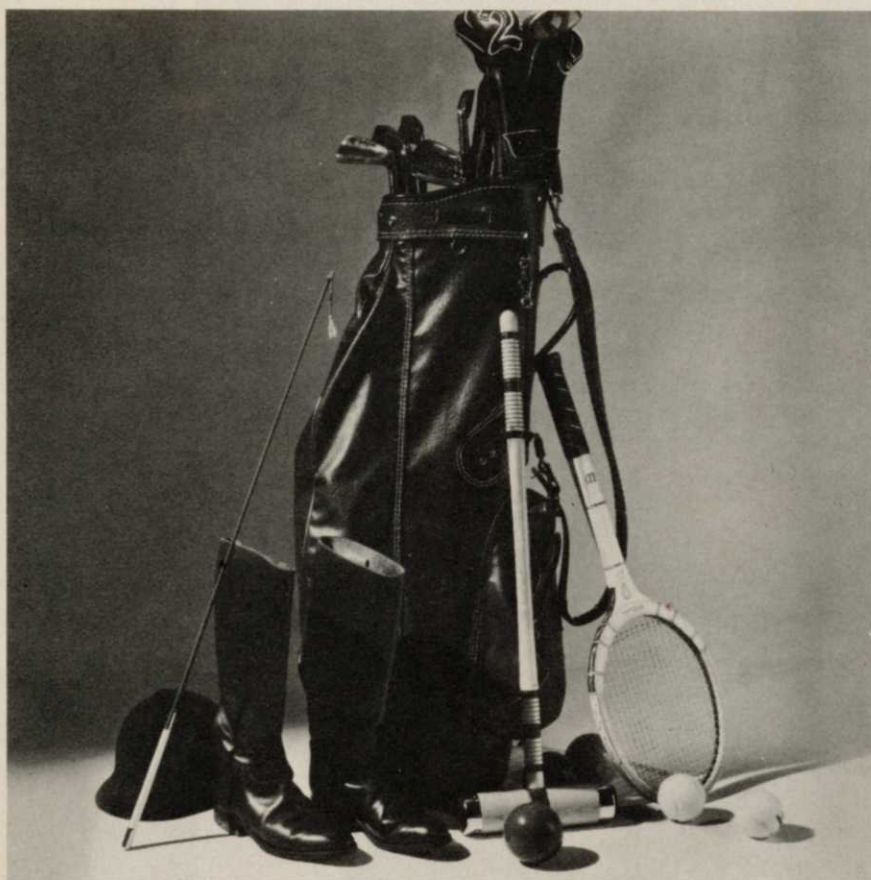
In addition, organic matter serves as a storehouse of macronutrients and micronutrients.

According to the scientists, water hyacinth is considered a major deterrent to water sports and water transportation in many parts of the world. The rank growth becomes particularly obnoxious in lakes and streams that are eutrophic. In Florida, annual costs for control of this weed amount to several million dollars.

Most control procedures are predicated on the use of chemicals which allow the hyacinths to become part of the debris and, thus, constitute a permanent sink for nutrients.

Speaking at the Weed Science Society of American meeting in Atlanta, recently, the scientists reason that nitrogen is of especial interest when an organic material is applied to the soil. The total nitrogen content of water hyacinths varies generally between one and two percent. However, the carbon/nitrogen ratio is probably of greater importance.

Normal soil has a C/N ration between 9 and 12 which is maintained at almost a fixed value. When organic matter with a C/N ratio greater than 12 is added to soil, microorganisms must draw upon the soil nitrogen in order to assimilate or absorb the added carbon.



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