

## Drip Irrigation Lessens Nitrate Runoff

Use of a different type of growing medium with trickle or drip irrigation systems may help solve an environmental pollution problem facing many nurserymen today—how to eliminate nitrate-laden runoff waters from their current operations.

Preliminary findings from research exploring this approach were reported by Dr. E. F. Wallihan, professor of soil science at the University of California, Riverside, during the American Society of Agronomy in Nov.

Sand-organic matter mixes are widely used by nurserymen as plant media because of desirable physical properties relating to bulk density, water release, aeration, and drainage. However, Dr. Wallihan noted, they have a low capacity for storing and delivering nutrients.

"To be certain that nutrient deficiencies do not occur," he explained, "nurserymen apply large amounts of fertilizers, most of which are carried into the soil beneath. A better plant medium and a better

irrigation system are needed to limit this source of environmental pollution."

He reported that new materials are available to bind clay soil into tiny clods that should provide a better plant growth medium than the present nursery mixes.

"From this study," the UCR soil scientist said, "it appears that use of such aggregates would be just as satisfactory with respect to weight, water storage and release, aeration and drainage as current mixes. When used with drip or trickle irrigation systems, the aggregates would provide for better distribution of water within each container. This would reduce the amount of water required for irrigation and, thereby, the amount of fertilizer needed."

Dr. Wallihan said that extensive tests are now under way at UCR to learn how best to use the aggregate cultures.

## N.Y. Arborists Elect

New officers of the N.Y. State Arborists Association were elected

at the annual meeting in So. Fallsburg, N.Y.

They are: Carl Lundborg, vice president of F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Co., president; D. W. Cadwalader, Hopewell Junction, N.Y., 1st vice president; James Taylor, Walden, N.Y., 2nd vice president; and Richard Wickey, Westbury, N.Y., 3rd vice president. George H. Callaway of Argyle, N.Y. continues as secretary-treasurer.

New board of directors includes: Jack A. Schultz, Merrick, N.Y.; Dave Kress, Schenectady, N.Y.; Ed Johnson, Hicksville, N.Y.; Jacob Bruinooog, Spring Valley; Sam Blakley, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Philip Brogan, Syracuse, N.Y.; David Williams, Clarence, N.Y.; Leo Cook, Vestal, N.Y.

Margaret Herbst was named executive secretary.

## New Articulated Loader For Industry Market

New to the Green Industry is the multipurpose Bronco articulated loader, manufactured by Versatile Power Corporation, Grantsburg, Wisconsin. It is marketed by Conequip Sales, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Basically a hydrostatic true 4-wheel drive loader with articulated steering, the 3,400-lb. capacity Bronco is available with standard or heavy duty front ends and  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 1 yard standard buckets.

The loader is powered by a 110 hp liquid cooled gasoline or a 93 hp diesel engine through a 55 gpm hydrostatic pump and separate hydraulic motors coupled to each of the four wheels. There are no drive gears, belts, chains, shafts, differential or axles.

The front end oscillates for all-wheel contact on uneven terrain and

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