

## 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.

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## Topdressing Supplier Opens New Plant

E. & S. Soil and Peat Industries, Inc. has opened their new plant, located near Rocky Mount, North Carolina, to supply sterilized soil mixes for topdressing and greens construction. Their standard mix conforms to the U. S. G. A. specifications, but they can also supply custom mixes.

Will W. Eason, Jr. is president of the newly formed organization and John W. Strickland is vice-president. Strickland is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association and also the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He has had considerable experience in supplying this type of topdressing mix. He is the president of Egypt Farms, Inc. located in White Marsh, Maryland, and this firm has been supplying topdressing to the industry since 1968.

## Accessories For Greensmaster Available From Toro

At its recent annual convention in Mexico City, Mexico, members of the Sprinkler Irrigation Association elected officers for 1974 and four individuals to serve two-year terms on the SIA board of directors.

President of the 375-member international organization is John H. Stevens, general manager of the Pierce Corporation of Eugene, Oregon. He succeeds M. L. Rawson of Ogden, Utah.

Vice President (president-elect) is Jim Pichon, owner of J. L. and Associates of Zephyr Cove, Nevada, a new firm distributing sprinkler irrigation equipment throughout the west. Treasurer of the Association is W. J. (Jack) Ogle, vice president for manufacturing of Gifford Hill and Company, Inc., Lubbock, Texas.

Board of directors are: Paul B. Bohley, The Gorman-Rupp Co., Mansfield, Ohio; Joe Harris, Lockwood Company, Lubbock, Texas; Taylor Ramsey, United Pipe and Supply Co., Eugene, Oregon; and Gary Underhill, Rain Bird Sprinkler Manufacturing Co., Glendora, California.

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