

## editorial

Green Industry crops are non-agronomic, and are of necessity treated as minor crops when pesticide laws are being debated. This is true despite the fact that commercial turfgrass, trees, nursery crops, etc., are in the multi-billion dollar class.

Now that we are facing October '76 as a deadline for certification of applicators and registration/reclassification of all pesticides, we either act in unison as an industry or we abide by whatever handouts the agronomic lobbies and legislative bodies determine for us.

We are being had in areas relating to research. Why? Because chemical manufacturers are faced with super costs in getting a new product registered for use. Not only more dollars are needed today, but more years of development are required to determine the validity of a new pesticide. The food crop may justify the risk; the non-food crop will seldom do so.

We are being had by law-making bodies. Because most green industry crops are low-priority compared to food crops,

the new supportive research data needed to grant special pesticide uses for specific species are not being developed. Further compounding the problem is that many previous pesticide control chemicals are now illegal, the result of the Federal Environmental Pesticides Control Act of October '72.

Questions relating to this situation are basic. Who is to blame? What can be done? Answers are equally basic. Both chemical companies and government regulatory bodies are utilizing a practical approach. Attention is given the agronomic (largely food related) crops.

The second answer as to what the Green Industry can do is more involved. But to various segments of the Green Industry, what is actually done may well determine their existence.

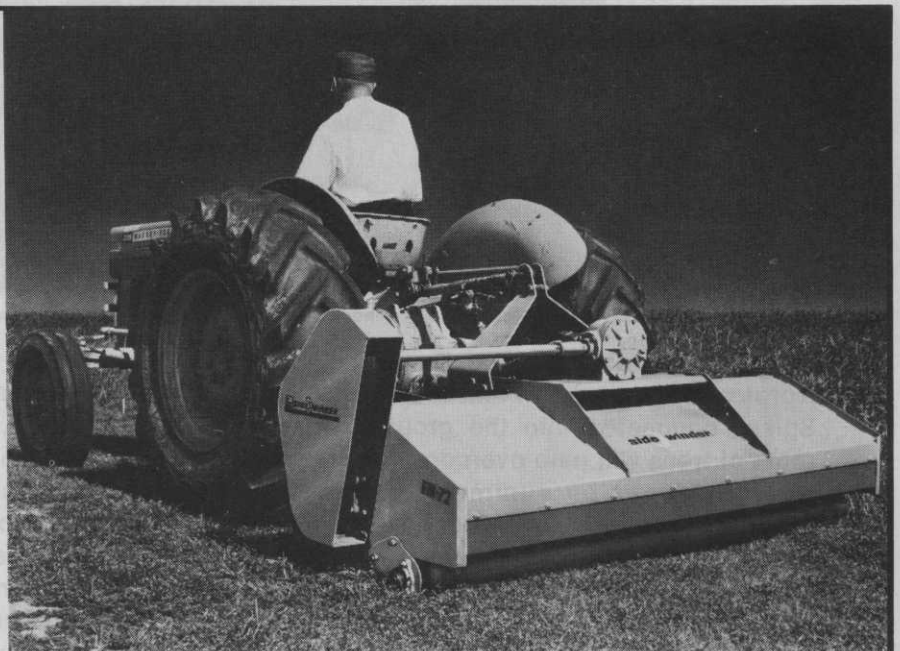
For a starter, the many segments — nurserymen, custom applicators, sod growers, arborists, golf superintendents, park superintendents, structural pest control operators and all the others — must act as a single entity.

*(continued on page 27)*

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## TREES (from page 10)

for putting trees on a golf course," says Boehm. If trees are set out in the right places "... they define the hole and make a good backdrop for the hole. We try to keep nice open fairways with a few traps around the greens for the scenic value of that nice white sand. If a golfer hits down the fairway, he's got a nice easy shot ... but if he hits out in the boonies he ought to be lost out there behind a tree. There are still some open areas, but I'm putting in trees to make those more challenging holes. Still, this is an easy course for the average golfer. Even with the trees he doesn't get penalized that much."

"I just want this place to look good and play good and be a good golf course, and the only way to do it is to define the holes. You've got a fairway on one side and a fairway on the other side and what's the use of playing one way when you might as well be playing with the other group coming the opposite direction? You don't want that; you want to be in your fairway and play your hole by yourself. You don't want to share it, except with your playing partners. Never with the party playing the next fairway."

It isn't just a matter of putting out any old tree for the sake of its being a tree. Variety and placement are important.

"I like color," says Boehm, "I like to put out the red maples and flowering trees; crabapples and purple plums. We get dark greens from our pines; red pine, white pine and scotch pine. We also use mountain ash, lindens, honey locust, sycamore and maples."

Boehm's trees are not little bitty ones. The smallest are 7-8 feet high and big enough to do some good for the course right now, although, he says, "... they gave us some little ones this year, so we found places for them."

You can't just stick in a bunch of trees and forget them.

Boehm says: "Some people don't believe in fertilizing trees." He says it as if he really means some people don't care about trees; perhaps consider them a necessary evil, existing mainly to make mowing and turf care more difficult, and in an age of soaring labor costs, more time-consuming.

It isn't so.

"Maybe you can ignore an established tree. Some big old river cottonwood with a massive root

system isn't going to have any trouble finding nourishment. But a young tree — anything less than 8-10 inches in diameter — needs food."

The old, established methods of fertilizing trees take time. You can go out with an auger and bore holes and pour in bulk fertilizer. It works, but you need the auger, a crew to run it and it's time-consuming. If you broadcast fertilizer around the tree — enough to do any good — you either make the grass grow so much faster than surrounding grass that it's unsightly, or you put down too much and burn the grass. There was no easy way.

Now there is, says Boehm. "We use Jobe's Tree Spikes. As far as I know they're the only people making fertilizer in this form."

The spikes are fertilizer compressed into a stick with one end slightly pointed and a plastic cap on the other. "You take a box of spikes, a hammer and pound one spike into the ground for each inch of tree diameter. That's all it takes. Last year, after we put in all those new trees, I sent a three man crew out to fertilize and they were done in a day and a half. Seven hundred trees. I couldn't believe they'd done them all so fast, so I checked. They had," said Boehm.

"You can see the difference it makes. There are some places on the edge of the course where similar trees were put in on the other side of the road. Ours are greener."

What about time consuming close-trimming around trees? Its been all but eliminated. "We use Casoron, a granular type product which completely kills all vegetation but doesn't hurt the tree. You put it around in the winter, when the tree is dormant, using a little spreader of any type. In the spring we put wood chips around the trees so the dead grass won't look unsightly. We also use this treatment around out-of-bounds markers and buildings. You can mow right around them with a rough mower. It eliminates about 90% of all hand mowing. you still have to do some, but you can't imagine how much it saves.

"Of course any time you put out that many new trees, you're going to have some problems. That man out there on a seven-gang mower has to learn where each of those trees is, and how to make his cut so he gets close enough, but misses the tree.

Sometimes the man on the mower runs over a tree. When that happens, I send him back out with a can of tree paint, have him paint it up and stake it, and let him know he'd better not do it again. They learn fast. That's another reason for big trees — because they're easier to miss — or should be."

Boehm doesn't neglect turf care, of course. He has established regular programs of soil testing, so he can give each part of his course exactly what it needs, and aerification, to relieve the compaction caused by the muckey, clayey soil and the very heavy use of the course.

## EDITORIAL (from page 8)

This simply means that segmented lobbying — such as being done now by each little group — will never be wholly satisfying in terms of favorable legislation and/or rulings by EPA, OSHA, USDA, etc.

For a time we had hopes that this could be accomplished via a "Green Industry Council" in which every organized group — associations, societies, foundations and whatever — might serve as a communications and lobbying medium whereby forces necessary to achieve needed action could be raised. Now, we are not so sure. There appears insufficient interest to develop the type of council body which could conceivably coordinate the efforts of the segmented Green Industry. Funding is a further problem. We as a magazine are open to suggestion.



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