

Toro Chief Optimistic Toward Mower Safety Recommendations

David T. McLaughlin, President of The Toro Company, recently said he was optimistic that the final form of the mandatory mower standards, currently being developed by Consumers Union (CU) for the Consumer Product Safety Commission, (CPSC) would give the public maximum protection without imperiling the future of the power mower industry.

He pointed out that the Consumers Union committee working on this complex problem still has nearly one month before the standards are to be presented to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. "While the industry has done a highly commendable job in developing voluntary standards, there are a few areas where further performance safeguards could lessen accident frequency. It is important,

however, to realize that approximately 95 percent of all lawnmower accidents are caused by user carelessness. Standards to protect the consumer must be related on a cost/benefit basis so that the public does not pay excessively for the protection it receives.

"I am certain that members of the general public and of the mower industry will have an ample opportunity to make known their views before the Commission takes final action. I am hopeful that the Commission will look at this rationally and not repeat the mistakes evident today in the automotive industry."

McLaughlin said the impact of the CU standards would undoubtedly be less critical for Toro than for many others in the industry. "We did not wait for the government to mandate safety for

Toro customers," he explained. "Toro, over the past quarter of a century, has invested heavily in research for its on-going development of a safer rotary mower. As a result, we have introduced a host of innovative test procedures and safety features, a number of which the CU committee has recommended for adoption."

The chief executive said he hoped both Consumers Union and the CPSC would give full consideration to a Stanford Research Institute study released recently by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, the industry association which commissioned it. According to SRI, the latest CU draft standards could force more than one-third of the power mower manufacturers out of business.

Hyacinth Society To

The Hyacinth Control Society will meet for the last time July 6-9, 1975 before that organization changes their name to Aquatic Plant Management Society. L. V. Guerra, president, said the new name is more descriptive of their work, aims and activities.

The society's 15th annual meeting is planned for the Hilton Palacio Del Rio, San Antonio, Texas.

There is an international flavor to the up-coming meeting with many papers coming from foreign countries and a post-convention trip to Mexico City. A newcomer to the meeting is Dr. Pedro Mercado, representing Mexico's Fish and Wildlife agencies. His topic is "The Control of Aquatic Plants in the Central and Southern Zones of Mexico." Other speakers include John B. Ritch, director, Registration Division of the Environmental Protection Agency, presenting a paper entitled "The Progress in Pesticide Registration for Aquatic Weed Control."

Many papers are being pre-



Lew Hammer (center), president of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, was an honored guest at the National Landscape Contractors/Garden Centers of America Clinic recently staged in Louisville. The clinic, open to all landscape professionals, landscape firms and garden center retailers, attempts to give participants a hard-hitting program aimed at top and middle management problems. Pictured with Hammer are Tom Gilmore (right), immediate past president of the National Landscape Association and Don Johnson, current NLA president.

Eastern Gypsy Moth Study Traces Six-Year Infestation

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has published a bulletin that describes the rise and fall of the gypsy moth and elm spanworm in Connecticut during the last six years.

The gypsy moth is still a problem in some parts of the state — particularly in eastern and northern Connecticut — but the elm spanworm was killed off a few years ago by a parasite discovered by station entomologists.

John Anderson, chief entomologist at the station and senior author of the bulletin, said it appears that "the general spread of these insects during 1969 to 1974 resulted from winds tending to blow more frequently from the south and west."

The data show "outbreaks of gypsy moth are now persisting for longer periods of time, and that the main directions of dispersal are to the north and east," he said.

"Thus it appears that future infestations in southern or western areas of Connecticut may spread across the state and even into adja-

cent states as the infestations have done during the early 1970's," said Anderson.

The bulletin contains a town-by-town record of the severity of defoliation experienced in 165 towns during the last six years. Only four towns escaped noticeable defoliation during that time.

Anderson also discusses the effects of aerial spraying programs carried out in 12 towns during the years from 1969 to 1971. He concluded in several cases that insect populations would have collapsed without aerial spraying.

The tables used for the defoliation data employ a location-identifying system called the Geo-Code which was developed by co-author Sydney W. Gould. Gould and Anderson feel that the Geo-Code could be used to assemble uniformly organized records of damage caused by any disease organism or insect.

The bulletin is available from Publications, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Box 1106, New Haven, Conn. 06504.

Potentials of Foliar Nutrition Subject of Cornell Research

The Horticultural Research Institute recently approved funds to conduct research on foliar nutrition of environmental plants for improved production and maintenance efficiency, reduced nutrient runoff and ground water pollution, and fertilizer conservation.

The work, to be done under the direction of Dr. H. B. Tukey, Jr., Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., will evaluate the effectiveness of foliar applications to meet the nutritional needs of horticultural plants, both in the commercial production industry and in the maintenance of plants in nonagricultural situations, such as residences and parks.

According to Tukey, mineral nutrients and other substances can be absorbed by the foliage of plants more rapidly and efficiently than those applied to the roots.

"Foliar nutrition offers considerable potential as a more effi-

(continued)

Meet In San Antonio

sented on the biological control aspect of noxious aquatic plants. Papers on the use of plant pathogens for problem plant control are also being presented. Dr. Kerry Steward will present his study on "Factors Affecting Subaqueous Release of Herbicides from Various Invert Formulations." New Research on the white amur will also be presented by several authors including Mondell Beach of Florida's Department of Natural Resources.

The relatively new field of infrared photography for aquatic plant monitoring will be presented by at least two authors presently conducting research in this area. Problems associated with *Melaleuca* introduction into the Everglades will also be explored.

Social activities will include a Texas-style barbecue, tours for the ladies, hospitality hours, annual banquet and dance and the post-convention tour.

For more information, contact L. V. Guerra, President, Hyacinth Control Society, 134 Braniff, San Antonio, Texas 78216.

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cient method of meeting the nutrient needs of plants," said Tukey, "including nursery and greenhouse plants, commercial vegetables and fruits, certain agronomic crops, turf-grass in sod production and landscape plantings around homes and in parks, and forest trees in both seedling nurseries and forest plantings."

In addition, foliar nutrition may be an important aid in reducing nutrient runoff and subsequent groundwater pollution from agricultural land in plant production and maintenance. This practice may reduce the quantities of fertilizers used in the production of some environmental plants, which is particularly important now because of the worldwide shortage of fertilizer and the high economic and energy cost of fertilizer manufacture.

The proposed research will delve into the feasibility of foliar applied nutrients to provide nutrient requirements in plants in combination with root absorption. Research is expected to begin at Cornell University immediately.

Industry Seminar Includes Parts and Inventory Control

Forty-seven persons including two women, have been awarded certificates by The Toro Company at the completion of its training seminars in parts management and inventory control.

The classes, believed to be the first of their kind in the outdoor power equipment industry, demonstrated the increasing importance Toro gives to the sale of replacement parts for its maintenance equipment for lawn and turf care.

According to R. F. Eldred, general manager of Toro's Parts Division, the seminars were designed initially to increase the professionalism of parts managers, especially in forecasting and record-keeping, and thereby improve customer satisfaction and distributor profits. The present economic climate, which encourages repair rather than replacement of equipment, has made such training doubly necessary, he said.

Encouraged by the success of the first round of classes, Toro will hold future seminars in alternate years,

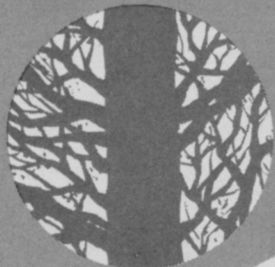
Eldred said. Between seminars, he plans to send divisional staff members out into the field to give on-the-spot training.

Proposed Plant to Produce Daconil, Bravo Fungicide

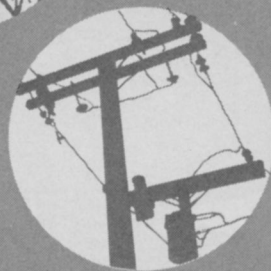
A new fungicide plant for Diamond Shamrock is slated for operation in late 1976, announced W. H. Bricker, president of Diamond Shamrock Corporation at the company's annual shareholders meeting.

The plant will produce Bravo® and Daconil 2787® fungicides, and is needed to supply growing demand in existing markets as well as new markets overseas, Bricker said. When completed, the new facility is expected to nearly double Diamond Shamrock's fungicide supplies in the United States.

Construction is scheduled to begin in early 1976 at Greens Bayou, Texas. It will be located adjacent to a "sister" fungicide plant which was in full production last year. The Company maintains other fungicide production facilities in Ashtabula, Ohio and Japan.



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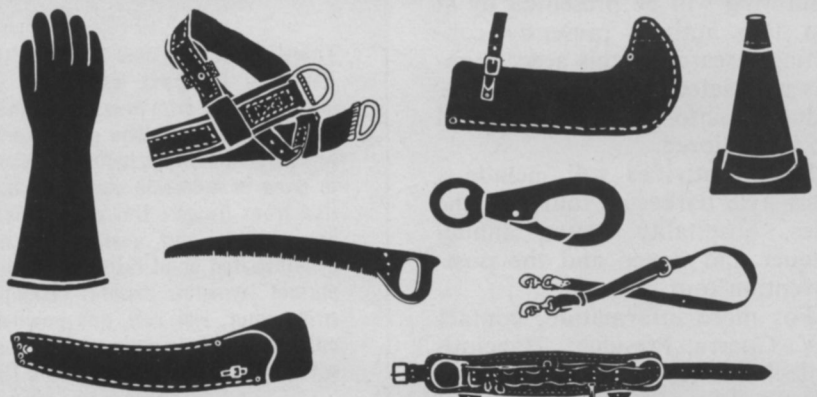
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Tree branching texture, crotch development and overall form are among the features inspected at the Ohio Research and Development Center shade tree evaluation plot.

Ohio Shade Tree Day Set for July 9

The background and status of the Ohio Shade Tree Evaluation Project will be one highlight of a combined program of the Ohio Shade Tree Symposium and the summer meeting of the Ohio Chapter of the International Shade Tree Conference, July 9, at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), Wooster, Ohio.

The project was developed as a comparative evaluation of new tree selections in the north central states. The first phase of the study involves a planting of species in an OARDC plot. Plantings have been made annually since 1965. Currently, there are 128 species and cultivars represented in the 842 trees in the plot.

The second phase of the project involves evaluation of existing plantings of 53 different species in Toledo, Wooster, Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland. At each of the 99 separate sites, five replications of a tree type are being evaluated.

Dr. L. C. Chadwick, Professor emeritus of horticulture, will open the Symposium with a status report on both phases of the project. The program will also feature Richard Boers, commissioner of forestry, Toledo, Ohio, in a discussion of urban arboriculture; new plant introductions will be covered by Dr. Frank S. Santamour, Jr., supervisory research geneticist, U.S. National Arboretum; Charles L. Wilson, OARDC plant pathologist, will update Dutch Elm disease research; David Nielson, OARDC entomologist, will talk about shade tree insect control; and Dr. O. D. Diller, professor emeritus of forestry, will discuss establishment of community shade tree commissions.

Registration for the event begins at 9 a.m. in the OARDC auditorium with the program starting at 9:25.



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JUNE 1975

Toro Turf Products Extends Parts Warranty to One Year

The Toro Company has extended its warranty coverage on all of its institutional turf products to one full year, according to James R. Maloney, service manager.

The new policy covers the costs of both parts and labor for the repair or replacement of defective materials, including engines, transmissions and other components not manufactured by Toro.

The coverage, extended from 90 days, implements a new phase in Toro's program to assure after-sale satisfaction.

Toro has also adopted new procedures for equipment set-up and delivery. Distributors are supplied with a check list for each turf unit to make certain it is assembled properly and functioning well before acceptance by the purchaser.

Distributors are being urged to explain to each customer everything done to ensure top performance, and to provide instruction to turf maintenance personnel on proper operation, adjustment and maintenance procedures.



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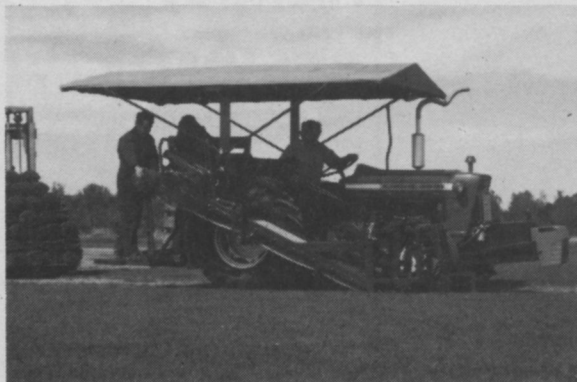
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A resident of Amherst, Mass., Cornish has designed more than 150 golf courses around the world. The 75-member professional association he heads is made up of the leading course designers in North America.

While golf course development on all fronts — municipal, private and real estate — has presently slowed with the economy, Cornish predicts that nearly another million acres of open space will be saved during the next 10 years by golf course developers.

"While many are waiting for a healthier economic climate, many people interested in new courses are now involved in feasibility studies and preliminary plans which indicates golf course construction may spurt later this year or early next year," he said.

Golf courses and other green belts act as big air conditioners, with trees, grass and shrubbery producing oxygen, trapping airborne pollutants, and absorbing unpleasant odors and noises.

The ASGCA president said the average 18-hole golf course can provide the oxygen requirements for a town of 7,000 people. Trees help cool and cleanse the air in summer, and reduce wind velocity and heat loss in winter. The soil absorbs moisture and replenishes water tables. The average 150-acre golf course, for example, effortlessly absorbs 12 million gallons of water during a three-inch rainfall.

Those interested in obtaining information on how to go about planning a golf course project may contact the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

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