

## Trimnings

**The Horticultural Research Institute** is inviting any organization conducting research beneficial to the nursery industry to apply for one of a number of \$500 Richard P. White grants. Recipients are selected from information provided on a questionnaire. Application questionnaires are available from the Institute at 230 Southern Building, Washington, D. C. 20005. Applications must be submitted prior to May 1.

**The dynamic duo** of Train and Butz recently signed an interagency cooperative agreement calling for Federal, State and local cooperation in the training and certification of pesticides applicators. Russell E. Train, EPA head, said the agreement will provide guidelines for development of applicator training programs. Butz pledged his Extension Service's assistance in implementing training programs.

**University of Missouri-Columbia Forestry Researcher, Tom Hinkley,** is studying tree behavior. One of Hinkley's favorite projects is recording the shrinkage and swelling of tree trunks. He says the shrinkage occurs every warm day when stems are their fattest around 8 a.m. and slimmest around 3-4 p.m., the hottest part of the day. Hinkley is making extensive studies of tree behavior under environmental conditions. He feeds this information into a computer with hopes of being able to simulate tree growth and anticipate tree behavior.

**Rice** isn't the only thing shot from cannons. It seems some Australians are using a cannon primed with hay, fertilizer, bitumen and grass seed as a type of hydromulching process and converting barren landscape into grassed areas. The bituminized bombshell explodes in a spray over the target area. Within an hour the mixture sets, glueing it firmly to the

ground. Each coating is usually from 4-6 inches thick.

**One way** to fight inflation, says OSHA boss, John Stender, is to maintain safe and healthful conditions for American workers. Stender said that by working together to enforce federal and state job safety regulations "we can put the lid on inflation by holding down costs that accompany an unsafe or unhealthy work situation."

**Forest Service** is sponsoring a spring symposium on the possible problem of rising levels of acidity in rain, snow and hail. Acid precipitation is believed to be caused by air pollution associated with burning of fossil fuels. All aspects of acid precipitation and its possible effects on the forest ecosystem including atmospheric transport and chemistry, forest vegetation, soil environment and water resources and hydrology, will be considered. Additional information can be obtained from Dr. Leon Dochinger at the U. S. Forest Service Laboratories, P.O. Box 365, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

**National Obsolete Parts Program,** a service designed to locate discontinued Jacobsen parts, is in full swing. The equipment owner need only contact the factory where a listing of obsolete parts is recorded and the parts location becomes available in seconds. The program will: move dealer and distributor parts stocks by sale not scrap; help keep older products performing efficiently longer and reinforce the company reputation for quality and service with the general public.

**The Fertilizer Institute** has published a new information package entitled "The Fertilizer Crunch." The booklet explains facts behind the current fertilizer supply situation and outlines steps to manage during the shortage. Also available is a supplementary 25 slide set. For order form and price list contact: Publication Service, The Fertilizer Institute, 1015 18th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

**Happy birthday to US.** One of the many ways our nation will be celebrating its bicentennial is by community park and recreational area projects. The green area projects are becoming increasingly popular throughout the country and seems a most appropriate means of observing the birth of our nation.

**The Fertilizer Institute's** turf and garden committee put wheels in motion to utilize a lawn and garden writer for emphasizing environmental benefits of turf fertilization.

**One group** of concerned citizens in Eastern Pennsylvania successfully curbed an invasion of gypsy moths in 1974 using one of the popular formulations of *Bacillus thuringiensis*. The project was so successful and well organized that Sandoz, Inc. has produced a full-color booklet entitled "The Gulph Mills Story" describing in detail how the city of Gulph Mills saved their trees from a moth invasion. Other communities or interested groups can receive a free copy by writing: Sandoz, Inc., Dept. G, P.O. Box 1489, Homestead, Florida 33030.

**An herbicide "hot line"** has been opened on a year around basis by Velsicol Chemical Co. The company decided to expand the facility after having received and answered over 1,500 calls during a trial four month period in 1974. An experienced company representative mans the phone during regular business hours answering questions and providing information. After hours calls are automatically tape recorded and answered by mail or return telephone call within 48 hours. Velsicol is attempting to answer all inquiries by drawing on a variety of information sources including extension service recommendations from each state in the U. S. as well as product labels from many other competing firms. For more information contact: Velsicol Chemical Co., 341 E. Ohio, Chicago, Ill. 60611. The toll free number is 800-621-4129.