

Trimnings

U. S. Forest Service will present seeds from specially bred superior quality trees, including a Serbian spruce hybrid, to the crews of the Appollo/Soyuz space flights. The seeds are intended for planting in hometowns of the astronauts and cosmonauts.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute told the Consumer Product Safety Commission that the proposed power mower standards would increase prices \$368 million in higher mower prices during the initial year, hurt sales, put a number of manufacturers out of business, and impose costs 10 times higher than any benefits. The Institute said the walk-behind power mower that the operator has to push would be priced 40 percent above its average 1975 retail price if the standards are adopted. Similarly, the self-propelled, manual start, walk-behind unit would increase 28 percent. The manual-start riding mower would go up 17 percent.

Where the two organizations differ, though, is in the cost of injuries. Based on a report conducted by Stanford Research Institute, the Outdoor Power Equipment group told the Consumer Product Safety Commission that mower accidents cost the public \$35 million per year in medical expenses, lost wages and other direct expenses. But the Commission estimated a much higher economic toll—\$48 million to \$413 million per year when the cost estimates don't include suffering, and \$111 million to \$775 million when they do. The Commission hopes to complete its deliberations and formally propose the mower standard by February.

"Operating Cost Survey", third in an Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA) survey series, has been compiled by Ernst and Ernst. The survey profiles union and non-union, as well as small, medium and large landscape contracting firms. The survey also depicts industry averages in such categories as equipment rental, direct materials, accounting and legal fees, selling expense, average days of receivables, executive compensation, percent

return on net worth and average unsecured line of credit. Cost of the survey to non-ALCA members is \$25 per copy and members may purchase additional copies at \$3 per copy. Write ALCA, 1750 Old Meadow Rd., McLean, Virginia 22101.

First sighting of Gypsy Moth in Arkansas was reported this summer. However, the insect was trapped in a tourist campground and it is not known whether the moths emerged from a local infestation or from an egg mass transported on a tourist vehicle. Additional traps were immediately set in the area and the trapping season extended to help determine the origin of the trapped moths.

The Toro Company has become a member of the special committee for U. S. Exports. The committee, formed by American industry to increase U. S. employment through expanded exports, is working to protect Domestic International Sales Corporations (DISC) from attack from some members of Congress who charge they are "revenue drains."

National Golf Foundation statistics show that there are 4,802 regulation

9-hole golf courses in the nation compared to 5,653 regulation courses of 18 holes or more. The count is even closer when executive and par-3 courses are added, swelling the totals to 6,344 9-hole layouts compared to 6,452 courses of 18 holes or more, a difference of only 108 courses. In 25 states, 9-hole regulation courses outnumber those of 18 holes or more. North Dakota, for example, has 78 nines compared to only 10 full length courses. In South Dakota, the difference is 82 and 12, in Maine 68 and 26, in Arkansas 81 and 48, in Oklahoma 94 and 53, in Nebraska 116 and 35, and in Iowa a whopping 244 to 64. Even those states with a preponderance of full length courses also have an abundance of 9-hole regulation courses. New York lists 243, Michigan 245, and Texas 282.

The Fourth Legislative Conference for state and regional association executives and legislative chairmen has been set for December 16-17, at the Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, La. The conference, sponsored by the American Association of Nurserymen, is designed to deal primarily with state legislative problems, such as taxation, labor laws, OSHA, license laws, etc.



Dr. R. L. Miller, Ohio State University entomologist, discusses life cycle, injury symptoms, and timing of insecticide applications for control of common turf insect pests. However, one not-so-common pest that plagued localized Midwest turf areas this summer was the *Ateanius grub*. Miller spoke at the Ohio Turfgrass Field Day in Columbus. For the complete story see page 25.