

### "Train Stops Manufacture of Chlordane, Heptachlor"

Citing an imminent human cancer hazard, EPA Administrator Russell E. Train ordered an end to the manufacture of the pesticides heptachlor and chlordane for most household and agricultural uses.

Heptachlor and chlordane are now in widespread use for home, lawn and garden pest control. Their major agricultural use is on corn crops. The decision would allow continued production for termite control by ground insertion and the dipping of roots and tops of non-food plants.

Train said that since his cancellation notice on November 18, 1974, which questioned the safety of heptachlor and chlordane and set in motion extensive public hearings on the issue, new evidence has been received "which confirms and heightens the human cancer hazard posed by these pesticides."

"I have found that these compounds cause cancer in laboratory animals and that laboratory tests are reliable indications of the human cancer hazard," Train said. "In Addition, although any single component of human exposure — such

as intake through poultry — may not appear to be significant, it alone poses a cancer hazard to certain of the more susceptible individuals and together with the several other components of human exposure presents a serious human cancer threat. This threat is made even more alarming by evidence that human exposure begins in the mother's womb and continues without interruption throughout life. In addition, because these chemicals are ubiquitous, the major sources of human exposure are largely unavoidable by individual action."

### Velsicol Asks for Temporary Restraining Order

The Environmental Protection Agency's actions following its July 30 announcement of its "intention to suspend certain uses of chlordane and heptachlor insecticides," is illegal, it is charged in a suit filed August 5 by Velsicol Chemical Corporation.

The Chicago-based manufacturer of the two insecticides filed suit against the EPA in the Federal Court in Memphis, and have also filed a formal request with the EPA in Washington for a public hearing, as required under the notice of intent to suspend.

In its suit, the firm charges that EPA representatives are telling formulators,retailers and users that any and all products produced, formulated and packaged after July 29, 1975, cannot be sold and used after completion of the hearing. The suit charges this action by the EPA is "improper and unwarranted," and asks the courts for a temporary restraining order, which will restrict any further action by the EPA until a ruling may be made on the propriety of the agency's notice of intent to suspend. Concurrently, Velsicol will seek a "declaratory judgment," holding the notice of intent to suspend as invalid.

The Environmental Protection Agency originally initiated action against these insecticides in November, 1974, when it issued a notice of intent to cancel certain registered uses of the two products, according to Robert M. Morris, Velsicol's President and Chairman of the Board. Velsicol and many other registrants contested such notice and requested a cancellation hearing.

"There are hundreds of uses and hundreds of registrants involved in these cancellation proceedings," Morris explained. "The issues are complex and highly technical, deserving the appropriate scrutiny of a hearing. However," he charges, "in announcing its intent to suspend the products, the EPA is denying Velsicol Chemical Corporation a proper forum to establish the safety of these products by speeding up the hearings and allowing the company only a five-day period to request a public hearing, which, in turn, is limited to a maximum of 50 days."

"EPA has alleged 'imminent hazard,' it has alleged 'unreasonable risk,' and it has alleged 'cancerous tumors,'" declared Morris, "yet the agency has opposed our request to have a Scientific Ad-

*(continued on page 24)*

### EPA Wording Misleading, Says Morris

Chlordane and heptachlor have not been banned by the Environmental Protection Agency as has been reported in news stories based on the EPA's news release announcing its "notice of intent" to suspend.

Robert M. Morris, president and chairman of the board of Velsicol Chemical Corporation, manufacturer of the two pesticides, pointed out that the action taken by the EPA was simply a notice of intent which would have become effective within five days of its announcement unless there was a request for a public hearing.

"This request has been made," Morris stated, "therefore, the notice of intent to suspend is of absolutely no significance until after the public hearing and final resolution by the federal courts, if that is necessary."

The erroneous report that the two pesticides were banned was based on the EPA's news release announcing the "notice of intent" to suspend. The headline and lead paragraph of the news release stated that EPA Administrator Russel E. Train stopped the manufacture of chlordane and heptachlor, but did not explain until page 2 that the action taken by the agency was a "notice of intent" to suspend.

Velsicol has been deluged with telephone calls and telegrams from throughout the world as a result of news stories which had repeated the misleading language of the EPA news release.



## SOLO blows profits your way

Air brooms come in two versions—with wheels or with shoulder straps. Wheels look comfy and modern, all right. But for blowing leaves out of flower beds, rock gardens or from under shrubs, for cleaning staircases, roofs, seat rows in arenas and convention centers, up ladders or down ships' holds, in trucks and rolling stock, or for blowing snow off a car dealer's merchandise on a cold Saturday morning—SOLO's ultra-mobile light-weight knapsack blowers have no wheeled competition. The SOLOs go where wheels don't.

We offer two models, of 3 hp/35 cc. and 5 hp/70 cc., with special dust filters, comfortably padded adjustable shoulder straps and with a history of well-nigh 1,000,000 sales to back them up.

410B  
3 HP



449B - 5 HP



### JETPACK 425



### PORT-423 Chemical Mist Blower



Your air broom clients are also interested in a good commercial herbicide sprayer. Our JETPACK-425 handles the most exotic weed and brush killers (plus wallpaper removers, concrete curing compounds, white-wash, swimming pool chemicals etc.) and won't quit. It's the only all-plastic sprayer on the market. No metal or rubber parts inside—thus, no swelling, shrinking, dissolving, leaking or corrosion. We guarantee that.

SOLO supplies a wide line of blowers, sprayers, chain saws, tillers and other outdoor power products. We would like to tell you about our full line. Please give us a call.

# SOLO

Box 5030, Newport News  
VA 23605 — (804) 245-4228  
Box 464, Burlington,  
Ontario L7R 3Y3

visory Committee evaluate the data. We have once again requested an evaluation. As yet, EPA still opposes submitting the question of the safety of these products to a truly unbiased, scientific panel for determination of the facts, and by its notice of intent to suspend, attempts to block this legal option.

"We can interpret this only to mean that the EPA is afraid to have a complete, unbiased scientific review. Velsicol has no such fear. Our testing shows that chlordane and heptachlor have been used for more than 25 years with no evidence of cancer, or, when used properly, any other danger to man. Both products are safe and vital to the agricultural and pest control industries," Morris stated.

When asked to explain the agency's motive in serving notice of intent to suspend, and in opposing the firm's request for a scientific review, Morris termed the action as "an attempt to accomplish by bureaucratic harassment and illegal threats what cannot be accomplished by following the legal requirements of the cancellation hearings.

"Velsicol's sales of chlordane and heptachlor for the challenged uses were approximately \$14 million in 1974 — a relatively minor amount when compared to total sales of \$1.1 billion for its parent company, Northwest Industries, Inc., or to the \$167.8 million sales of the company's chemical group, of which Velsicol is a part," explained Morris. "But what we are concerned with is the loss of these valuable products to the total agricultural and pest control markets."

## Gypsy Moth Infestation Discovered in Illinois

A small infestation of gypsy moths has been found in southwest Cook County, Ill., reports the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"This is the first time the pest has been found in any numbers in Illinois," James O. Lee, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) said. "It marks the westernmost location in the country

where an infestation has been detected."

The moth has been moving steadily south and west out of New England defoliating forested areas since it first entered this country in 1869. In recent years, its spread has accelerated with the pest moving on cars, trucks, campers, and other vehicles. Currently, there is a light infestation in central Michigan with other midwestern and southern states reporting occasional finds — most likely due to a "hitchhiking" gypsy moth.

So far, the Illinois infestation is located in Palos Park and a few blocks in Palos Heights — residential suburbs of Chicago. APHIS reports the trapping of 189 adult, male moths to date at that site.

## Experimental Compound Gets Temporary Nod From EPA

Thompson-Hayward Chemical Company has announced they have received a temporary permit from the EPA for experimental use of DIMILIN™ chitin inhibitor for control of gypsy moth and spruce budworm.

The chemical is presently being



Mission  
bags it!

## NITROFORM\*

organic nitrogen

The long-lasting economical nitrogen that pampers turf with slow, sustained nourishment. Best choice for nursery stock.

STH74-16R



Turf and Horticultural Products, Synthetics Dept.  
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

\* Registered trademark of Hercules Incorporated

Circle 123 on free information card

Circle 114 on free information card

used in the northeast United States on gypsy moth and in Maine, Washington and Wisconsin on spruce budworm.

Dimilin (formerly TH 6040) is a substituted phenylurea compound discovered in the laboratories of Philips-Duphar B.V. in the Netherlands. A chitin inhibitor, it is one of a new group of compounds displaying a new mode of action. It is the first of this new group to receive temporary permit for use on forest insects.

### Abbott Joins Davey Tree Leaves Post At Ohio Power

Richard E. Abbott has joined The Davey Tree Expert Company as Vice President — Corporate Development, according to an announcement made today by Joseph T. Myers, President.

In his new position, Mr. Abbott will be in charge of research and development for all Davey Tree services and will be the staff consultant for utility operations.

Prior to joining Davey, Mr. Abbott had served as Right-of-Way Maintenance Supervisor with Ohio Power Company in Canton, Ohio, since April, 1965. Before that, he had been an arborist for Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation in Poughkeepsie, New York.

A past president of the International Shade Tree Conference, he has served as chairman for numer-

ous arborist committees and institutions and is active in many other professional organizations.

Mr. Abbott is widely known as the editor of The Utility Arborist Association Newsletter and co-chairman of the American National Standards Institute Z133 Committee on Safety Standards.

He has authored articles in numerous publications, including Arborists News: Weeds Trees and

Turf; Northeastern Weed Science Society Proceedings; Electrical World; Transmission and Distribution; and Electric Light & Power.

A native of Whitman, Mass., he graduated from Stockbridge School of Agriculture, University of Massachusetts, in 1952 with a major in ornamental horticulture. The following year he completed a special one-year course in arboriculture at that university.

## "Sound Conditioned" M & M Brush Chippers

for...  
less noise...  
more efficiency

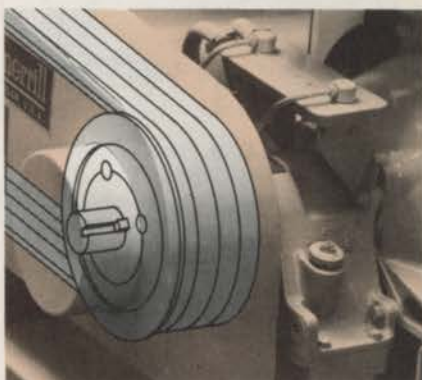


Applying engineering designs which "Sound Conditioned" our industrial scrap reduction machinery, Mitts & Merrill can modify our brush chippers for low noise levels. At the same time, those engineering features which have made Mitts & Merrill the leader for years have been retained.

\*Copyright Mitts & Merrill, Inc., 1973, 1974, 1975. All rights reserved.



**Staggered knife pattern**, for years a Mitts & Merrill feature, has always resulted in a lower noise level. First, by segmenting the noise source. Second, through smoother cutting action. Third, by producing smaller chips.



**Optional torque converters** and the heaviest steel cylinder — even without an external flywheel — combine to give positive cutting action under the most rugged conditions. Isolates the engine from shock. Minimizes maintenance.

**Plus** • **Positive safety-lock pin** for greater operator safety • **Swing-away, folding feed chute** protects cutting chamber; allows instant access and increases maneuverability • **Heavy duty construction** includes coil spring, torsion-type suspension, and box tubular steel frame.



Richard E. Abbott

mitts & merrill



Dept. WTT 54, 109 McCoskry St., Saginaw, Michigan 48601  
Circle 113 on free information card