

Trimnings

Over 50 percent of the trees planted in Milwaukee last year by the Forestry Bureau died because of vandalism, according to city forester Robert W. Skiera.

The city has approved \$260,000 to allow the bureau to plant 4,000 trees this year with the provision the new trees have trunks 2½ to three inches in diameter. Skiera said the vandalized trees were about 1½ inches in diameter. He said the larger trees were expected to have a much higher survival rate. About 13,000 trees of the 1½ inch diameter size were planted last year.

Four \$500 research grants will be awarded by the International Society of Arboriculture to support arboricultural research projects of direct interest to the tree care industry.

Application forms are available from Dr. E. B. Himelick, 383 Natural Resources Building, Urbana, Ill. 61801. Awarding of research grants will be judged by a review committee of ISA. Formal notice of awards will be made during the annual ISA meeting in St. Louis August 8-12.

The Ohio Nurserymen's Association has accepted a request from the Lake County Nurserymen's Association to co-sponsor a black vine weevil research project. The program is underway at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster and is a three-year study costing \$30,000.

The weevil occurs almost worldwide and is a major pest of Taxus, Azalea, Rhododendron, Ilex, Japanese maple and 200 other ornamentals. It appears populations of the insect are on an increase.

The insect attacks plants in the larvae stage eating the fibrous roots of the host. Young plants can be killed by just a few larvae. More mature plants can sustain a rather high population of larvae with little visible effect, but these plants often die when transplanted. The adult weevils feed on the foliage and make a characteristic crescent-shaped notch. A recent estimate says if no chemicals are used in Ohio that losses to the black vine weevil will be \$24 million yearly.

Mike Nienaber of Mike Nienaber Advertising Agency, Bellevue, Wash., has been retained by the Washington State Nurserymen's Association as member service representative to assist in a number of capacities.

He will assist in solicitation of new members; advertisements for the monthly newsletter; and advertisement for the convention directory. He will also supply executive secretary Honore Hacanson with written and photo material on the member nurseries and chapter meetings he visits around the state.

Nitrogen fertilizer may be in part responsible for the thinning of the earth's ozone layer, according to Harvard scientist Michael B. McElroy. Thus, fertilizer is placed in the recently noted infamous group along with aerosols and jet planes as serious treats to man's continued well-being.

Ozone is found in a layer about 20 miles above the surface of the earth. As sunlight penetrates the ozone layer, harmful ultraviolet rays are filtered out. Ultraviolet rays are thought to be responsible for skin cancer and they may have some

effect on other animals, plants and the weather.

According to Professor McElroy, nitrogen fertilizer can ultimately result in the destruction of ozone. When nitrogen fertilizer is manufactured, some of the actual nitrogen is removed from the atmosphere. The fertilizer is used for plant growth; some nitrogen compounds and organic matter remain in the soil; certain bacteria digest and denitrify the remains which releases the nitrogen back into the atmosphere. A small amount of this released nitrogen is in a form which reacts with the ozone. As more nitrogen fertilizers are used for crop production, there is a corresponding increase in the amount of destructive nitrogen released.

EPA Applicator Certification, A slide presentation designed to eliminate confusion regarding the federal law requiring certification of persons recommending or applying pesticides, is now available from Ciba-Geigy Corp.

The 20-slide series, accompanied by a study guide, explains objectives, benefits and requirements of the law and uses of restricted and non-restricted pesticides. For further information, contact the public relations department of the Agricultural Division, Ciba-Geigy Corp., P.O. Box 11422, Greensboro, N.C. 27409.

A new handbook, containing information on subjects developed by American Sod Producers Association legal counsel William Harding, is being sent to members, president Norman LeGrande has announced.

The handbook, punched for insertion in a three-ring, loose-leaf notebook so it can be easily filed, will be updated and new articles made available to the membership.

Current subjects included in the notebook are: Pension and Profit-Sharing Plans, Self-Employed Retirement Plans Versus Individual Retirement Accounts, The Applicability of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to Private Carriers, Wage and Hour Regulations for the Sod Industry, and Equal Employment Opportunity and the Sod Industry.

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