

# Brush Control Agent Stops Undesirable Woody Plants

A new concept for control of undesirable woody plants is a brush control agent which has been labeled for non-crop application on railroad, pipeline, utility and highway rights-of-way, drainage ditch-banks, in storage areas and on industrial sites.

Instead of a quick, massive kill obtained with familiar industrial brush control compounds, the agent controls bud break, suppresses growth and delays the extension of woody plant terminals. The compound is applied as a foliar spray in late summer or early fall, after the main flush of annual growth has hardened. On most species of deciduous brush, it produces only a slight visible effect on the foliage. Normal leaf drop occurs in the fall, but leaf bud development the following spring is either severely limited with miniature, abnormal leaves showing — or bud development is prevented entirely and the plant subsequently dies.

The mode of action of the agent has not been fully ascertained, but the compound seems to be absorbed by stems and foliage; and this affects bud development. Deciduous woody species appear to continue their normal life processes following application and defoliate at the end of the growing season, so there is a normal delay till the next spring before a full reading can be made of the results of the treatment. Pines, however, show immediate discoloration; most are susceptible.

This new brush control agent is

being recommended for use in areas with susceptible species of woody plants and especially in environmentally sensitive areas where little or no brown-out is desirable. It also looks like a promising compound where volatility or drift of other herbicides can be a problem or where low toxicity and no soil residue are desired. In addition, it offers special interest as a compound for brush control on land adjacent to domestic water reservoirs, streams, lakes and ponds.

There is another interesting concept. Side trimming of woody growth that may be encroaching on a right-of-way has been a feature of this new material that has aroused the interest of many maintenance men. Applications made to encroaching foliage and stems of adjacent trees have usually resulted in only the control of this undesirable growth.

It is active on more than three dozen species of woody plants. The initial label indicated control can be obtained on the following: hawthorn, red oak, white oak, water oak, sweet gum, wild blackberry, alder, ash, cherry, elm, black gum, sassafras, and willow. Development work is continuing on a number of other species, and it is expected that the label will be extended as tests are completed.

A number of species such as balsam poplar, rhododendron, box elder, honeysuckle, mountain laurel, and Kudzu and others are not controlled however. Most herbaceous



*City arborist Keith Jones has launched a new brush control program in Portland, Maine.*

species are not affected. Hence, undesirable woody plants may be controlled, without eliminating a desirable green cover from a treated area.

The new compound is a water soluble liquid that is nonvolatile and nonflammable. It is readily absorbed by soil particles and is decomposed quickly by soil microorganisms, with a half-life of a few weeks, depending on soil, moisture and other conditions. It has been widely tested prior to EPA registration and in 1975 it was applied commercially in an introductory program.

It has been used in conventional ground and air application equipment at rates of six to 12 pounds per acre (1 1/2 to 3 gallons) in 50 to 300 gallons of water per acre. A surfactant has been used at the rate of one quart per 100 gallons of water. Applicators have been trained to obtain complete coverage of foliage and stems with the spray without run-off.

*to page 72*



*Problem brush in a Portland recreation area was treated in September.*



*Brush treatments were made by a Portland Forestry Division crew, using a spray gun and hose from a truck-mounted tank.*



*Regrowth problem in a Portland "mini-park" represents an area treated in a 1975 program. In the spring this regrowth will have been stopped.*

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**POSITION WANTED** — Sod farm manager. 32 years old, married with 10 years management experience on sod farm. I am willing to relocate. Box 621, Lake Odessa, Michigan 48849 or phone 616 374-7261.

### Brush Control from page 42

Key factors that affect performance of this new brush control agent are the species present, coverage of foliage and stems, time of application, rate of application, and use of a surfactant. Rain immediately following an application may decrease effectiveness of control; no rain for at least six hours following treatment is necessary for best results.

"Krenite" by DuPont Co., Wilmington, Del., shows promise of

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Canales Nursery .....	21
Chemagro Division .....	37
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Crown Chemical .....	74
Cushman Motors Division .....	45
Davis Mfg. Div. J.I. Case .....	69
Deere & Company .....	41
Diamond Shamrock Chemical Company .....	66-67
Ditch Witch Trenchers .....	62
C. B. Dolge .....	61
Elanco Products Company .....	2nd Cover, 10-11
Engineering Products .....	33
FMC, Outdoor Power Equip. ....	51
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Ford Tractor & Implement Operations .....	18, 19
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.....	48, 54, 60, 68
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Solo Kleinmotoren .....	52
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Tee-2-Green Crop .....	65
Thompson-Hayward Chemical Co. 49	
Toro, Turf Products Div. ....	30, 70
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Vermeer Mfg. Co. ....	39
Weed Eater .....	53

extending the spray season for brush control in a number of areas, since the best time to apply it comes in late summer and early fall, according to F. E. Gonzalez, product development specialist. Last year, a number of utilities, municipalities, airports, railroads, and highway departments applied the compound on limited areas. It is expected that these areas will be checked closely this coming spring, to measure control and establish plans for broader use. □