

Industry News

Ramsey launches seed mix dept.

A new Chemical and Turfgrass Division has been formed by Ramsey Seed, Inc., Manteca, CA, to provide individualized turf seed

mixtures and chemical algae and weed control for golf courses, parks, and other landscape projects.

The new division will be headed by Larry Evans, who has directed chemical products sales for Ramsey for the past four years.

Ramsey Seed, a division of Celanese Corporation, is one of California's major processors and wholesale distributors of a broad line of grass and clover seeds for landscape and agricultural planting.

Its products include such widely used landscape seed varieties as Blando Brome, Annual Clovers, Lana Vetch, and Turfgrass. The new division will provide seed mixes of these and other varieties to individual specifications.

Forestry gift is "moon tree"

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz recently received a "moon tree" seedling during ceremonies in honor of the 100th birthday of federal forestry in the United States. The Secretary accepted the tree on behalf of all Americans.

The tree, a 2-foot Loblolly pine grown by the Forest Service from seeds carried to the moon and back aboard Apollo 14 in 1971, was presented by Forest Service Chief John R. McGuire and Astronaut Rusty Schweickart of the National Air and Space Administration.

New green aphid eats Ohio turf

Many lawns in the Midwest are being attacked by a new lawn pest, identified as *Schizaphis graminum* (Rondani) or the green bug aphid. This is not the same aphid that attacks trees and shrubs.

Aphid damage on lawns in Ohio was reported as early as 1973, but cases were infrequent. In 1975 aphid damage was relatively common and there have been numerous reports so far in 1976, especially in the Columbus and Dayton areas.

The green bug aphid will feed both in shaded areas and in direct sunlight. The insect injects toxic substances into the grass blade and sucks out plant fluids. Populations of 20 or more per grass blade are not uncommon.

Damage first appears as an underfertilized or underwatered area turning to a distinctive brownish-orange cast. If left unchecked, large areas can turn totally brown and die.

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At present there are no labeled insecticides for aphids on turf. Materials labeled for aphids on trees, such as Diazinon and Malathion, will control them.

Fungus studied

Under a \$20,000 research grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), scientists at the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Arkansas will study the effect of Colletotrichium gloeosporioides on animals, fish,

birds, and grain. The fungus has been used as a weedkiller against northern jointvetch in Arkansas rice fields for the past four years.

The university researchers will try to determine whether the fungus causes disease or is poisonous when administered by various methods to rats, fish, and birds. Its effects on the eyes and skin of rabbits and guinea pigs will be studied. It will also be grown on grain to determine whether mycotoxins or mold poisons develop.

Results of the research will be used in applying for registration of

the fungus as a weedkiller with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Cal. bans burial of defoliant

California officials have refused to permit a Texas company to bury surplus poisonous defoliant of the type that contaminated the Italian city of Seveso last summer.

Dr. Jerome Lackner, director of the California Department of Health, said that the Agent Chemical Company of Houston had requested permission to store 800,000 gallons of tetrachlorodibenzo-dioxine in sealed steel containers 100 feet underground at a storage facility in West Covina.

A department spokesman said there were too many unanswered questions about the burial of the defoliant, which was used in Vietnam. "We have no proof that the packing is going to last," he added.

A spokesman for the Ben K. Kazarian Company, where the chemicals were to be stored, said that the Federal government classified the substance as "extremely hazardous." Tests were being conducted by the Kazarian Company to determine the safety of the canisters.

EPA OKs Sevin 4 Oil carbaryl

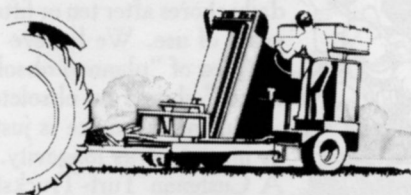
Sevin 4 Oil carbaryl insecticide has received federal registration from the Environmental Protection Agency for control of the Western spruce budworm, Union Carbide Corporation, the manufacturer, has announced. The compound was tested extensively in Montana, Washington, Maine, Minnesota, and Canada.

Registration covers aerial application at the rate of 1 quart per acre on the third to fifth instar larvae in the Rocky Mountains and west of the Rockies.

EPA also approved ground application of diluted Sevin 4 Oil through mistblowers for foliage protection of high value trees against both the spruce budworm and western spruce budworm. The recommended rate per 20- to 30-foot tree is 0.2 pint of spray in a 1-to-1

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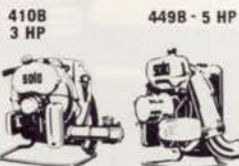
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by-volume mix of Sevin 4 Oil plus diesel fuel or kerosene.

Sevin 4 Oil is now registered for spruce budworm control for all areas east of the Rocky Mountains as well; its spruce budworm registration was previously limited to northeastern states only. Other forest insects for which Sevin 4 Oil is registered are the gypsy moth, cankerworm, saddled prominent, forest tent caterpillar, oak leafroller complex, and Japanese beetle.

Toro plans sale of Game-Time, Inc.

The Toro Company has announced an agreement in principle with a private group of investors for the sale of Game Time, Inc., manufacturer of outdoor institutional playground equipment and wholly-owned Toro subsidiary since July, 1972. The sale will be concluded in late October.

"While Game Time contributes approximately 10 percent to our overall sales and earnings, we feel that the funds involved can better serve our shareholders' and the company's own long-term interests in areas more closely allied to Toro's basic businesses," explained Toro's president David T. McLaughlin.

Toro is committing greater resources to the domestic and international markets for turf and agricultural irrigation equipment, riding mowers, tillers, and snowthrowers. The company will be introducing new products in each of these areas during the current fiscal year.

Game Time pioneered the concept of mobile recreation units in the leisure services field, and was among the first to introduce a line of therapeutic play equipment for children with disabilities.

McLaughlin said the sale is subject to several conditions, including approval by the boards of directors of both Toro and Game Time, as well as to final approval by the prospective purchasers, whom he did not identify.

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