

Industry News

Purdue receives NASA grant

Purdue University's Department of Horticulture has received a \$28,476 National Aeronautics and Space Administration research grant to study plant reaction to mechanical stress.

Dr. Cary A. Mitchell, assistant professor of plant physiology at Purdue, will serve as principal investigator for the project.

The research is funded for a single year with possible renewal. Mitchell's earlier research which subjected plants to vibrational and contact stress drew world-wide interest, including that of NASA officials who expect plants may one day have a place in space flights.

The project seeks the answer to a number of specific questions regarding plant behavior under stress conditions.

Velsicol merges

Velsicol Chemical Corp. has announced a merger between Velsicol and Michigan Chemical Corp. effective Jan. 1, 1977. The newly formed corporation will be known as Velsicol Chemical Corp.

Freeport proceeds on uranium project

Freeport Minerals announced that it is proceeding with a \$32 million project to recover uranium oxide as a by-product from phosphate rock processed into fertilizer material by Freeport in Louisiana.

The recovery facilities will be installed by Freeport Uranium Recovery Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Freeport, at Freeport's phosphoric acid plant at Uncle Sam on the Mississippi River. The pro-

ject is scheduled for physical completion and initial start-up in the last half of 1978.

PBI/Gordon markets Exhalt 800 extender

Marketing of Exhalt 800 Sticker-Extender to the professional turf market was assumed by PBI/Gordon Corp., Kansas City, as of Dec. 15, 1976.

The announcement was made by Kay Fries Chemicals, Inc., Stony Pt. N.Y., the firm which developed the product and which previously handled its marketing.

Exhalt 800 is efficacious in lengthening the effective time period of pesticides, or permitting the use of lower recommended dosages.

Root dip tested as Crown Gall control

A crown gall related bacterium, called isolate 84, has successfully been used as a root dip on several fruit crops to control Crown Gall. This material is now under test with *Euonymus* "Sarcoxie" and results of initial tests are favorable. This research is sponsored in part by the Ohio Nurserymen's Association.

U.C. gets \$2100 for turfgrass study

Continued financial support by California Turfgrass Council of ongoing turfgrass research at the University of California's South Coast Field Station in Santa Ana, was confirmed in mid-November when the organization turned over its check for \$2100 to the University to help fund further work.

The payment represented half the Council's commitment to the research program for the 1976-77 year with the other half scheduled for presentation early in 1977.

Accepting for the University was

Dr. Victor B. Youngner, U.C. agronomist based at the Riverside campus. He directs the program that is testing new perennial ryegrasses and blends of other grasses to determine their adaptability to Southern California and other 'bermuda belt' conditions.

New pesticide firm formed in St. Louis

Kitten & Bear Chemicals, Inc. has been formed recently in St. Louis to manufacture, formulate and distribute pesticides for the nursery and greenhouse industry. The new firm is headed by Dick Miller, Jim Erlinger and Dotyte Miller, who resigned from Crown Chemicals to start Kitten & Bear.

ALCA Crystal Ball report available

Most landscape contractors see unqualified operators as the landscape industry's most pressing current problem; government intervention as the big problem of the future; and they tend to attack their own problems by working harder — all this according to the Associated Landscape Contractors of America's (ALCA) newly-released Crystal Ball Committee Report.

The Report is an investigation of the landscape industry's present, past and future. It characterizes the landscape contractor and draws a profile of the industry as it exists today. To understand the present, the Committee frequently traced the industry's roots back several decades.

The cost of the Crystal Ball Committee Report to non-ALCA members is \$7.00, and \$3.00 for ALCA members. Write: ALCA, 1750 Old Meadow Road, McLean, Virginia 22101.