

# Industry News

## Project Pest Alert effected in 16 ports

Plant pests invading the US will be less likely to become established because of a new early warning system to find them promptly, according to the USDA.

The warning system, called "Project Pest Alert," establishes a 100-mile detection belt around 16 major ports of entry that stand a high risk of offering a foothold to foreign plant pests. USDA animal and plant health inspectors will systematically survey about 1,000 locations in each detection belt.

USDA plans to expand the project to 39 locations within three years.

## Syracuse Research gets EPA contract

The EPA has awarded a contract to Syracuse Research Corp. for the study of chemical methods for the degradation/detoxification of pesticides.

The study includes a state-of-the-art evaluation on the chemical reactions which are capable of degrading forty pesticides and assessment of the environmental hazards of the various degradation products.

The information collected will be used to prepare a manual which describes the practical methods for the disposal of waste pesticides and pesticidal solutions. The manual is intended for pesticide users with limited technical knowledge in pest control.

## Scotts develops new winter blends

A Scotts research team headed by turf agronomist Eugene Mayer has developed two winter overseeding blends, according to Dick Stahl, ProTurf director.

The first blend, Winter Turf I, is approximately a 40-30-20-10 combination of Manhattan perennial ryegrass, Loretta perennial ryegrass, Pennfine perennial ryegrass and Victa Kentucky bluegrass. It can be mowed as low as three-sixteenths of an inch.

Winter Turf II is an all ryegrass blend featuring two improved varieties, including approximately 40 percent Derby Perennial ryegrass, 30 percent Loretta perennial ryegrass and 30 percent Linn perennial ryegrass.

## Univ. of Minn. field rebuilt

The University of Minnesota Memorial Stadium (Minneapolis) has just undergone a complete rebuilding of their football field. Originally 11,000 square yards of artificial turf was replaced at a cost of \$600,000, according to Glenn Rehbein, ASPA Board member.

The artificial turf and the black-top and rock under it, are being replaced by sprinklers and drain tile, along with topsoil and grass. The artificial turf has been used for only about five years.

## TAES recommends slow-release N

Recent research by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station indicates that a sizable fraction of the nitrogen applied to golf greens as conventional fertilizer may be lost, and may additionally constitute a stream pollution hazard.

The use of slow-release and organic forms of fertilizer including sewage sludge eliminated the loss problem, thus providing both economic and environmental benefits.

## 150 attend service training school

The turf-care industry's first known regional factory service training network attracted 140 students in the 1976 academic year,

Daniel L. Hedglin, Cushman-Ryan service manager, has announced.

The curriculum includes 2½-day classes conducted on a rotating basis at regional schools in Atlanta, San Francisco, and Lincoln, Neb. Classes are structured to permit specialized training by mechanics in the turf care industry.

Hedglin said Cushman-Ryan hopes to expand the regional school system this fall by adding facilities in Fairfield, N.J. and Seattle.

## Edmonton gets AAN GSC designation

The American Association of Nurserymen has announced the official designation of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, as a Green Survival City. The city had been previously recognized as a Green Survival City by the Canadian Nursery Trades Association.

The official AAN designation now brings the total Green Survival Cities to eleven. Other cities so recognized include Raleigh, N.C.; Athens, Ga.; Burlingame, Calif.; Maryville, Tenn.; Anderson, Ind.; and Corvallis, Ore. Counties honored with Green Survival designations include Shelby County, Tenn., and San Diego County, Calif.

## Fungus may help regenerate oaks

A shot of a special kind of fungus may regenerate young oak seedlings which have a tendency to just "sit there".

Gene Cox and Gene Garrett, University of Missouri-Columbia forestry researchers, are inoculating soil surrounding seedling roots with a mycorrhizal fungus to produce a symbiotic relationship between the fungus and the tree root. The researchers believe the fungus will help the roots by improving their uptake of water and nutrients. In return, the tree root will provide food for the fungus.