

# Industry News

## Cushman-Ryan training program offered again

More than 200 persons are expected to graduate this fall and winter from Cushman-Ryan's factory service training network.

Ivan Vagts, national service manager, said the 1977-78 curriculum includes 21 classes offered on a rotating basis in four cities. The specialized 2½-day classes are available to both Cushman-Ryan customers and dealer mechanics.

"We pioneered the factory service training network last year and were pleased with results," Vagts remarked. "So this year we've expanded our program."

Centers will be located in Atlanta, San Francisco, Lincoln, Nebraska, and Fairfield, N.J. The classes, which are scheduled to begin in November and run through January, will be conducted on a rotating basis.

Ryan classes will spotlight the aerification product line plus sod cutter equipment. The Cushman program includes comprehensive classes on engine repair and the drive train assembly.

Vagts said registration forms are available by contacting him or any Cushman-Ryan dealer. He suggested applicants select a first and second choice of attendance dates.

## U.S. sulfur-coated urea facility planned

The first sulfur-coated urea facility in the U.S., and the second in the world, will be built in Columbia, Ga. by Ag Industries Manufacturing (AIM) Corporation, a subsidiary of Lakeshore Equipment and Supply Company, licensed through the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) under several patents. Construction of the plant's process equipment will begin after ribbon-cutting ceremonies scheduled for mid-October with plans for operation in early 1978.

TVA has been testing sulfur as a coating for urea since 1957 at the National Fertilizer Development Center in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

Although test results were promising, conditions in the U.S. didn't favor large-scale marketing of the product until recently, according to Ronald A. Smith, project manager for Lakeshore. The method TVA licensed AIM to use took about 15 years to develop.

Currently, the only commercial plant in operation is in Canada, but there are pilot plants located at Muscle Shoals, Korea, Spain, and England, and the product is showing great international acceptance.

## Covar fescue released for erosion control

Covar, a new grass that grows well in the dry regions of the Pacific Northwest, is expected to be used extensively to control erosion on rangeland, roadsides, ditchbanks and other sites.

Covar, a variety of sheep fescue, was developed at Washington State University and is being released jointly by WSU, the University of Idaho, Oregon State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

As a ground cover, the fescue grass tends to crowd out weeds. When seeded with other grasses, Covar controls erosion on steep rangeland and provides early spring forage for cattle.

Covar is adapted to most of the Pacific Northwest east of the Cascades and grows well in regions with 10 to 18 inches of rainfall.

## Scientists at NCSU will study CO<sub>2</sub> loss

Scientists at the North Carolina State University Agricultural Experiment Station will study a complex and little understood plant phenomenon known as postillumination

burst of carbon dioxide. The study will be done under a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Postillumination burst of carbon dioxide is the sudden release of substantial amounts of carbon dioxide by plant leaves when light is turned off. This loss of carbon dioxide, required for plant growth, may have undesirable effects on plant growth and yield. Knowledge about this plant phenomenon will help plant breeders to develop new improved varieties.

The two-and-a-half-year, \$36,000 research project will be funded by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

Dr. T. E. Wynn will be the principal investigator for the experiment station. Dr. D. E. Moreland is the sponsoring scientist for ARS.

## Pennfine produced under federal act

Pennfine ryegrass, developed at The Pennsylvania State University, has become the first Penn State variety produced under the new federal Plant Variety Protection Act.

The new law stipulates that seed growers wishing to produce a new variety may do so under a contract wherein the growers must meet regulations for quality seed as set by the breeder (Penn State).

The law thus provides for proprietary ownership, wherein an individual or organization owns and controls a variety. In this way, the contract assures the breeder that seed will have the superior qualities originally built into the new variety, according to Dr. Joseph M. Duich, developer of Pennfine ryegrass.

The Seed Production and Introduction Corporation (SPIC) is handling all contractual arrangements for producing Pennfine ryegrass. Already, four competing national seed companies are producing Pennfine under contract with SPIC.