

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## SEED

### Burning limits due this month in Oregon

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Seattle hopes to decide by mid-April on the amount of land in Oregon that can be set aside for field burning by the state's grass seed growers.

Although state law limits the burning to 50,000 acres, the Oregon Seed Council is requesting that 180,000 acres be used this year to prepare the land for the 1979 seed crop. Opposition has formed in Eugene and Springfield, with groups there saying that particulates from the burning fields create a health hazard and violate the federal Clean Air Act.

Oregon Assistant Attorney General Don Arnold said he believes the farmers will be allowed to burn between 100,000 and 120,000 acres. "They (EPA) hinted they would

allow something over the 50,000-acre limit," he said.

Dave Nelson, executive secretary for the Oregon Seed Council, said his group is working on a proposal to permit use of 180,000 acres, by using burning methods that would reduce particulate levels by about one-third. Nelson said back-firing and strip-lighting would be used.

However, he said the group is prepared to go to court if the EPA does not grant the 180,000-acre limit or its equivalent. "We will definitely take the appropriate legal action if we're stuck with less than 180,000 acres," he said. The council has asked the state's growers, which number about 1,000, for contributions to pay for possible legal fees. It will soon approach the seed com-

panies, Nelson said.

A 50,000-acre limit will cause a gradual deterioration of seed quality and between a 25-75 percent reduction in the amount of seed produced for the 1979 crop, Nelson said. "If we can't clean it up (by burning), we won't get the tillering to produce the extra stock shoot growths out of the plant," Nelson said.

The Seed Council feels burning has done little to violate the clean air standards in Eugene and Springfield. A recent air sampling in the two cities revealed that only one station recorded violations in the amount of particulates, Nelson said, and that dust accounted for 57 percent of the particulates. The station is near a gravel parking lot and dust from cars driving in the lot probably caused the high levels, Nelson said.



**University of Nebraska** turf specialist Dr. Robert Shearman spoke to superintendents about preemergents and their affect on bluegrass.

## GOLF

### GCSSA takes over San Antonio

Both San Antonio, Texas, newspapers carried front-page headlines about one of the largest conventions to be held there since the World's Fair, the 49th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, Feb. 12-17.

More than 5,500 attendants saw a record 200 exhibits and availed themselves of an expanded educational program. Special educational sessions were held for management, public golf, research, equipment, turf, personnel management, and even weather.

Former Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz kicked off the program with a joke-laden speech defending the profit motive against a mismanaged onslaught of government environmental and consumer regulators. Butz predicted that the trend toward more leisure time and shorter work week would favor growth in

the golf market. Emphasizing the importance of adapting to change, Butz recommended constant innovation to fight off the effects of spiraling inflation. "There is a feeling in this country that making a profit is evil. We've got to educate consumers to the fact that profit is not a four-letter word."

During the opening ceremonies, outgoing GCSAA President Ted Woehrle presented the Association's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, to Dr. Roy Goss, Washington State University turf specialist; Dr. John Harper II, Pennsylvania State University extension agronomist; and Arthur Snyder, retired superintendent of Paradise Country Club, Scottsdale, Ariz.

More than 40 speakers participated in the educational and general

sessions. The research sessions were well-attended signifying increased interest in future turf techniques.

Regional topics were covered in special sessions on southern, northern, and western turf problems.

Texas A&M's Dr. Richard Duble discussed bentgrass/Bermuda grass transition in the South. May and October are two months where greens undergo transition from one grass to the other and consequently golf courses look yellow at these times. Duble said the problem can be minimized with a program of overseeding, aerating, verticle mowing, and topdressing at the proper times. He recommended earlier (March) aeration and topdressing in the spring to encourage the Bermuda before the bentgrass goes out in May, and summer (August) aeration and topdressing combined with vertical mowing and applying fungicides in September to promote the bentgrass.

Other tips offered by Duble were a one to one nitrogen to potassium fertilizer ratio and the use of MSMA for control of nutgrass. Duble said eradication of nutgrass is essentially impossible and only control is feasible.

Dr. Victor Gibeault of the University of California, Riverside, presented the results of a survey of California's 600 golf courses. He identified three distinct regions of the state for golf courses; southern California with its warm climate and cucuya grass fairways, inland with a subtropical climate, and northern California with a cool climate where bluegrass predominates. A very low percentage of California superintendents use fungicides, Gibeault pointed out.

Dr. Robert Shearman, turf specialist for the University of Nebraska, warned that use of pre-emergents on bluegrass can cause side effects. Shearman said pre-emergents can reduce root growth of bluegrass, thin rhizomes, and add to thatch buildup if overused. Shearman said use pre-emergents only when necessary and provide supplementary irrigation because some pre-emergents lower the water uptake of desirable grasses.

Dr. Joseph Vargas Jr., associate professor of plant pathology at Michigan State University, described the specific susceptibility of *poa annua* to anthracnose in warm weather. Vargas said *poa annua* is highly susceptible to anthracnose when the temperature gets above 80 degrees. He recommended use of summer

fertilization ( $\frac{1}{2}$  lb./1,000 sq. ft.) to discourage anthracnose if nights are cool. If both days and nights are hot the only solution is a good fungicide and, Vargas said, the reluctance to use fungicides doesn't make sense when you consider the investment already in the turf. To risk the entire investment for the cost of fungicides is foolish he implied.

New GCSAA officers elected at the meeting are George Cleaver of Chestnut Ridge CC, Lutherville, Md., president; Charles Tadge, Mayfield CC, S. Euclid, Oh., vice president; and directors David Holler of Gulph Mills Golf Club in Prussia, Pa.; James Wyllie, Lambton Golf and CC, Toronto, Ontario; and Melvin Lucas, Garden City CC, Garden City, N.Y.

## TREES

### Ice storms to add to spring business

National Arborist Association Executive Secretary Robert Felix predicts the recent ice storms in the Midwest and the Northeast will result in a huge amount of corrective maintenance work for regional arborists.

Felix said the work, when added to normal spring maintenance business, may test the arborist's ability to meet such a large, unplanned demand for service. Felix also said the

demand will take place as homeowners and commercial caretakers begin their spring property inspections.

NAA just gave Felix a new three-year contract as executive secretary of the growing organization.

## RECLAMATION

### Field trips set for Canadian meeting

The Canadian Land Reclamation Association will hold its Third Annual Meeting from May 29-June 1 at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. Approximately 44 papers will be presented and all day field trips to reclamation sites will be conducted on Tuesday, May 30 and Thursday, June 1.

Following is a list of just a few of the paper presentations:

—The establishment of vegetation on high iron-sulphur tailings by means of an overburden.

—Revegetation of tailings area and other disturbed lands.

—Preplanning of a deactivated mine site for aesthetic and wildlife improvement.

—Environmental considerations for reclamation of abandoned mine spoils.

—Evaluation of unconsolidated materials for plant growth.

—Reclamation of abandoned coal mined lands in the U.S.



The National Interior Plant Environment Committee was formed recently in Washington, D.C., by representatives of landscape industry associations and design related societies. They are: (seated l. to r.) Charles Blumberg of IBD and Karl Korstad of ALCA; and (standing l. to r.) Kent Slepicka of ASID, Walter Gammel of FFA, and John Gattuso of ASLA.



# GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE

—Thirty-two years of co-operative range improvement and land reclamation in the U.S.

—The use of antitranspirants and individual tree mulching as an aid to the establishment of trees on surface mine spoils.

—The use of sawmill residues as a soil amendment on eastern Kentucky surface mines.

### TREES

#### **NAA Florida meeting has record attendance**

More than 250 arborists traveled to Sarasota, Florida, in February and, although the weather didn't cooperate, the trip was extremely worthwhile.

The ladies program featured speakers on accounting practices, handling insurance claims, planning short term loans and investments, managing safety and other regulatory programs, and overseeing public relations programs.

In the general session, Rex Russell, assistant chief of the U.S. Forest Service spoke on the role of the commercial arborist in urban forestry programs as the Forest Service sees it. New and proposed legislation will direct the Forest Service into the urban areas. The arborist will play a vital part in the programs of the Forest Service in the future.

Jeff Kahn, an engineer with Ford Motor Co., spoke on preventative maintenance of equipment. Gregg Dujets, an audiologist discussed hearing problems of arborists. Dujets said the arborist can suffer measurable loss of hearing without proper protection. Robert Herder, vice president of Asplundh Co. spoke on safety in tree care operations.

Warren Purdy, a management consultant to the landscape industry, was the featured speaker. His topic was financial management of tree care companies. Purdy provided part of the educational role in the ladies' sessions also. An estimators' session was chaired by NAA Executive Secretary Robert Felix.

Winners of the first NAA Awards of Merit were Dr. Paul Tilford, the first executive secretary of the group; Ross Farrens, past president and charter member; and Ed Irish, past president and chairman of the educational committee.

#### **Velsicol, EPA reach chlordane agreement**

Velsicol Chemical Corp. announced in March that it had reached agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Environmental Defense Fund, and other interested parties, permitting certain uses of chlordane and heptachlor previously suspended. Chlordane hearings started in 1974.

The agreement, which discontinues most home uses, will cut Velsicol's production of the two pesticides from 23 million pounds to 7.2 million pounds per year until 1983. Under the terms of the agreement, Velsicol may apply for new registrations of the products in the future. No limitations were placed on exported uses for the chemicals.

Allowed by the agreement are:

- use of chlordane for control of imported fire ants and Japanese beetle larvae in nursery stock for compliance with Federal or state quarantines, and in nursery stock to control black vine weevil for compliance with state nursery certification regulations, up to January 1980.
- use of chlordane for control of imported fire ant on lands not presently used or to be used for food or feed production or grazing for a period of two years following treatment, up to January 1981.
- use of chlordane for control of white grubs, strawberry rootworm, strawberry rootweevil or crown girdler, strawberry crown borer and black vine weevil in strawberries up to August 1979.

#### **Du Pont rebuts RPAR on fungicides**

The E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Company has formally rebutted the RPAR issued by the Environmental Protection Agency last August against registration of the EBDC fungicides. In a 12-volume statement, summarized in an 89-page discussion of the EPA presumptions and review of the benefits, the company reported that proper and common use of two EBDC fungicides, maneb and mancozeb, does not cause adverse effects. Tersan LSR is the trade name, under the common name of manzeb, for Du Pont's turf fungicide labeled against leaf spot, rust, and rhizoctonia brown patch.

The rebuttal reported studies that demonstrate that the EBDCs and their metabolite, ethylenethiourea (ETU), degrade rapidly and do not persist or buildup in the environment. Studies have also demonstrated that EBDCs are not teratogenic, that is, they do not tend to cause developmental malformations. Thus, human exposure to EBDCs or ETU is insignificant, according to Du Pont.

Under the RPAR procedure, the EPA may now return the EBDC fungicides to normal registration status or it may begin to evaluate the benefits of these compounds. Meanwhile, the fungicides will continue to be available.

#### **Uniroyal questions EPA's MH test**

Uniroyal Chemical Co. has termed an EPA test inadequate to justify a rebuttable presumption against registration (RPAR) for maleic hydrazide, an important growth regulator. The company questions a test for oncogenicity contending that the number of animals used in the test and errors found in the report make it unreliable as evidence for RPAR. A similar test is currently in progress by Uniroyal and results are expected by 1980.