

# 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.