

Subcontractor is liable for site safety

If a subcontractor does not protest safety violations to the contractor, he can be held responsible for those violations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, according to a recent ruling by OSHA's Review Commission. The Association of Landscape Contractors recommends that subcontracting landscape contractors complain in writing to the contractor whether or not the safety violations are serious ones.

ALCA to establish student chapters

Student organizations at accredited two- and four-year colleges with a curriculum in landscape contracting or related horticultural field may affiliate with ALCA according to a recent ruling by the ALCA Board of Directors. The group must have an advisor who is an affiliate member of ALCA and contain four or more students. Dues will be set by the Board of Directors.

Southern California turf expo approaches

One of the largest turfgrass and landscape shows in the Southwest is coming up Oct. 18, the Southern California Turfgrass/Landscape Equipment and Materials Educational Exposition in Costa Mesa, California. More than 4,000 landscape contractors, golf course superintendents, nurserymen, and other grounds managers are expected each day at the two-day show.

The exposition was started in 1960 to combine numerous industry events into one centralized show with exhibits and educational sessions. Interested persons should contact the Southern California Turfgrass Council at 213-798-1715.

Conwed opens new fiber mulch plant

Hickory, North Carolina will be the site of a new wood fiber mulch plant to produce Conwed Hydro Mulch products used in hydraulic mulching for turf establishment. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-1978 with production beginning in early 1979.

Demand for Conwed's Hydro Mulch product has reached the point where production at the Cloquet, MN facility is nearing capacity, according to F. T. Weyerhaeuser, president. The North Carolina site was selected to meet the increasing demand and to better serve the growing market in the eastern United States.

Mississippi degree attracts out-of-staters

Nearly a third of the students in the Mississippi State University Landscape Contracting Program are from out of state says program advisor Robert A. Callaway. A fourth come from outside the South he adds.

MSU offers a four-year program which includes on-the-job time, agricultural mechanics, botany, land surveying, soils, basic drawing, design, architectural graphics, plant materials, accounting, business law, landscape construction, and finance.

Callaway says the demand for graduates exceeds the supply. The contracting program is a part of the landscape architecture department at MSU. Persons interested in the program should contact Callaway at P.O. Drawer MQ, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

field plots in them to collect more information. He hopes to more accurately predict the number of viable seeds and the plant species mixtures of the prairie hay mulch in relation to harvest times, weather conditions and the range sites.

AQUATIC WEEDS

"Natural" herbicide may be possible

Government and university scientists are going to study the toxic compounds released by spikerush, an aquatic weed sometimes used to control larger, more troublesome weeds growing in irrigation canals. If the joint project of the University of California, Davis, and the USDA is successful, development of a "natural" aquatic herbicide may be possible.

Scientists will try to isolate, identify, and synthesize the toxic compounds produced by spikerush, under a one-year \$35,000 cooperative agreement.

The project is under the direction of Floyd M. Ashton, plant physiologist at U.C., Davis. Peter A. Frank, Science and Education Administration plant physiologist, will coordinate the studies for the USDA.

HORTICULTURE

Solar energy, rocks to heat greenhouses

Scientists at the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, under a cooperative agreement with the USDA, will develop a rock-bed heat storage system they hope will eventually supply as much as 50 percent of the heat needs of greenhouses.

The rock-bed will store excess heat from the sun-heated greenhouse that will then be available for use at night or during cloudy weather to maintain a desirable temperature for plants in the greenhouse.

The one-year \$32,455 project is being funded by the Department of Energy, administered by USDA's Science and Education Administration, and is part of government efforts to conserve fossil fuels by finding ways to use solar energy. D. H. Willits will be the principal investigator.