

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

RECLAMATION

ALCA eyes prospects

About 100 ALCA members attending the group's revegetation and erosion control symposium August 1-3 in Denver were told to look to small coal companies, the Texas Department of Transportation and other government agencies for future revegetation work.

Jim Brown from North American Coal Corp. Bismarck, N.C. office told the contractors that their biggest source of potential business is coal companies without reclamation staffs. "They may set up consortiums to get the work done more cheaply. But they must have it to survive," Brown said.

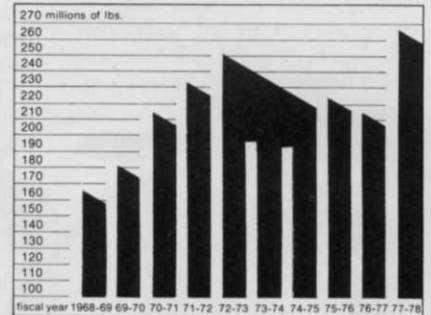
Texas will continue its road programs in the next few years, and Paul Northcut from the Department of Transportation promised work for

contractors during that time. "Most of the highway districts are understaffed, so the percentage of landscape contracting will increase substantially in the next few years. I suspect it will increase 100 percent at least in the next five years," Northcut said.

Jim Lincoln, of Southwest Hydro-Mulchers Distributing Co. in Dallas, Texas, also reminded members to look for work at various government agencies.

He suggested the U.S. Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, local flood control districts and river and port authorities.

The show was capped by an exhibit in the Marriott Hotel and a field trip to revegetated areas in the Rocky Mountains.



Ryegrass seed hit record levels for the 1977-78 fiscal year according to the Oregon Ryegrass Commission. The record crop for both annual and perennial ryegrass was due in part to increased demand for ryegrass seed brought about by introduction of new ryegrass cultivars. The record of 268 million lbs. upsets the previous 1972-73 record of 251 million lbs.

PESTICIDES

Experimental sprayer avoids handling risks

A system to eliminate dangerous pesticide handling is being developed by agricultural engineer Donald L. Reichard and technicians D. L. Collins and P. T. Keck, stationed at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC).

"On our sprayer, all liquid flows are controlled from the control panel by the operator," Reichard says. "Metering pumps draw the chemicals from their containers, at rates proportional to travel speed, and mix them with water in a small mixing chamber on the way to the sprayer nozzles."

As well as eliminating the pouring operations, the system also does away with disposal of left-over tank mixtures. And the operator can flush the containers from the control panel, Reichard adds.

The sprayer development is only

part of the scientists' overall federal research effort to improve the efficiency and safety of chemical pesticide application equipment.

NURSERY

IRS offers chance to switch accounting

A recently issued policy by the Internal Revenue Service provides nurserymen with one chance to switch from accrual to cash accounting to solve a problem with inventory taxes.

Previously, the nurserymen had been grouped with farmers in a ruling which requires farmers doing less than \$1 million per year to use accrual accounting for crop inventory.

The opportunity to switch to cash accounting is a one-time offer which must be filed for the first taxable year beginning on or after Jan. 1, 1978.

RECLAMATION

Prairie hay mulches also provide seed

Prairie hay is showing promise as a mulch for revegetation of strip mined lands, according to range scientist Ronald E. Ries. The hay could be a feasible alternative now that Public Law 9587, passed in 1977, requires mulching as part of the reclamation effort.

Dr. Ries, stationed at USDA's Northern Great Plains Research Center in Mandan, ND, harvested prairie hay at five monthly intervals, beginning June 1, and applied the hay as a mulch to seed flats in the greenhouse at a rate equal to 3000 pounds per acre. The flats contained topsoil similar to that normally returned to strip mined areas.

Hay harvested October 1 contained the most viable seed, Ries said, and the most common seedling was the native perennial broadleaf herb, cutleaf goldenweed.

Ries is expanding the project to

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.

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

IRRIGATION

Texas A&M, Toro to study water use

A contribution to Texas A & M University by the Toro Company will help finance a four-year study of water use rates for turf-grasses. The work will be directed by Dr. James Beard and was conceived by graduate student Don Johns.

The purpose of the study is to improve water irrigation efficiency and to help identify water requirements of certain turfgrass cultivars.

TREE

Arborists report growth in volume

Despite bad spring weather, arborists are reporting growth in business volume this year. A survey conducted by the National Arborist Association revealed that more than 75 percent of arborists are experiencing increased volume in tree spraying, trimming and general tree care.

However, arborists indicated a reduction or no increase in landscaping work. Only Midwest arborists said they experienced an increase in landscaping work for the first half of 1978.

The arborists expect the remainder of the year to produce excellent sales.

TREES

Funds appropriated for chestnut blight

Funding proposed by Sen. Robert Byrd (D) of West Virginia has been appropriated for research on a possible solution to chestnut blight at the Northeast Forest Experiment Station in Morgantown, W.Va.

The research to be performed by West Virginia University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute researchers centers around a strain of the chestnut blight and a phenomenon called hypovirulence. Strains of the disease can actually heal chestnut blight cankers. The object is to isolate this strain and produce it for use against the blight.

Options sought for disposal regulations

Triple rinsing as a label requirement is one option to proposed pesticide container disposal regulations termed not enforceable by EPA's Office of General Counsel.

The lawyers said FIFRA is a labeling act and enforcement is legal only in cases of label violations. Current proposed regulations do not involve specific labeling instructions and therefore would be not enforceable nor would they mean criminal penalty. Pesticide suppliers may be asked to implement recycling programs under options being considered by EPA.

Conference Committee agrees on state primacy

The House-Senate Conference Committee reviewing FIFRA amendments agreed that states with approved plans will be the primary enforcers of FIFRA. The committee also defined pest control operators as commercial applicators and not distributors subject to warrantless inspection and stiffer penalties.

Thirty states have approved pesticide use plans and therefore will come under the primacy rule if the amendments are approved by the House and Senate and signed by the President. States without approved plans will be subject to Federal enforcement. A condition permits Federal intervention in the case of emergencies.

Inconsistent use exceptions settled

The House-Senate Conference Committee has reached an agreement on proposed FIFRA legislation regarding use inconsistent with the label. If passed by House and Senate and signed by the President, the exceptions will be:

- using a pesticide at less than label concentration
- mixing pesticides with fertilizer if not specifically prohibited by the label
- applying a pesticide for a target pest not listed on the label providing the application is to a labelled crop, animal or site and the label does not specifically prohibit use against that target pest
- using a method of application not listed on the label.

Cloture fails again, labor bill delayed

The controversial, pro-union Labor Reform Bill will not be passed this year because an effective filibuster and failure to invoke cloture have made a final vote impossible.

OSHA permits access to safety records

Rules have been revised by OSHA permitting worker access to the employer's log of job-related injuries and illnesses. All employers with 11 or more employees must maintain such records under law.