

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## ARBORIST

### Urban forestry suspected as intrusion

The private sector should be wary of the possible consequences of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, according to a spokesman for the National Arborist Association.

Robert Felix, NAA executive secretary, said the act could lead to the formation of a federal agency to regulate the "urban forest" industry.

The Forestry Assistance Act distributes about \$70,000 to each state to provide technical assistance to municipalities for urban forestry. The funds are distributed to the states by the U.S. Forest Service through state foresters.

The technical assistance provided includes:

- Planting and maintenance recommendations for tree ordinances.
- Insect and disease control recommendations.
- Development and utilization of urban tree inventories.

- Development of and recommendations for tree ordinances.
- Recommendations for the establishment of municipal forestry departments.
- Recommendations for the protection of the environment during new home or building construction.
- Multiple use management recommendations and plans for municipally owned forest lands.
- Workshops, programs, and slide shows on urban forestry.

"All of these suggested programs are valid, and where such assistance is appropriate is of great value to the public," he said. "However, suppose this assistance . . . begins to infringe on the private sector? Suppose new regulatory agencies, federal or state, were created to administer all of this?"

Felix added that government concern has historically resulted in the

formation of regulatory agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. "Regulatory agencies have become the fourth branch of government and cost American taxpayers over \$100 billion last year to operate," he said. "Indeed we should be cautious."

According to Felix, much of the technical assistance provided in the act is unwarranted. "Many arborists, commercial and municipal, are perfectly capable of providing all of the technical assistance that is necessary with respect to the care of existing trees and many with respect to the planting of new trees . . .," he said.

"We do not need another layer of government bureaucracy imposed on us either as practitioners or as taxpayers," he added.

## CHEMICALS

### Velsicol appoints former EPA official

John M. Rademacher, a former senior official of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, has been named vice-president of environmental, health, and regulatory affairs for the Velsicol Chemical Corp.

He and his department will have direct operating control over environmental and health related matters, along with the company's relationship with the appropriate regulatory agencies.

A long-time federal environmental executive, Rademacher most recently served as a special assistant to EPA's assistant administrator for

enforcement, in Washington, D.C. While a special assistant he provided technical evaluations of all EPA enforcement action, including air, water, and hazardous and toxic waste programs.

Rademacher has also served as a regional administrator for EPA and its predecessor agency, the Federal Water Quality Administration. A registered professional sanitary engineer, Rademacher obtained his bachelor's degree from Purdue University and his graduate degree from Northwestern University.

He is currently serving as president of the Federal Water Quality Association, an affiliate of the Water Pollution Control Federation.



**Thomas V. Bruns** has been named president of the Jacobsen Division of Textron, Inc.

## IRRIGATION

### **Toro to expand irrigation division**

The Toro Co. has announced that it will invest more than \$3 million over three years in a new expansion program for its Irrigation Division in Riverside, Calif.

The expansion plans call for the addition of 118,000 square feet of factory, office, and warehouse space at an estimated cost of about \$3.4 million. Toro's current facility in Riverside totals about 159,000 square feet.

Toro Chairman David T. McLaughlin said Irrigation Division sales have increased more than 100 percent during the past two years. In the last fiscal year, which ended July 31, irrigation sales accounted for \$24.2 million of the company's \$227 million in total sales.

## SEED

### **Oregon seed groups repair Capital turf**

The Oregon Grass Seed Industry rallied to the aid of the 24 acres of lawn in the Nation's Capital which were damaged during the farmers' occupation last winter.

A combined effort of the Oregon Seed Council, Seed Trade Association, and Seed Grower's League produced the 7200 pounds of special grass seed mixture which was required for the project.

The seed, all Oregon grown, is a special mix which was requested by the National Parks Service. It is Kentucky Bluegrass, Penn Lawn Red Fescue, and Fawn Tall Fescue. It is a mixture designed to be most effective for the climate and the specific needs of the area to be planted.

The idea was born during an Oregon Seed Council meeting. It was noted that nurserymen were going to replant the shrubbery and Maryland farmers were going to prepare a seedbed. C. M. "Brownie" Brownell, Treasurer of the Council, coordinated an effort that brought the other seed organizations into the picture.

### **Operating cost survey developed**

An operating cost ratio survey of the landscape contracting industry is currently being conducted by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA). The survey is completely confidential and will focus on operating cost data, along with pertinent data on standard financial reports.

John Shaw, ALCA president, said the survey is being sent to about 3800 landscape contractors across the United States. "The purpose of the survey is to develop statistical information about the industry," he said.

The survey is constructed so the complete confidentiality of the reported information is guaranteed through a response verification system. Further responses are directed straight to the data processing firm which will compile the data.

The report information will be broken down into a variety of areas including company size and geographical area covered, along with an analysis of department and division data. The final report will also include a narrative analysis of the data.

The survey report, to be published this fall, will be sent directly to all landscape contractors who participated in the survey and will be available for sale to all others. Additional survey information is available from ALCA, 1750 Old Meadow Road, McLean, VA 22102.

### **Judges named in CLCA competition**

The California Landscape Contractors Association recently named the judges for its 20th Annual Landscape Beautification Awards Program, according to Bill Vandergeest, 1979 program chairman and owner of Vandergeest Landscape Care, Santa Ana, Calif.

Judges include Keith French, landscape coordinator for S & S Construction Co.; Jerry Driscoll, manager of California Trees, Inc.; and Fred Ridge, president of PCM, Inc.

Judging for the annual awards will be held June 2-3 and the awards will be presented at the organization's annual banquet, June 27, at the Revere House Restaurant, Tustin, Calif. Winners will not be announced until the awards banquet.

Commercial and residential landscaping projects which have been completed since May 1, 1978 qualify for the competition. For further information contact the Landscape Beautification Awards, c/o Bill Vandergeest, 3342 Castor St., Santa Ana, CA 92704.

### **Residential design program planned**

The ALCA Residential Design Short Course will be held in Phoenix, Ariz. and Seattle, Wash. in late June. The three-day program features lectures, problem-solving sessions, and board exercises on all aspects of residential landscape design.

The program will again be conducted by Jot Carpenter, chairman of the Ohio State University Landscape Architecture Department. Additional OSU resource personnel will also participate in the sessions.

The Phoenix program, co-sponsored by the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association, will be held June 21-23 at the Townhouse Hotel. The Seattle program, co-sponsored by the Washington Nurserymen's Association, will be held June 25-27 at the Lutheran Institute of Seattle.

The course is intended for landscape contractors involved in landscape installation who don't have any formal training or previous experience in design. All phases of landscape design will be discussed including scaling, lettering and graphics, functional diagrams, form and composition, plant functions, design principles, plan development, and final designs.

The program is open to all interested persons. For further information or registration materials contact the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, 1750 Old Meadow Road, McLean, VA 22102.

### LANDSCAPE

#### Three more groups affiliate with ALCA

The Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association, the Landscape Contractors of Utah, and the Arizona Landscape Contractors Association have become Sponsoring Members (state affiliates) of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America. They join seven other state/regional associations, bringing the total to ten.

The Sponsoring Member category is the term for organizational membership in ALCA, and is the mechanism through which state and regional groups may affiliate with ALCA. Under the Sponsoring Member arrangement, member firms of WLCA, LCU, and AzLCA gain direct access to all ALCA publications and meetings.

Other state/regional groups holding Sponsoring Membership in ALCA are: California, Illinois, Colorado, Washington, D.C., New York, Texas, and Florida.

### PESTICIDE

#### Orthene registered for California scale control

Orthene Tree and Ornamental Spray has received a California Special Local Need (SLN) registration for control of scale on ice plant ground cover along highway rightofways. The registration allows the use of Orthene as needed for scale control in the crawler stage at the rate of two-thirds pound of formulation per 100 gallons of water, applied with conventional hydraulic sprayer.

### ARBORISTS

#### ASCA names Schultz as 1979 President

The American Society of Consulting Arborists recently elected new officers to serve in 1979. Those elected included Jack A. Schultz, New York, president; John Z. Duling, Indiana, president-elect; William J. Griffin, California, vice-president; and Edwin E. Irish, Michigan, secretary-treasurer. Spencer H. Davis, Jr., New Jersey, was named executive director.

#### Dow withdraws from suspension hearings

The Dow Chemical Co. recently announced its withdrawal from EPA's 'suspension' hearings concerning the herbicides 2,4,5-T and Silvex. At the same time, Dow filed several motions with EPA's chief administrative law judge seeking prompt initiation of a broad fact-finding hearing on EPA's proposed cancellation of the registration of the herbicides.

Dow attorney Michael J. Traynor said the company withdrew from the 'suspension' hearings because the "fundamental issues" of the long-term safety and benefits of the products were not being considered by the panel.

"This action is not an abandonment of the products or their defense," he said, "but simply a means to expedite the final resolution of their futures by beginning the cancellation hearings immediately."

"Specifically," Traynor said, "our requests are that EPA promptly assign an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and schedule a pre-hearing conference so we can move forward with a full examination and ultimate government decision on the risks and benefits of these products." A pre-hearing conference was scheduled for June 5 in Washington, D.C.

In related news, agency officials said the major issue now confronting EPA is how they will pay for and carry out the Silvex indemnification agreement it signed with the Chevron Chemical Co. Agency enforcement officials said if the agency doesn't obtain additional funding through supplemental budget requests, the issue will likely end up in the courts. One official said, "I don't know why the government should agree to pay for products that the companies probably knew were hazardous to begin with."

#### EPA rules Evergreen an applicator

Evergreen Pest Control is not a "distributor" based on the definition of the word in FIFRA Section 14(a)(1), according to Paul De Falco, EPA regional IX administrator. The decision reaffirms an earlier ruling by EPA Judicial Officer Anthony O. Garvin, but contradicts a decision by Administrative Law Judge Gerald Harwood.

De Falco's ruling that the company is an "applicator" of pesticides versus a "distributor" means that Evergreen Pest Control will be subject to less stringent FIFRA penalty provisions for its alleged misuse of methyl bromide. Further, the ruling could have an affect on future court rulings concerning the distributor vs. applicator debate.

In making his final decision, De Falco said, "... although the evidence indicates that Evergreen regularly kept stock of pesticides on its premises for use in its business, there is no evidence in the record to indicate that Evergreen ever resold or otherwise distributed these pesticides to other companies or individuals."

#### Drinking water regulations proposed

EPA has proposed regulations designed to prevent pollution of the underground sources of drinking water that now serve one-half of the United States population.

EPA will provide up to \$6 million this year to help states set up and enforce programs to insure that the underground injection of liquid wastes and other fluids does not endanger subsurface drinking water.

The agency has estimated that there are more than 500,000 injection wells that now have the potential to contaminate groundwater and that number increases by about 5,000 each year.

Basically, EPA's regulations call upon the states to set up programs to review all underground injection operations and take any remedial action necessary to protect groundwater. Injection wells would be inspected to make sure they are properly constructed and maintained. Safe injection operations that are not potentially dangerous could continue, but they would have to comply with permits and rules issued by the states or EPA.



EXPANSION

### Company announces lawn care division

Environmental Landscape Services, Inc. has formed a chemical lawn care division, said Charles R. Racusin, president of the Houston-based firm.

The new division will offer residential lawn care services that will include fertilizing, weed and insect control, and fungicide application.

Gary Koerner, has been named to head up the new division. Koerner previously worked with the R.W. Collins Co., the largest lawn care company in Florida.

TREES

### Cure for Dutch elm found by accident

A University of Chicago medical student says he might have stumbled across a solution to Dutch elm disease while attempting to discover a cure for cancer.

William J. Elliott was studying ways of synthesizing maytansine, a potent anticancer drug, when he learned a chemical analog of that drug attracts beetles that cause Dutch elm disease in elm trees.

An analog is a man-made equivalent of a natural chemical.

Mr. Elliott and his colleagues say they have developed a method to produce the analog, multistriatin, and that the raw materials are "cheaper to buy than gasoline."

Mr. Elliott says a vial of the chemical is placed at the base of a tree and the beetles get entangled in fly paper when they venture near the attractive chemical.

Josef Fried, the professor directing the research, says enough multistriatin has been produced to attract all the elm tree beetles in North America.

MANAGEMENT

### New officers to serve Natl. Landscape Assoc.

The National Landscape Association recently elected officers to serve the organization through 1980. Frank N. Tomlinson, Tomlinson's Select Nurseries, Calif., was elected

president; Gerald Harrell, Landscapes Unlimited, Texas, was named vice-president; and Joe Wayman, Forrest Keeling Nursery, Mo., was selected secretary-treasurer.

Directors re-elected to another term included Denny R. Church, D.R. Church Landscape Co., Ill. and Robert Siebenthaler, The Siebenthaler Co., Ohio. Former president Dale Manbeck, Manbeck Nurseries, Ohio, was named director-at-large and Richard Campbell, Campbell's Nursery and Garden Center, Neb., was selected to fill a vacant seat on the Board of Directors. The seat was vacated when Donald Johnson, Johnson's Nursery & Garden Center, S.D., retired.

TURF SEED

### Fast-growing seed gains accreditation

Sabre *Poa trivialis* has been granted a certificate (PV 7700104) under the Plant Variety Protection Act by the Plant Variety Protection Office of the Department of Agriculture, according to J.L. Carnes, president of International Seeds, Inc., Halsey, Ore.

Sabre was developed cooperatively by I.S.I. and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University and is the first domestic variety of *Poa trivialis* granted such a certificate.

Known for its ability to endure shade, Sabre has also performed well in the winterseeding of fine turf, particularly golf greens, in the southern U.S.

Prior to Sabre, the only *Poa trivialis* available to fine turf managers was common, unpedigreed seed imported from northern Europe which often contained undesirable weed seeds such as *Poa annua*.

A rigid certification program in Oregon produces Sabre seed of exceptionally high quality.

A rapid germinating variety, Sabre mixes well with the various fine-bladed ryegrasses, fine fescue, and bluegrass.

CHEMICALS

### Granular linuron helps control *Poa annua*

The *Poa annua* problem in Ken-

tucky bluegrass sod fields and golf courses of the northern U.S. may have met its match from granular linuron, according to a recent speech by Paul L. Jacquemin, of O.M. Scott & Sons.

In a presentation to the Kentucky, Ohio, and Iowa Turfgrass Conferences, Jacquemin announced the results of an eight-year, 20-state test program to control *Poa annua*. The tests involved the wide range of soil composition, seasonal temperature effects, application timing, and alternative before-and-after maintenance practices such as fertilizing and watering.

Jacquemin's address includes a description of the *Poa annua* problem, tests performed, a summary of the results, and detailed guidelines for use of granular linuron.

The full text of his speech, titled "A New Concept for *Poa annua* Control in Bluegrass Turf", is available by writing to Bill Boyd, O.M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, Ohio 43040.

SOD

### Blue grama grass cultivated from sod

A USDA range scientist has found that sodding with blue grama grass can help areas that need erosion control and lands disturbed by mining or construction.

William McGinnies of the Science and Education Administration-Agricultural Research in Fort Collins, Colo., studied blue grama for its use on the Central Plains. A native grass, blue grama is highly palatable and nutritious but difficult to establish from seed.

Successful sodding of blue grama requires that soil be moist or wet when it is removed; it be done during periods of active growth (May and June); and sod be irrigated in its new location. Establishing the grass depends on development of new adventitious roots which come from new tillers.

Irrigating transplanted sod three times with one inch or less of water resulted in twice as many new roots as sod irrigated only once. Three irrigations also increased rate of root growth.

NURSERY

**Ohio nurserymen award research grant**

The Ohio Nurserymen's Assoc. (ONA) recently presented a \$5,500 research grant to Drs. Charles Gilliam, Thomas Fretz, and Elton Smith of the Department of Horti-

culture at Ohio State Univ. for research into the container production of Taxus.

During the past several years there has been increased interest in container production of Taxus. This shift in the production techniques of Taxus is occurring without adequate research. This project will initiate a five-year study to identify the cul-

tural characteristics necessary to successfully produce container-grown Taxus.

The potential advantages of Taxus production in containers are many and include: (1) a reduction in time of production, (2) increased uniformity of the finished product, (3) a reduction in winter desiccation, (4) reduced labor costs of digging and marketing, (5) a greater ease of managing cultural practices such as irrigation, fertilization, pruning, and pest control.

A number of problems are already associated with the practice of growing Taxus in containers: toxicities and deficiencies of minor elements, macro-nutrient deficiencies, light requirement needs, and poor root growth.

Objectives of this five-year project are:

(1) An investigation into the relationship between rates of nitrogen fertilizer, shading, and media on growth of Taxus.

(2) Establishment of deficiency and toxicity ranges of boron, copper, iron, manganese, and zinc as an aid in leaf analysis programs.

(3) An investigation of various means of accelerating growth of Taxus liners in containers immediately after propagation.

(4) An investigation of specific periods of nutrient uptake in Taxus and to determine if fertilizer applications can be timed for more effective utilization.

(5) A comparison of container- and field-grown Taxus for adaptability and survival rates in the landscape.

The \$5,500 grant marks the first substantial commitment to nursery industry research made by the 500 member Ohio Nurserymen's Assoc. It is the hope of the ONA that annual grants of similar amounts can be made to deserving research projects.

The ONA will share all research findings with the national nursery industry as results become available.

*Continues on page 65*

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## NURSERY

## Roundup registered for nursery crops

Use of Roundup (glyphosate) in nursery crops has been given EPA approval, announced the Monsanto Chemical Co. Its long-awaited use has been approved for application as a preplant treatment to control weeds prior to planting all nursery crops and as a directed spray under 15 genera of woody ornamentals.

The following are some of the perennial weeds that are controlled at rates of 2-5 quarts/acre depending on species, stage of weed growth, and environmental conditions: bindweed, bluegrass, cattail, dock, fescues, Johnsongrass, milkweed, orchardgrass, quackgrass, and thistle.

Roundup will be used as a directed spray toward the base of established woody ornamental species, such as: arborvitae, azalea, boxwood, crabapple, euonymus, fir, hollies, lilac, magnolia, maple, oak, privet, pine, spruce, and yew.

Extreme care must be exercised to avoid contact of spray with foliage

of desirable turfgrasses, trees, shrubs, or other desirable vegetation since severe damage or destruction may result.

## EQUIPMENT

## Tree transplanter may help China mechanize

Hoping for a contract for 1,000 tree transplanters, Big John Manufacturing Co., Heber Springs, AK, is shipping a 2,800 cubic foot truck and machine to China.

The company received a formal invitation from the Chinese to demonstrate the device in Peking.

Big John stockholders Sam and Jim Manatt observed tree transplanting by hand on a recent trip to China. The company has printed a brochure in Chinese for the event.

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JUNE 1979/WEEDES TREES & TURF 65



## IRRIGATION

### IA and IDIA reach consolidation accord

The Presidents of The Irrigation Association (IA) and the International Drip Irrigation Association (IDIA) have announced to their memberships an agreement reached between them which will result in the consolidation of their efforts for the betterment of the entire irrigation industry.

Taylor Ramsey of The IA and John Riddering of the IDIA said in a joint letter to their members that "... we have agreed to associate together in the future for the benefit of all of us." As a result of the agreement, the two Presidents are "jointly recommending and calling for the immediate joining of The Irrigation Association by all members of the drip/trickle industry."

Discussions between the two organizations on a coordination of their efforts have been conducted over the last two years and culminated recently in a contract signed by their respective officers. The contract details arrangements whereby the outstanding debts and obligations of the IDIA will be paid through a rebating to the IDIA of certain funds over the coming months. The contract also looks to the reestablishment of the drip/trickle scholarship fund and details consignment of IDIA publications to The IA for sales to the industry.

In addition to the basic contract between the IDIA and The IA, a letter has been received by the IDIA from President Ramsey outlining the policies and procedures The IA will follow in the organization and operation of The IA's new Drip/Trickle Division. The IDIA Board of Directors has unanimously endorsed the agreement and its individual members are taking immediate steps to become members of The IA, an action which they hope will encourage other members of the drip/trickle industry to do also.

All members of the drip/trickle industry have received membership applications for The IA along with the joint letter. They are being urged to join the IA at this time and to participate in The Irrigation Technical Conference in San Francisco on February 18-21.



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