

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

Urban forestry, pollution were arborist meeting topics

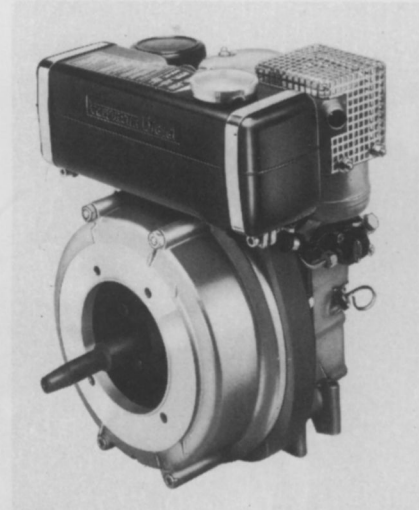
More than 400 professionals in arboriculture gathered in San Diego in August to judge the state of tree programs across North America.

The shade tree's status in the urban environment seemed to be the big topic of the meeting. Dr. Theodore Kozlowski of the University of Wisconsin Department of Forestry discussed resistance to urban pollution by tree species. Acid rains dropping pollution hundreds of miles from the source present problems national in scope. Kozlowski said, "We must develop pollution resistant trees by arborists working with breeders on a regional basis."

USDA Forest Service representa-

tive Robert Nobles and NAA Executive Director Robert Felix debated urban forestry's pending implementation. Nobles said the urban forester can't plant, prune or select shade trees. Nobles asked for assistance in compiling a list of consulting arborists for urban forestry programs in the U.S.

Felix stressed there is no control or consistent arrangement by The Forest Service across the country. "The caliber of urban foresters and forestry programs varies from state to state," he said. Felix questioned why the private sector was not consulted for input on urban forestry.



Briggs & Stratton Corp. has added small diesel engines to its product line by acquiring Faryman Diesel of West Germany. The company plans to market and service a complete line of small diesel engines in the US and other areas not previously served by Faryman.

RECYCLING

Brew feeds the land in experimental project

Southern Turf Nurseries, Inc. of Tifton, Ga. has combined efforts with Anheuser-Busch, Inc. to grow turf adjacent to Anheuser-Busch's Jacksonville, Fla., brewery by utilizing liquid brewery waste streams high in nutrients.

The turf is being grown on a 300-acre site about one mile north and adjacent to the brewery on property owned by Anheuser-Busch.

John Mueller, brewery plant manager, says that since starting on May 11, the project has substantially reduced loadings sent to the Jacksonville sewage treatment plant. About one million gallons daily of almost three million gallons of liquid wastes are now being diverted to the turf farm.

Director of Environmental Engineering and Resources of Anheuser-Busch, Robert R. Imsande, says from that a conservation standpoint, the Jacksonville turf farm has twin

benefits. "First, it would require substantial energy to make the amount of fertilizer for turf growth which we are providing from an already existing source. This energy is now free for other uses. Second, since brewery waste streams are over 95 percent water, we are practicing water conservation. This water is going directly back to the ground rather than requiring energy intensive treatment at municipal waste treatment facilities."

It makes good sense, Imsande says, to put the brew's natural ingredients — hops, malt, rice, yeast, and corn — back into the ground where they can replenish the soil.

LAWN CARE

Industry leaders establish ethics code

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America's executive committee has adopted a code of ethics and symbol of good practice. It will be presented to the public via

the press, local advertisements, and use of logos on trucks, stationery, and business premises.

"This newly formed association is acting to let the public know what to expect from qualified service companies," says PLCAA President Jerry Faulring of Professional Turf Corp./Hydro Lawn.

Membership in the association requires a principal owner/manager's signature indicating compliance with the established code of ethics.

"There may be companies in the industry that abide by good business conduct that do not become members," states Glenn Bostrom, executive director. "The important point is that by their membership, companies do agree to support the code of ethics, standards, and objectives of this association."

Some of the guidelines each PLCAA member agrees to follow

are: to adhere to recognized agronomic principles of turf management; to maintain a reputation for fair and honorable conduct in relations with customers, employees, and suppliers; and to conduct business upon the basis of service to the public and the lawn care industry.

NURSERY

Survey shows raise in nursery wages

A survey of hourly wages and fringe benefits conducted by the Wholesale Nursery Growers of America shows an average 30 percent increase in wages for both seasonal and year-round workers over the past three-and-a-half years.

Hospital benefits have changed only slightly since 1974. Eight percent fewer skilled seasonal employees are covered by a plan, while more seasonal and year-round supervisors have full hospitalization benefits.

A similar pattern exists in life insurance coverage, with supervisors enjoying increases in full coverage. About 60 percent of unskilled seasonal employees receive no benefits in this area, the same as in 1974. Overall, WNGA found that employers tend to cover workers fully or not at all.

On the other hand, the average full coverage in company pension plans has dropped from 32 to 19 percent for seasonal employees, and from 30 to 23 percent for year-round personnel. The newer pension coverage laws appear to be making it too expensive for the small grower to continue at the rate of coverage offered in 1974.

CONFERENCE

Grounds managers to meet in Nashville

Hundreds of delegates representing management of parks, campuses, golf courses, and other large grounds areas will convene Oct. 28-Nov. 1 at the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tenn., for the ninth National Institute on Park and Grounds Management.

A concurrent National Turfgrass Conference will offer sessions on all

Housing starts down, but not badly

As expected, high interest rates on mortgages are moderating new home construction, but not to the degree expected by government and private analysts.

Furthermore, the number of building permits issued in August shows the housing market holding strong into the fall. Both starts and permits were higher than predicted by a Commerce Department report, but lower than 1978.

August starts and permits indicate there will be about 1,790,000 new homes built in 1979, up from the 1,600,000 predicted by the Commerce Department.

Foliage specs goal of Florida group, ALCA

The Florida Foliage Association (FFA), representing growers of interior foliage plant material, and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America (ALCA), representing commercial landscape contractors involved in interior landscape installation work, will collaborate on a unified set of industry specifications for foliage, according to a joint announcement. Committees representing both organizations will work together on the publication of the Plant Materials Specifications sections of the next edition of the "Guide to Specifications for Interior Landscaping."

The joint activity was initiated following Board approval of FFA expenditures to produce accurate, full-color photographs in the next edition of the book, which has been an ALCA publication until now. The two committees will cooperate fully in the production of the next text, which will be accepted by both groups as the industry standard.

Design-related material in other sections of the new edition will be developed with the active participation of the professional organizations active in interior design — the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Society of Interior Design, and the Institute of Business Design — working together with the ALCA and FFA committees.

The next edition of the "Guide to Specifications for Interior Landscaping" will begin development this fall, and is expected to be completed and published in 1981 or early 1982.

Minimum highway landscape standards urged

Landscape groups have submitted written support of proposed changes to the Highway Beautification Act to the Federal Highway Administration which would put highway landscaping on a matched fund basis with states. In the same statement, AAN, NLA, and ALCA urged the Administration to set minimum highway landscaping standards and to redirect efforts to more landscaping and scenic enhancement programs.

- Specifically, the statement proposed:
- highway landscaping should be done under separate prime contracts
 - all contractors should be prequalified
 - performance bond should be required
 - pre-bid conferences should be held
 - inspection procedures should be more uniform
 - outdoor advertising standards should be set.

NLA residential landscape program announced

The National Landscape Association has announced its 10th Annual National Residential Landscape Awards Program.

Entries and information requests should be directed to the National Landscape Association, 230 Southern Building, Washington, D.C. 20005, 202-737-4060

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

Surface mining regulations in jeopardy

Legislation pending in Congress could deal a blow to reclamation contractors and manufacturers of revegetation equipment and supplies. The legislation would return primary enforcement of reclamation regulations to the states and give them more time to meet Federal reclamation guidelines.

The Senate passed a bill (69-26) giving states 12 months to file state plans and delaying Federal lands programs until states have their own completed. A House bill is months from passage and a conference committee will probably be needed.

Congressmen are attempting to lighten the load of tough air quality standards and reclamation requirements on soft coal producers.

Although many states had existing requirements for revegetation, the Federal regulations were expected to cause a boom in reclamation work for outside contractors.

Senate nixes plant services for government

The Senate attached an amendment to the H.U.D. appropriations bill to prohibit any expenditures by the Federal government for plant care or watering services.

The amendment was not included in the original House bill and no solution has yet been reached in conference committee. Known as the Sasser amendment, the cuts could be misconstrued to costs for other horticultural services performed for the government agencies.

Firms may soon get capital back quicker

A bill shortening the length of time for businesses to recover investment capital for modernization and expansion may soon pass both Houses. The Capital Cost Recovery Act of 1979 will establish three classes for capital recovery periods:

Class I: non-residential structures and buildings (ten years)

Class II: all depreciable personal property (five years)

Class III: automobiles and light-duty trucks less than \$100,000 (three years)

Farm labor contractors beware of enforcement

National and regional nursery associations are warning members who use migrant or other forms of agricultural labor, to meet standards set by the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act. Enforcement has reportedly been stepped up and many nurseries could face fines of \$5,000 or more according to AAN.

In other action, EPA may study exposure to pesticides by migrant workers. The Department of Labor is expected to ask EPA to handle monitoring and exposure studies relative to migrant workers while the Labor Department provides compliance and enforcement.

Also, a bill has been introduced in the Senate to provide temporary worker visas for 180 days for peak harvest periods. Quotas would be established to limit the number of visas.

AAN objects to USDA plant patents

AAN and the National Association of Plant Patent Owners filed a joint letter to the Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps opposing the transfer of plant patent administration from the Department of Commerce to USDA. The letter said under similar reasoning weapons should be patented by the Department of Defense, automobiles through the Department of Transportation, etc.

phases of turf management, including handling of equipment and vegetation, contract maintenance, personnel, and management. A number of sessions are aimed at energy conservation as well as water conservation.

A large display of products and equipment will be featured. There will also be on-site tours of campuses and parks in the Nashville area.

PARKS

Park program will distribute \$730 million

More than 100 communities in the United States have applied for federal funds totaling \$20 million in matching grants under the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program.

Administration of the funds begins October 1 to those cities showing the most critical need for park and recreation aid. Sometime in November or December the second round of funds, totaling \$40 to \$50 million, will be given. Additional funds will be designated in March, July, and October for 1980 at the same rate and continuing through 1983.

The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, a bureau of the Department of the Interior, has been authorized to distribute the funds for the \$730 million program, which the President signed into law in November, 1978.

Most of the money, according to program guidelines, should be used for rehabilitation, including remodeling, expanding, or developing existing outdoor or indoor recreation areas and facilities. Projects may include improvements in park landscapes, building, and support facilities, but exclude routine maintenance and upkeep activities.

Some of the funds are for innovation. These are intended for cities who show cost-effective ways of changing physical recreation resources, such as land and buildings, into actual recreation opportunities for neighborhood residents.

There are 368 cities and counties eligible to receive direct matching grants. Landscape contractors and architects, parks maintenance personnel, and anyone wanting to know if his city has applied for a grant, should contact his mayor's office, where all information has been sent.