

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## Safety reg for mowers poses market problems

Severe disruptions will occur within the lawn mower industry because of the recent decision by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to deny an extension on the effective date of a new federal safety standard, according to Dennis C. Dix, executive director of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute.

Confusion will hit the marketplace, Dix says, because the availability of a reliable brake/clutch device is still in doubt, especially by the Dec. 31, 1981 compliance date. Power mowers manufactured after that date must comply with the requirement that the blade stop within three seconds after a user leaves the operating position.

"We were extremely disappointed in the Commission's decision," said Dix. "The industry is conducting an all-out testing effort but manufacturers must begin tooling immediately to meet the standard, and because many companies are not close to having a reliable device, they are faced with the very real possibility of going out of business

or dropping their walk-behind line of mowers."

A spokesman from Jacobsen echoed Dix's remarks. He said the company knows of various companies who are working on the device, but nobody yet has it perfected. Compliance will raise the cost of Jacobsen mowers an estimated \$40 to \$60.

A Toro spokesman estimated the same increase in price after the brake/clutch device has been installed. Toro does not anticipate any difficulty in ob-

taining the extra hardware, mainly because the company is developing its own.

Dix noted that the effective date of the regulation falls in the middle of the industry's normal production year with the result that the consumer will be offered a choice between complying and non-complying mowers in the marketplace for the 1982 mowing season. Of course, the non-complying will be cheaper, pressuring sales of the major mower companies.

### GATHERING

#### Northeast nurserymen combine meetings

The recent experiment of the Massachusetts and New England Nurserymen's Association to combine their summer meeting was a tremendous success, drawing 800 people.

Beautiful weather, well-organized activities, exhibitor displays, and an attractive site—Weston Nurseries, Hopkinton, MA—contributed to the day's success. Weston, the largest wholesale grower in Massachusetts with 500 acres under cultivation, is well-known for introducing new varieties of plants and experimenting with different methods of growing. The boards of directors of the two associations decided to combine the two meetings since they had been held previously in the state a week apart. Their success indicates this event will likely occur next year.

### TURF

#### Golf Show will top all past in exhibit space

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 52nd International Turfgrass Conference and Show has already filled more exhibit hall space than any previous meetings in the group's history.

This year's meeting, scheduled for the Anaheim Convention Center Jan. 24-30, starts with a preconference golf tournament on two of the West Coast's best golf courses. It continues with seven preconference seminars, three days of education sessions, the USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Conference, and a golf course tour.

Preconference seminars will run Jan. 24-25 and concern nutrition, disease, insect identification, irrigation, management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and photography. The show itself is scheduled for Jan. 27-29 and will feature more than 70,000 square feet of exhibit space filled with equipment, products, and services. Throughout the week, experts in turfgrass, equipment, and related fields will speak.

GCSAA has planned a ladies program, social events, such as a trip to Disneyland, and a seven-day tour of Hawaii after the show. For more information, contact GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044, 913/841-2240.

### PESTS

#### Study shows severe gypsy moth damage

Gypsy moths defoliated Northeast trees growing on 5.1 million acres of land from Maine to Maryland this year.

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A product service training certification program has been established by Jacobsen to teach students proficiency in turf care equipment maintenance and repair. Students receive award certificates and product service patches by completing each of three levels of training. Ralph Sylvester, Jr. (right) manager of product training, explains operation of greens care equipment at a previously held program.

# LANDSCAPE

## CONTRACTOR NEWS

### North Carolina groups combine meetings

Landscape contractors, landscape architects, and nurserymen in North Carolina have worked together to plan an annual meeting involving all three organizations.

The NC Landscape Contractors, the NC Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects, and the NC Association of Nurserymen will be jointly sponsoring an annual meeting and trade show Jan. 4-6. The meeting will take place at the Radisson Hotel in Charlotte and the trade show will be held in the Charlotte Civic Center.

### Interior Plantscape Association draws 500

The second gathering of the recently-formed Interior Plantscape Association attracted additional observers, exhibitors, and award winners to the group's annual meeting in Dallas.

Work sessions offered participants the chance to listen to experts, exchange ideas, and comment on personal experiences. Tom Ellis of 3D International in Houston delivered the keynote address which dealt with the interaction and conflicts of architects, landscape architects, and designers with interior plantscape professionals.

A panel of judges awarded 21 winners as the best examples of interior plantscaping design and maintenance in this country and abroad. Prizes ranged from less than \$5,000 to more than \$25,000.

Newly elected officers are: Tom Woodham, The Potted Plant, Atlanta, president; John Pignatore, Tropical Foliage, Inc., Jefferson Township, NJ, vice president/eastern sector; Michael Brief, Designers Plant Service, Santa Ana, CA, vice president/western sector; Barry Wood, Botanical Decorators, Silver Spring, MD, treasurer; and Carole Horowitz, Plantscape, Inc., Pittsburgh, secretary.

### ASLA publicity reaches 160 million

Approximately 160 million viewers saw the public service announcements sponsored by the American Society of Landscape Architects, according to Edward Able, executive director of ASLA.

The three 60-second announcements were segments of the short movie, "A Legacy of Living," an award-winning educational film that teaches the public what landscape architects do and the aesthetic benefits of their work. It was submitted to the top 300 television stations in the U.S., whose response topped 160 million viewers.

"It exceeded what I hoped it would do," says Ed Able. "We are selling landscape architects and also selling the Green Industry. Selling a living environment helps produce business for all members of the Green Industry."

say officials at the Federal Dept. of Agriculture.

The states of New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey were hit the hardest. In New York, the hungry pests defoliated 2.4 million acres, more than 15 times the amount damaged in 1979. In New Jersey, mostly the northern part, gypsy moths defoliated 440,000 acres. In Connecticut, 272,000 acres — a substantial amount in the western part of the state — were defoliated.

Little has checked the ravage of the gypsy moth this year. The Agriculture Dept. experts say that next year may be even worse. The gypsy moths have left behind huge egg masses this fall which should hatch into caterpillars late next May and early June.

Foresters are planning their counter attack for next year, but suggest that fertilizing, watering, and pruning healthy trees may be the best prevention.



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# GOVERNMENT UPDATE

## EMPLOYEES

### Nurserymen offer personnel workshop

The American Association of Nurserymen has developed a personnel management workshop to help its members learn how to manage and motivate employees.

The three-day course, known as the Professional Effectiveness Program, or PEP, has been conducted successfully in various parts of the country. It will be held in Columbia, MD, Jan. 19-21 and again in Hyannis, MA, Feb. 17-19.

For information on the programs, contact Bob Fortna at the American Association of Nurserymen, 230 Southern Bldg., Washington, DC 20005, 202/737-4060.

## COMPANY

### Wisconsin Marine, Inc. changes name

Wisconsin Marine, Inc. of Johnson Creek, WI, manufacturers of Bob-Cat lawnmowers and snow throwers, has changed its name to Ransomes Inc.

The name change follows the development of a new corporation, which is a subsidiary of Ransomes Sims and Jeffries Ltd. of Ipswich, England. With this new affiliation, the company will retain its separate management and control.

"The new alignment of this corporation expresses our complete dedication to the lawn and turf industry," says Dane T. Scag, chairman of the board. "The same strong commitment to serve the industry exists in Ransomes Inc."

## INGENUITY

### Engineer proposes use for Silvex disposal

Home and garden fertilizer made with Silvex, which has been banned and must be disposed of, could be formulated with sludge to reforest land that's been ravaged by Mt. St. Helens, says a civil engineer in Portland, OR.

George Ward says his work shows that 99.9 percent of the herbicide, including the dioxin contained in it, will be completely degraded within 60 days after it is spread on the ground.

At a rate of 300 pounds per acre of the material, it will take nearly 29 million pounds to fertilize the most severely damaged area of the mountain. Approximately 36 million pounds of the Silvex-formulated fertilizer are now stored at different locations in the U.S. waiting to be disposed of.

### President signs Regulatory Flexibility Act

President Carter has signed the Regulatory Flexibility Act (S. 299) which requires regulatory agencies to address the special problems of small businesses in any new regulations. In addition, agencies would have to review all existing rules which adversely affect a small business.

### Railroad regulatory reform bill passes

The Railroad Regulatory Reform bill (PL 96-448) was signed into law in October.

Basically, the bill gives railroads greater price-setting flexibility with less interference from the Interstate Commerce Commission. The legislation also attempts to promote competition among railroads and protect those shippers who are dependent solely on railroads for their transportation needs.

### President signs Crop Insurance bill

President Carter has signed the Federal Crop Insurance Act which was recently passed by both the House and Senate after a two-year battle.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ed Jones (D-TN) and Sen. Walter Huddleston (D-KY), was amended on the House floor by Congressmen Panetta (D-CA) and Coehlo (D-CA) to specifically include nursery crops.

Participation in this program is voluntary, but it could provide nurserymen with savings on their insurance. The bill states that the Federal government will pay 30 percent of the premium for coverage up to 65 percent of the normal crop yield. Private insurers will be able to underwrite this insurance.

### Director of National Arboretum retires

Dr. John L. Creech, director of the U.S. National Arboretum and one of the world's best-known horticulturists, has retired.

Dr. Creech began his career with the Department of Agriculture in 1947, and has held several positions in the department's plant science programs. He is recognized as a world leader in the field of plant explorations for ornamentals, specializing in the wild and cultivated ornamental trees and shrubs of the Far East, particularly azaleas, camellias, and hollies.

### Congress gets veto power on EPA regs

A House-Senate Conference Committee has granted Congress the power to veto certain Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The measure was approved to extend legislation, which is part of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, through September 1981. Both the Senate and House of Representatives must approve the conference report and President Carter must sign it before it becomes law.

The legislative veto provision obligates the EPA administrator to submit proposed rules and regulations under the FIFRA Act for congressional review. If Congress adopts a resolution which disapproves an EPA rule or regulation within 90 days, it would not become effective.

The rule could also become effective after 60 calendar days of continuous sessions by Congress if no committee or House reports a concurrent resolution of disapproval, or if neither house adopts such a resolution.