

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## PESTS

### Gypsy moth plagues Northeast trees

The gypsy moth and other types of caterpillars are wrecking havoc on oaks, poplars, and fruit trees in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Long Island, and parts of Pennsylvania and New York.

In areas of severe infestation, the pests are defoliating or greatly reducing the vigor of trees. Entomologists say that if the problem continues through this summer and next, they expect to see high losses of trees.

Joe Savage, an entomologist with the Nassau County Cooperative Extension, says that three years of defoliation expose trees to severe winter damage. After this three years, 80 percent of a healthy stand of trees will die in five to eight years. For trees in poor health, 80 percent will die in three to five years.

Savage says that the past mild winter did not kill a great number of the pests. Others blame the problem on a peak in the cyclical caterpillar population and restrictions on spraying pesticides.

In northeast Connecticut, scientists have found 10,000 egg masses per acre. Towns in other parts of the state have reported infestations, with no pattern of location, except that many have come from western Connecticut. One indicator of their preference may be the type of native trees. Gypsy moth caterpillars feed primarily on oak, poplar, willow, apple, speckled alder, basswood, and gray and river birch.

In Nassau County, one resident heard caterpillars dropping from trees one night "like hailstones falling." A Massachusetts resident, driven from his home, said the caterpillars poured from old poplar trees "like water from a faucet."

The eastern tent caterpillar and fall canker worm have also ravaged foliage, but these have about completed their feeding.

Although the problem is not as bad as 1971, when 600,000 acres were defoliated by the gypsy moth and elm span worm, it is more serious than last year, says Ken Welsh, assis-

tant entomologist for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

Welsh answers calls daily on the pest and provides information to homeowners. It is too late to begin spraying trees, but he suggests a

band of wax paper or sticky material like tar paper to keep the caterpillars off or stop them from spreading. Yet there is nothing to prevent the wind blowing caterpillars from an infested to uninfested area.

## SOIL

### Volcanic ash fair as soil, poor fertilizer

Mt. St. Helens volcanic ash "might not be too bad" as a soil material, a University of Idaho soil scientist says.

Dr. Denny Naylor, professor of soil science, said results of first analysis of ash samples showed it to be high in sulfur and potassium and medium in phosphorus. The material also has a small amount of nitrate-ammonia nitrogen, around 10 parts per million.

He said the nitrogen content was a surprise as was the amount of chloride and sulfate salts of sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium. While the salt content is not high, there is enough to make the material "a pretty good electrical conductor." Salts of calcium and magnesium

make up most of the salt compounds in the ash, and the sodium content is low.

Meanwhile, specialists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture have begun gathering reports from federal, state, and local officials in the state of Washington to coordinate emergency programs for farmers and others affected by Mt. St. Helens' eruption.

Nursery growers may apply for disaster loans from the Farmers Home Administration or Small Business Administration (either, not both). Landscape and retail firms should apply to SBA. The area must be declared a disaster area to receive federal assistance.



The first ride on the Excel 261 mower occurred this May at the company's Optimistic Day in Hesston, KS. About 350 people attended the plant tours and equipment demonstrations. The 261 sports a three-way deck with side discharge, rear discharge, and mulching modes.

# LANDSCAPE

## CONTRACTOR NEWS

### **ASLA gets home in downtown Washington**

On Monday, April 29, the Executive Committee of the American Society of Landscape Architects voted to enter into a lease with option to purchase a building at 1733 Connecticut Ave.

ASLA President Robert Woerner said the committee decided the property met requirements to protect ASLA's long-term rental costs and to invest in its future, and took the necessary action.

Woerner said: "A year from now, ASLA will be in its new quarters. Should all things go according to our plans, we will be located in our historic building on Connecticut Ave.—one which will be eventually acquired as our own."

Executive Director Ed Able said the soaring cost of real estate in the metropolitan Washington area motivated the action. "The one method of putting a cap on this spiral is to ultimately purchase our own property and stabilize our cost of office space. Needless to say, the result would mean more dollars for programs and less dollars for rent," Able said.

### **Maryland professor warns of scale insects**

Scale insects on camellia and some other ornamental shrubs could be especially severe this year because of a relatively mild winter, says Dr. Conrad B. Link, extension floriculture specialist and professor of horticulture at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Inspecting plants for insect and disease problems should head the list of things to do, Link says. Other priorities include shaping and pruning of azalea and other spring-flowering shrubs which have finished blooming. Also cut back poinsettia plants to save them for blooming again by next Christmas.

### **ALCA schedules interior short courses**

The Interior Landscape Div. of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America has designed a series of short courses for all personnel who are involved in any phase of interior maintenance.

The short courses will include a review of basic horticultural knowledge, followed by a lengthy discussion of plant problems and solutions. Robert T. DeNeve, a horticultural expert with Tropical Ornamentals of Delray Beach, FL, and Dr. William Noble, instructor at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, will conduct the programs.

Locations, dates, and contacts are: West Palm Beach, July 30, contact Laine Craft, Living Interiors, 305/842-1823; Atlanta, Aug. 1, contact David Korstad, Sedgefield Atlanta, 404/872-0701; Seattle, Aug. 21, contact Jack Ballard, The Greenery, Inc., 206/622-3373; and San Diego, Aug. 23, contact Nancy Hughes, Habitat International Design, 714/753-5007.

### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

#### **First program set for roadside management**

The Transportation Research Board's committees on landscape and environmental design and roadside maintenance are hosting a joint session on vegetation management in San Antonio, TX, Aug. 4-8.

The week-long program will include presentations on chemicals and machinery now being manufactured, operations research now being conducted that may affect the future work programs, side effects of a roadside management program, current practice, and a comprehensive field demonstration trip.

Byron Blaschke, chief engineer, maintenance and operations, will

direct the meeting. For more details or arrangements, contact Robert Guinn, engineer of maintenance, Texas Dept. of Highways and Public Transportation, Highway Building, Austin, TX 78701.

### EQUIPMENT

#### **Snow thrower shipments increase 40 percent in 1980**

U.S. manufacturers shipped 1,571,000 walk-behind snow throwers during the shipment year which ended Feb. 29, 1980, according to the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute.

Although this represents an increase of 40% over the 1,118,000 units shipped in the 1979 model year, the past winter's extremely light snowfall in major markets has resulted in higher-than-normal inventory at the dealer level. Factory value of the units shipped was \$396 million, up 58% from last year's \$250 million.

#### **Convention will stress togetherness theme**

"Together Through The 80's" will be the theme this year at the 105th Annual Convention and Trade Show sponsored by the American Association of Nurserymen.

Educational sessions each day will deal with contemporary topics of the industry, which is meeting at the historic Radisson Muehlbach Hotel, Kansas City, MO, July 12-16. The trade show promises to display the latest products and services available to nursery business people.

Nine other national associations will be meeting at the same time, as well as various committee meetings, regional caucuses, legislative and research conferences, and state meetings.

For more information, contact Robert S. Fortna, 230 Southern Building, Washington, DC 20005, 202/737-4060.

### NURSERYMEN

#### **Reilly named exec sec for Mailorder Assn.**

Ann Reilly has accepted the position of executive secretary/public rela-

# GOVERNMENT

## UPDATE

tions coordinator for the Mailorder Association of Nurserymen.

Reilly is also executive secretary of the New York State Flower Industries, the New York State Turf Grass Association, the Long Island Flower Growers Association, and the Long Island Horticultural Society. She has authored several gardening books and has contributed numerous articles and photographs to many gardening and shelter magazines.

### PESTICIDES

#### Dutch Elm control gets EPA approval

Elm owners who have injected their trees with Arbotect 20-S systemic fungicide to prevent Dutch Elm disease for the past two years can continue treatments this year.

Two years ago when Arbotect was first registered, the EPA placed a restriction on the label specifying that the fungicide should not be used for more than two consecutive years. The reason was to allow more time for research into the long-range effects of continuous annual treatments. Since subsequent testing has shown no significant problems, the restriction has been dropped.

Using a fungicide in this capacity is one of the four important steps in controlling the disease, says Dr. Ronald Landis, director of agricultural research and development for MSD AGVET, Div. of Merck & Co., Inc. Other steps include good sanitation, insect control, and elimination of root grafts.

### EQUIPMENT

#### Program proposed for equipment anti-theft

The Construction Industry Manufacturers Association (CIMA) has been studying a special anti-theft training program for law enforcement, said Earl O. Christianson, director of security for J I Case.

Speaking to the Heavy Equipment Committee of the International Association of Automotive Theft Investigators (IAATI), Christianson said the proposed educational program is also studying resource materials to assist in identification and recovery of stolen equipment.

A Case study made of law enforcement agency response to the equip-

*Continues on page 78*

#### Feds propose ban on equipment with PCB

Pesticide and fertilizer companies would be required to remove equipment containing liquid polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) or flush the PCB from the equipment under regulations proposed by the USDA, FDA, and EPA.

Producers and processors would also be required to remove any liquid PCB stored separately at their facilities under proposals by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services and the EPA.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carol Tucker Foreman said the proposals represent a coordinated effort by the federal agencies to protect consumers from environmental contamination of the food supply and protect producers and processors from catastrophic losses which may result from such contamination.

#### Regs for wage and hour laws may change

Changes in regulations have been proposed to facilitate the hearing and appeal process for issues concerning the Davis-Bacon and related acts, the Service Contract Act, and Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

Under the Service Contract Act, the hearing and appeal process regarding enforcement, debarment, and wage determination matters would be revised. A Board of Service Contract Appeals would be created to hear appeals from decisions of administrative law judges.

The existing Wage Appeals Board would continue to hear appeals involving the Davis-Bacon and related acts. The proposal would also establish certain new procedures, such as formal hearings before administrative law judges concerning enforcement and debarment of contractors from federal contracts for violating the acts.

New procedures would be established for expediting cases involving the Contract Hours and Safety Standards Act.

#### National Arbor Day bill passes Senate

The bill to annually designate the last Friday in April as Arbor Day has passed the Senate but needs 218 members from the House to cosponsor it.

The House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service has a policy that this type of bill will neither be heard nor reported unless 218 members cosponsor it. Neither will the committee hold hearings on the Senate-passed bill. House Bill (HJR-159), introduced by Rep. Minish (D-NJ), has 22 cosponsors to date (May 31).

#### EPA bars six new plastic compounds

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued the first order of its kind to prohibit the manufacture of six new chemicals on grounds that they may pose serious risks to human health and the environment.

The chemicals, called "phthalate esters," are "plasticizers" used to give flexibility to polyvinyl chloride plastic products such as garden hoses, floor tiles, and refrigerator gaskets.

EPA imposed the manufacturing ban under the Toxic Substances Control Act because of evidence indicating that the new substances could pose a cancer risk to production workers and could kill and deform fish and other organisms.

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ment theft problem included discussions with the FBI, Law Enforcement Assistance Assn., International Assn. of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs Assn., and several local, state, and regional enforcement officials.

### RECLAMATION

#### OSM seeks cleanup of prime farmland rule

The Office of Surface Mining has proposed to define "contiguous land," which would satisfy a "grandfather" exemption for the mining of coal on prime farmland.

The proposed regulation would allow coal removal to continue on prime farmlands without meeting special performance requirements if they were being mined (1) under a permit prior to August 3, 1977, the date of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act; (2) under a revision or renewal of that mining permit, as these terms are used in

the Act, or (3) are continuations of existing permitted mining in the same contiguous pit on lands on which the operator had the right to mine prior to Aug. 3, 1977.

In addition, the proposed regulation sets June 3, 1982, for ending prime farmland grandfather exceptions allowed by the Act.

### GOLF

#### James Long named NGF President

James M. Long, senior vice president with Spalding Worldwide, was elected president of the National Golf Foundation during its semi-annual Board of Directors meeting held in late April at the Doral Hotel and Club in Miami, FL.

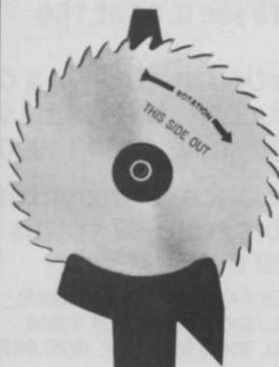
Long joined Spalding's engineering department in 1932. He has held many management positions with Spalding, including vice president of manufacturing and vice president of engineering.



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