

# GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

## EQUIPMENT

### Equipment theft cuts into dearer profits, answers needed

Manufacturers are groping for solutions and contractors grow angrier as losses from equipment theft cut deeply into profits.

Discussion continues among manufacturers and their trade associations, contractors have united in crime prevention committees, insurance companies raise premiums, and legislation is set before Congress. Yet no program has been established that will stop the millions lost through theft of construction equipment.

The most recent figures from the Associated General Contractors show that the value of stolen heavy construction equipment in 1978 totals \$341,850,000. This averages to a loss of \$10,425 per contractor. But some think that this is a small estimate of the actual loss.

Jim Supica, president of United

Construction Co. in Overland Park, KS, thinks that the loss of time and work through missing equipment, although impossible to calculate, would significantly increase the original total. "It is an inflationary problem we're dealing with constantly," he says.

Supica is also chairman of the General Contractors crime prevention committee, which has 112 chapters in major cities and states. Some chapters have operation identification programs in which they put numbers on machines to identify them. Serial numbers are normally not stamped into equipment and criminals find them easy to change or remove.

The biggest problem is in the Southwest and southern Texas area, close to hijacking grounds at the Mexican border. "The situation on

the West coast is really trouble for the landscape industry," says Joe Brazan of the California Landscape Council. Losses from equipment theft in California alone totaled \$24,000,000 for 1978.

A member of the Farm & Industrial Equipment Institute said that the best way manufacturers have of coping with the problem is working with law enforcement agencies for some method to stop theft. But there is no active program and little they can do now, he said. Caterpillar does use a computerized system for tracking machines all over the world through discreet serial numbers.

Supica says that manufacturers could be doing a lot more. With the advanced technology built into machinery design, he thinks they could develop a system to make equipment more theft proof. "I would encourage contractors to support such a system," he says, even if it raised the price.

Brian Deery, secretary of the crime prevention committee, says manufacturers response to anti-theft devices is that 'if you want them, you can get them as an option with the machine.' Some manufacturers do offer them as an option.

The committee is also interested in protecting insurance companies, which would protect themselves, and train police officers. Representatives from chapters have gone to police academies to explain equipment and where to find serial numbers. General efforts include better lighting on the job site, fences, and moving equipment to central locations at night. The FBI, which has the resources for action, has promised to do something. It would like manufacturers to draw up a certificate of origin, hopefully unforgeable, which



**1980 Officers** for the National Arborist Association include: (seated, left to right) President-Elect Walter Money, Rockville, MD; President Bruce Walgren, W. Hartford, CN; Vice-President Eric Haupt, Sheffield, MA; and Secretary Lee Lesh, Saratoga, CA; (standing left to right) Treasurer Robert Mullane, White Plains, NY; Past President Larry Holkenborg, Sandusky, OH; Director Neil Engledow, Indianapolis, IN; Director George Tyler, Amherst, NH; and Director Robert Bartlett, Stamford, CN.

*Continues on page 14*

# LANDSCAPE

## CONTRACTOR NEWS

### Construction conference shows lack of unified solution to economy

Congressmen, representatives of executive agencies, and contractors could not agree on solutions to the economy at the Construction Industry Legislative Conference held in Washington, DC, in March. Although together in a spirit of mutual benefit, the various groups were divided over the proper answers.

Congressmen, in particular, presented a wide spectrum of plans to 550 members of construction trades (17 from ALCA). They expressed various opinions on the appropriateness of a tax cut and other suggestions to halt inflation.

The consensus of executive agency people, such as the EPA and USDA, was that the mild recession the country is in now will end in the third quarter of this year. A member of the Office of Management and Budget said that inflation this year will hover between 11 and 12 percent.

Contractors agreed that finding work is no problem, but getting financed is. A boost in money supply will pick the industry up.

### Interior landscape directory available

The Interior Landscape Div. of ALCA has published its new directory of interior landscape contractors, "Who's Who in Interior Landscaping," which includes listings for some 100 of the leading interior landscape firms across the country.

Listings contain the basic information to contact each company along with the contractor's specialties and a categorized firm size. It also tells the officers of the I.L.D.

The 16-page booklet is available from: ALCA Interior Landscape Div., 1750 Old Meadow Road, McLean, VA 22102. There is no charge but requestors are asked to send a self-addressed business (#10) envelope.

### Students publish landscape newsletter

The ALCA student chapter at Mississippi State University has published a newsletter which is being distributed to all graduates in landscape contracting from the university from 1973-79.

Features include guest speakers on campus from the industry, graduates in the curriculum, awards received by instructors for landscape, companies sponsoring scholarships, and more.

Industry firms are welcome to subscribe. Funds from the newsletter will be used for student field trips, attendance at industry meetings, and publication of the 1980 graduate directory. Write to: MSU/ALCA Student Chapter Newsletter, P.O. Drawer MQ, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

### FERTILIZER

### Fertilizer embargo could hurt U.S. growers

The U.S. embargo against fertilizer exports to the Soviet Union could cause higher fertilizer costs for American farmers this year, many experts believe.

The reason is that the U.S. also buys fertilizer from the Soviets. U.S. exports consist of phosphoric acid, a source of phosphate fertilizer. The Soviet Union sells the U.S. anhydrous ammonia, which yields nitrogen.

If the Soviets ban shipments of ammonia, it would sharply increase nitrogen prices and U.S. farmers use twice as much nitrogen as they do phosphates. Prices "would simply explode," says Larry Jones, an economist with Chase Econometric Associates Inc. He figures that nitrogen prices could jump 40 percent by June 1981.

The Wall Street Journal reported this and said, "U.S. fertilizer producers, rendered cautious by the boom-and-bust nature of their business, which went through a bust phase two years ago, are careful about predicting a renaissance for U.S. ammonia producers in the event of a Russian ammonia cutoff. Increased demand for U.S.-produced ammonia could spur the reopening of some of the 23 idle ammonia plants in this country, analysts say."

### PARKS

### More than 300 attend park training program

With the theme, "Strategies for effective management," the Great Lakes Park Training Institute held its thirty-fourth annual session of talks and workshops at Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN.

Ralph Wilson, chief recreation specialist of the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, gave the keynote address on "So you think you are a professional." Other sessions dealt with maintenance efficiencies, use of volunteers, vehicle problems, turfgrass and groundcover for fuel efficient maintenance, and topics concerning park directors. The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service simulated a meeting between park people and leaders of a

### News from page 10

would provide a paper trail wherever the equipment goes.

One thing manufacturers and contractors seem to agree on is that neither want more government rules and regulations, which the Motor

Vehicle Theft Prevention Act of 1979 would likely bring. "Manufacturers realize that if the situation continues, there'll be legislation that'll force things down their throat," says Deery. "They don't want that and neither do we."

*Continues on page 43*

typical city to show how to obtain cooperation in a given community.

Dr. Richard Lawson, director of the institute for the last 25 years, said, "I think the program was exceptionally good." He said that all chairmen and panels of the programs were concerned about the economy and discussed issues, such as alternative sources of power, turf efficiency, retardants, and less frequent mowing. Next year's program, to be held at the same site in February, will include more topics on private funding and how to support services with less income, Lawson said.

PESTICIDES

**EPA wants further study on Surflan**

The Environmental Protection Agency has asked for investigation of the pesticide Surflan, made by Eli Lilly & Co., after some workers charged it may lead to birth defects.

Although no evidence from the EPA or Lilly experiments indicates any hazards from Surflan, the trade name for oryzalin, workers at a GAF Corp. plant in New York, which makes the chemical, requested a ban on it. The International Chemical Workers Union claimed that members working at the GAF plant showed several children with birth defects.

A meeting between the EPA, Lilly, and a New York doctor who raised the question about Surflan's effects on workers couldn't identify any connection between the chemical and birth defects. The doctor termed it, "multiple coincidences of birth."

Lilly ran additional studies looking for possibilities of birth defects, and data from one of these last studies was questioned, said an Eli Lilly spokesman. "We felt data, which was supported also by outside people, was sufficient," he said.

PESTICIDES

**Group petitions rules for aerial application**

Friends of the Earth have petitioned Federal Aviation Administration and Environmental Protection Agency officials to tighten regulations for aerial application of pesticides to require written permission of adjacent

property owners within 1,000 feet of that property.

The petition to the EPA further requests permission of adjacent property owners be required to make ground application within 250 feet of boundary. This could preclude retail nurseries and homeowners from any spraying.

The American Association of Nurserymen will file against the pro-

posal, which assumes all pesticides are very hazardous poisons and that registration label restrictions on the applicator as to how a chemical is to be applied, on what plants and for control of what pests is ineffective.

The AAN urges members and all interested to forward comments to: Document Control Officer, Chemical Information Div., (TS-793), EPA,

*Continues on page 53*

**"Sound Conditioned"  
M & M Brush  
Chippers**

**for...  
less noise...  
more efficiency**

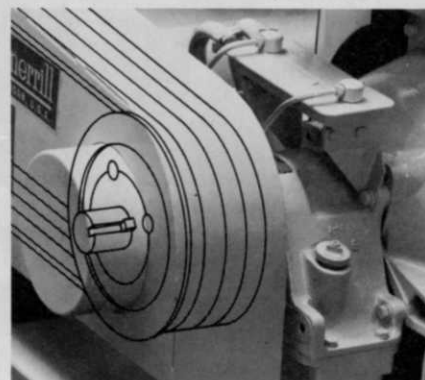


Applying engineering designs which "Sound Conditioned" our industrial scrap reduction machinery, Mitts & Merrill can modify our brush chippers for low noise levels. At the same time, those engineering features which have made Mitts & Merrill the leader for years have been retained.

\*Copyright Mitts & Merrill, Inc., 1973, 1974, 1975. All rights reserved.

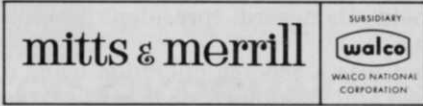


**Staggered knife pattern**, for years a Mitts & Merrill feature, has always resulted in a lower noise level. First, by segmenting the noise source. Second, through smoother cutting action. Third, by producing smaller chips.



**Optional torque converters** and the heaviest steel cylinder — even without an external flywheel — combine to give positive cutting action under the most rugged conditions. Isolates the engine from shock. Minimizes maintenance.

**Plus** • **Positive safety-lock pin** for greater operator safety • **Swing-away, folding feed chute** protects cutting chamber; allows instant access and increases maneuverability • **Heavy duty construction** includes coil spring, torsion-type suspension, and box tubular steel frame.



Dept. WTT 52, 109 McCoskry St., Saginaw, Michigan 48601

Write 130 on free information card

MAY 1980/WEEDS TREES & TURF

Room 447, East Tower, 401 M St. S.W., Washington, DC 20460; and Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Chief Counsel, ATT: Rules Docket (AGC-24), Docket 19448, 800 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20591.

SOIL

**College to give workshop on tree soils**

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) will host a five-day workshop on North American tree nursery soils July 28-Aug. 1.

Co-sponsored by ESF, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Canadian Forest Service, the workshop is designed to instruct tree nursery managers in the methods and benefits of managing tree nursery soils.

According to Dr. Lawrence P. Abrahamson, senior research associ-

ate at ESF and general program chairman for the workshop, the workshop will provide nurserymen with information on how to grow better seedlings faster and at a lower cost through soil analysis and management.

Some of the topics which will be covered include basic nursery soil physical properties, soil sampling techniques, the relationship between seedling growth and development and soils, seedling insect and disease problems related to nursery soil conditions, and nursery soil fertility.

For further information, write: Dean, School of Continuing Education, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210.

HORTICULTURE

**Indiana nurserymen present new award**

In honor of the late Robert Forbes of Vincennes, IN, the first Robert

Forbes Memorial Scholarship was presented at the Indiana Association of Nurserymen's annual winter meeting. The first winner was Mary K. Primus, a student at Vincennes University.

Friends of Mr. Forbes established and funded an endowment in his name which will provide an annual \$500 scholarship to a second year Landscape Horticulture student at Vincennes University. Each winner also receives a plaque.

PESTICIDES

**Fusarium Blight added to fungicide label**

Chipco 26019 fungicide has received EPA registration for the control of Fusarium Blight on all common turf grasses.

A long residual contact fungicide, Chipco 26019 should allow for the continued use of Kentucky bluegrass as a desirable turf grass specie on home lawns and golf course fair-

*Continues on page 60*



IT ARRIVES WITH THE LOAD, UNLOADS ITSELF . . . . THEN UNLOADS THE LOAD!



COMPARE this user proven material handler with other methods of job site unloading and the bottom line will show you that THERE IS NO BETTER WAY!!

**The SPYDER®**

THE SPYDER — A material handler that offers unequalled performance, low maintenance and operating costs. Over 800 are currently being used by SOD producers and allied industries across the U.S.A., Canada and England.



We also provide a custom-designed lightweight trailer for convenient towing behind a car or truck if this method better meets your requirements.

If you have delivery problems, let us show you how the Spyder can solve them.

For more information on the Spyder call or write: Mike Whitt - Sales Manager  
Foxcroft Development Associates  
5402 Edgewood Rd.  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
815-459-3351

Write 123 on free information card



## OTTERBINE Spray Sculpture Floating Fountains. Now you can clean up ponds and lakes naturally.

These self-contained water quality improvement systems help you keep unsightly algal growth and objectionable odors under control naturally, without costly chemicals.

And their sparkling spray displays may dramatically change the natural beauty of your ponds and lakes.

For the Otterbine dealer in your area contact:

### OTTERBINE

576 North St., Emmaus, PA 18049 • 1-215-965-6990

Write **175** on free information card

## SUPER D WEEDONE<sup>®</sup> APPLIED BY METER-MISER



Only way  
to total  
lawn weed  
control!

Super-D is the formulation that's right for you with broader coverage for your dollar and a broad range of weeds under control.



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.  
AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA 19002

Write **109** on free information card

### Reclamation

from page 56

damaged. South Dakota, Kansas, and Montana also ranked high in damage.

Of the total acreage damaged, 96 percent was cropland and three percent was rangeland. Topsoil loss of cropland is a critical problem with American agriculture supporting such measures as no-till farming and planting a cover crop during unproductive months. Rangeland losses are considered a threat to wildlife and natural fauna and floral.

### News from page 53

ways. Application of the Rhone-Poulenc product should begin when conditions first become favorable for disease development. Two additional applications should be made at 14 to 21 day intervals.

Chipco 26019 is also registered for control of Dollar Spot (including Benomyl resistant strains), Brown patch, Helminthosporium leaf spot and melting out, Fusarium patch, and suppression of gray and pink snow mold.

### SOIL

#### No-tillage cuts K leaching losses

Potassium leaching is a serious problem on sandy soils, but Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station researchers have found that no-tillage reduces the problem dramatically.

The researchers compared fields that were in continuous corn for eight years, from 1972 to 1979. Half the plots were plowed, disked, and cultivated, while half were planted without tillage in corn crop residues from the previous season.

In each case, 200 pounds of potash were broadcast each year for the entire period. By 1979, there was about 60 percent more soil potassium at the zero-to-three-inch soil depth on the no-till fields.

On the tilled fields, the level of soil potassium ranged from six parts per million (or 134 pounds per acre) at the zero-to-one-inch soil depth, to 127 parts per million (or 254 pounds per acre) at the six-to-nine-inch depth—clear evidence of leaching.