

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

Reseeding Mount St. Helens no routine project

A ravaged landscape and the logistical problems of working around it plus a still very volatile Mount St. Helens makes reseeding this area a formidable task.

For Wolfkill Feed & Fertilizer Co. of Monroe, WA, the challenge lies to reseed 20,000 acres of ash-covered land between Sept. 4 and 30.

The \$3 million project is vulnerable for a couple major reasons: early rains in this area, that average 140 inches a year, could destroy germinating turf; and a new eruption of the mountain amplifies the danger for any plant and human life in the area.

"There is no precedent set for a project like this," says Gene Stokes, contract specialist for the Soil Conservation Service. The federal agency is responsible for specifying the materials and deciding the contractors for the job, which it has already done. "The things we are doing are not proven to work."

Groups have criticized the program as being a waste of dollars — both the federal 90 percent and 10 percent balance from the state or local governments or private land owners. Yet none of those paying the 10 percent portion have refused.

It's worth the money to the towns of Longview, Kelso, and Castle Rock, WA, parts of which have already been hit by a mudflow which ran 35 to 40 feet high and two miles wide at 30 miles per hour. It's also valuable land to timber companies such as Weyerhaeuser and Burlington-Northern, and those who depend on the Toutle, Cowlitz, and ultimately Columbia River for fishing and shipping. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers now has dredges working to reestablish the flow of the streams which are landlocked and exposed to rains that may produce gushing floods.

The Soil Conservation Service accepted bids per acre from Wolfkill, Jacklin Seed Co., and Cominco-

American. Bids were granted in two parts, distinguishing Forest Service land from the Department of Natural Resources. Because of logistics—the Forest Service land is the highest elevation—type of seed, and fire requirements, this land costs more per acre. This area of 8,000 acres will cost \$600,000; the remaining 12,000 acres of DNR land will cost \$980,000. If all goes smoothly, extraneous costs may stay below the \$3 million estimate.

"The weather's the major problem," says Jim Price, vice president of marketing for Wolfkill. "If storms roll in, we can't fly and the seed won't germinate before Sept. 30. If by next summer we have three living plants per square foot we would consider it a success."

All seeding and fertilizing is being done by helicopter. Wolfkill will have to truck the materials 80 miles from its plant to load for aerial application.

The Forest Service has specified a mix of the following seed for its lands: perennial ryegrass, 10 pounds per acre; annual ryegrass, 15 pounds; subterranean clover, 4 pounds; and hairy vetch, 4 pounds for a total of 33 pounds per acre.

The DNR has specified the mix for its land as: perennial ryegrass (pasture types), 5 pounds; annual ryegrass, 15 pounds; creeping red fescue, 10 pounds; timothy, 2

pounds; white clover, 2 pounds; and birdsfoot trefoil, 2 pounds for a total of 36 pounds per acre. Normarc, Inc. of Tangent, OR, is supplying the seed, approximately 700,000 pounds for the total project.

Fertilizer requirements per acre, the same for both areas, consist of the following: available nitrogen, 30 pounds; available phosphoric acid, 60 pounds; available potash, 60 pounds; and total sulfur, 20 pounds per acre.

By spring, with the hope that the fall seeding holds, more reseeding, revegetation, and reforestation will occur. If the fall seeding fails, Mount St. Helens will be susceptible to severe slope erosion and the surrounding area could be wearing its ash and mud.



Dredging the Toutle River occurs while 20,000 acres of the surrounding countryside is being reseeded.

CONVENTION

ISA conference draws many skilled educators

Forty-two experts in varied fields of arboriculture — commercial, municipal, and utility—spoke to 700 people attending the International Society of Arboriculture's 56th annual conference in Hartford, CT.

Topics of the five-day program,

held at the Sheraton Hotel Aug. 10-15, covered mixed plantings, insect problems, systemic injections, line clearing, and an array of specialized subjects for the arborist.

This conference marked the first in which the ISA has set aside one full day for commercial exhibits. Attendees thus had more time than brief coffee breaks to view displays of 36 exhibitors.

At the final day's luncheon, Presi-

GOVERNMENT

UPDATE

dent Gordon King and Past President Yvon Fournier discussed the need for a commercial arborist association of ISA. A planning committee of five ISA members was appointed to study and evaluate the needs for it. A student from the University of Massachusetts will run a survey of the membership, and the planning committee will submit its findings at next year's meeting in Michigan.

Executive Director Cal Bundy says the movement has strong support. Sixty percent or approximately 4,000 members of ISA are involved in commercial arboriculture.

INDUSTRY

Court upholds CPSC power mower standard

The safety standard for walk-behind power mowers issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has survived industry challenges and been upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court. Barring further delays, mowers with all the required safety features will be on the market in 1982.

The CPSC standard requires the following safety features for mowers: protective shields at the rear of the mower to keep the operator's feet clear of the blade; shields that will automatically close or prevent the blade from spinning when a grass-catcher or other accessory is removed; and a "deadman control" that must be held down to allow the blade to turn and that will, when released, stop the blade within three seconds, according to *Consumer Reports*.

The standard also requires the protective shields to pass two tests: one for strength, another to insure that the shields won't interfere with a mower's convenient operation, so consumers won't consider them a nuisance and remove them. As a final precaution, both rotary and reel-type mowers must carry a warning label. The safety devices and tests will add about \$35, on average, to the price of a mower, according to CPSC estimates.

CPSC claims that blade contact accounts for about two-thirds of the injuries, or 77,000 persons a year, that sustain bruises, cuts, or the loss of at least one finger or toe. The agency says that mowers could be designed to eliminate or reduce the severity of more than three-fourths of all blade contact injuries.

The Outdoor Power Equipment In-

Continues on page 68

Farm labor bill introduced to House

Rep. Leon Panetta, D-CA, has introduced Farm Labor Contractor Registration Bill HR 7824 to the House of Representatives which will effectively exempt nurserymen from amendments to the FLCRA Act. This bill is identical to the amendments recently passed by the Senate's 57 to 37 vote.

Panetta said, "The passage of this bill would not only restore the basic intent of the law but would ensure that the Department of Labor directs its limited resources to the important and difficult job of protecting farmers and farm workers from the abuses of unscrupulous crew leaders who generally move with the harvest and serve as independent labor suppliers to more than one operation at a time."

The American Association of Nurserymen (AAN) and American Sod Producers Association (ASPA) are urging their members to write their representatives asking for the bill's support.

ASPA members are also being asked to send any copies of their replies to ASPA Washington representative Tom Hammer, % Nelson & Harding, 1101 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Assistant ag secretary Cutler resigns

Rupert Cutler has resigned his assistant agricultural secretary position to accept a position with the National Audubon Society, which specializes in research and lobbying on wildlife, wilderness, public lands, endangered species, and water resource management.

LANDSCAPE

CONTRACTOR NEWS

Architects' exhibit will attract suppliers

Landscape industry suppliers are expected to exhibit their products and services to hundreds of landscape architects at the 1980 American Society of Landscape Architects' Educational Exhibit Nov. 22-24.

Held in conjunction with the 1980 ASLA annual meeting at the Fairmont Hotel in Denver, the industry show will attract landscape architects to learn 1980 state-of-the-art information for their design profession.

ALCA directory contains over 800 listings

The Associated Landscape Contractors of America has published the 1980/1981 Who's Who in Landscape Contracting with listings for commercial landscape contractors throughout the United States.

The new listing is available on request to landscape architects, general contractors, and other qualified buyers and specifiers of landscape work. Cost is \$3. Write on letterhead to: ALCA, 1750 Old Meadow Road, McLean, VA 22102.

stitute (OPEI) asked that the new standard be based on an existing industry voluntary standard, but the CPSC denied the request. A primary part of OPEI's argument was that the CPSC standard is a design, rather than performance, requirement.

The court did strike down one provision against which OPEI argued — the requirement for probing the discharge chute. The provision was

backed up by only one injury incident in CPSC files.

GROUNDS

Grounds Mgmt. Society to meet in Kansas City

The Professional Grounds Management Society is holding its annual conference and trade show at the

Hilton Plaza Inn, Kansas City, MO, on Nov. 3-4.

The Exhibit Hall will house the trade show and lounge area used for both coffee breaks and lunch. This will allow for full presentation of products to the grounds management industry. All lunches and coffee breaks will be held on the show floor.

For more information, contact Allan Shulder, PGMS, 7 Church Lane, Pikesville, MD 21208, 301/653-2742.

AQUATICS

Aquatic plant meeting updates weed controls

Talks on the white amur and hybrid grass carp, new chemical registrations for aquatic use, and mechanical treatments highlighted the annual meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society in Sarasota, FL.

Two hundred and thirty attended the July show which contained much discussion on biological factors for weed control, such as the white amur, sameodes moth, and a combination of insects and pathogens used to combat water hyacinth.

An update on Florida's use of the hybrid white amur was given and Donna MacKenzie from Ontario, Canada, spoke about the integrated approach used in her area. Dr. Eldon Blancher presented a paper on the use of mathematical modeling for aquatic management. Dr. M.J. Allen from England spoke on cell membrane work as it relates to chemical control.

Nelson Virden was elected president of the society for the coming year. He is owner of Virden Weed Control Service in Jackson, MS. Other officers elected were: Roy Clark, president-elect; Emory McKeithen, vice president; William Rushing, treasurer; William Haller, editor; and T.W. Miller, secretary.

PLANTS

Tissue culture is topic for October symposium

A symposium, "Propagation of Higher Plants through Tissue Culture", has been scheduled for the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for October 12-15.

For more information, contact Dr. Karen Hughes, Department of Botany, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37916 (615/974-2256).

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