

Minimum truckload weights cancelled

Proposed increases in the minimum truckload weights of nursery stock have been cancelled by the Central States Motor Bureau. Bohman Industrial Traffic Consultants had vigorously protested the increases in behalf of the American Association of Nurserymen.

In line with this and the fact that truckers can now charge any rate they choose, a "Truck Broker Directory" is available which lists over 4,000 sources for return loads, including truck brokers, backhaulers, distributors, and trip-lease contractors in all 50 states and Canada. The directory costs \$25. and is available from J.J. Keller & Associates Inc., 145 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI 54956 or call (800)558-5011.

Friends of the Earth expand petition

Friends of the Earth, who petitioned the EPA for buffer zones around fields sprayed by air or large broadcast systems, have also called for "permission to spray" notices from neighboring residences.

The EPA has dropped most of its activity on the petition because of too much pressure from the agriculture community and Congress. The agency will still look into the new proposal by Friends of the Earth, but no regulations are expected soon.

Carter signs act to aid small businessmen

Former President Jimmy Carter has signed into law the Equal Access to Justice Act (S-265). This permits reimbursement for attorney's fees to small businesses involved as either plaintiffs or defendants in suits involving federal agencies unless the government is able to prove its position.

U.S. Arboretum will get Japanese herbarium

The U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC has made arrangements to purchase what is believed to be the largest private herbarium in Japan.

The herbarium comes from Miyoshi Furuse, an amateur botanist and retired Tokyo bus driver who has spent more than 40 years building the collection of about 60,000 specimens. His entire collection, including duplicates, has about 130,000 items.

"When the transfer of the Furuse collection is complete, the Arboretum will have the largest herbarium of Japanese plants outside Japan," says Dr. Frank S. Santamour, acting director of the Arboretum. "The collection has great scientific value for botanical and horticultural research."

EPA claims fungicide Captan hazardous

The Environmental Protection Agency is considering the restriction or banning of the use of Captan, a widely used agricultural and industrial fungicide, based upon studies linking it to cancer and genetic damage in laboratory animals. However, two major chemical companies are disputing these claims.

Chevron Chemical Co. will defend the fungicide's use by trying to prove that it poses no significant hazard when used according to label directions.

A spokesman from Stauffer Chemical Co. said, "There isn't any evidence of human risk or a scientific basis for extrapolation of the unvalidated laboratory data cited by EPA."

At the conclusion of its investigation, EPA will decide whether to allow continued unrestricted use of Captan, to require new limits on its use, or to ban it.

snow thrower was not an infringement upon a Toro patent. In a related unfair competition claim, the court indicated that it would forbid Jacobsen from making certain advertising claims about its snow thrower, but held that Toro had failed to prove any damages with respect to those advertisements.

EQUIPMENT

Independent distributors form association group

An association to help meet the needs of independent outdoor power equipment distributors was formed in October.

Named the Outdoor Power Equipment Distributors Association, the group elected Joe Brady of Joe Brady & Associates, Birmingham, AL, as president. Wyn Eaton of Eaton Equipment Corp., Hamburg, NY, was elected vice president. William Niemeyer of the Niemeyer Corp., West Chester, PA, was elected secretary and Joe Porter of Porter Brothers, Shelby, NC, was elected treasurer.

The firm of Fernley & Fernley, Inc., will provide association management services for the group. The address is 1900 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA.

COURTS

Monsanto set to protest EPA lawsuit

Monsanto Co. says it will protest vigorously a lawsuit brought against it by the Environmental Protection Agency seeking to force it to clean up alleged polychlorinated biphenyl pollution in Waukegan Harbor, north of Chicago.

The two-year-old suit originally charged only Outboard Marine Co. with violating its discharge permit by dumping hydraulic fuels containing PCB's, which it had bought from Monsanto. The EPA's action is "a clear attempt by the government to hold manufacturers of chemicals responsible for alleged improper waste disposal by others," says Monsanto's manager of product and environmental safety, John H. Craddock.

NATURAL PESTICIDES

Desert shrubs sub for expensive pesticides

Scraggly desert shrubs that make their own natural pesticides may offer alternatives to products now made

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