

GREEN INDUSTRY NEWS

GREENHOUSE

Texas growers hear cost, energy ideas

The technology exists to save greatly on energy and labor of greenhouse production, according to Dr. Raymond Hasek, environmental horticulturist with the University of California, Davis, who spoke to more than 200 growers at the Texas Greenhouse Growers conference in November.

Efficient use of space through movable benches, increased mechanization, and joining units together with a common wall is already practiced in West Germany and Holland, said Hasek. Different forms of insulation can cut heat loss in half. Double poly covering can save 30 percent on energy costs. Removable blankets can save more than 50 percent. Extra insulation of northern walls, wind breaks, and sealing air leaks can save from 3 to 10 percent each. Regular maintenance of heating units can save up to 20 percent.

Tiers of benches will be common in the future Hasek said. Automation of all material handling will reduce labor costs.

James Irwin, Irwin's Greenhouses,



A flying team on the ground. A flight crew from British Airways, who normally pilot a Concorde jet, drove a Simplicity riding mower to victory in the Wisborough Green 12-hour Lawn Mower Endurance Race. The riding mower covered 78 miles during the course of the race to win the class of unmodified production mowers.

Inc., of Canyon, Texas, told the growers that quality should be emphasized more than price. Since labor represents nearly 60 percent of production cost, any method of efficiency for labor will make the biggest difference. Irwin suggested in-state buying of plants over out-of-state. Space should be considered in terms of cubic feet of production with total utilization of floor and ceiling space. Irwin predicted great innovation in the greenhouse industry within the next few years.

INSECTS

Turfgrass symposium hosts 19 entomologists

The latest research from industry, government, and universities on turfgrass insects and their control was presented to a group of 175 turf management specialists in Columbus, OH, in October. This was the second seminar sponsored by the ChemLawn Corporation. The 1979 seminar covered turfgrass pathology.

Nineteen experts discussed up-to-date information on the primary turf pests. Special emphasis was placed on integrated pest management. Proceedings of the seminar will be published as were those of the first symposium, soon available from Weeds Trees & Turf.

ChemLawn has planned the 1981 symposium around turfgrass weed control. This seminar will be held in October. A portion of the program will be devoted to Alternatives to Phenoxy Herbicides. For more information, contact Dr. B.G. Joyner, Plant Diagnostic Lab, 6969 Worthington-Galena Road, Suite L, Worthington, OH 43085.

ARBORISTS

NAA prepares agenda for Sarasota winterfest

A broad variety of topics is planned for the 1981 Annual Meeting of the National Arborist Association, Feb. 15-19, Sarasota Hyatt. The five-day program includes sessions on the spread of the Gypsy moth, use of alternate fuels for

vehicles, pheromone traps, integrated pest management, and business concerns such as selling and collection, hiring a computer consultant, labor relations, estate planning, and offering lawn care in addition to tree care.

Persons interested in attending the meeting should contact Executive Vice President Bob Felix, National Arborist Association, 3537 Stratford Rd., Watauga, NY 11793, 516-221-3082.

INTERNATIONAL

British turf groups create national council

Eleven British turfgrass organizations have approved a constitution for the National Turfgrass Council. The new Council has as its objectives to provide a central forum to discuss turfgrass matters, to represent the views of the industry to government departments and other groups, to reinforce training and education within the industry, to help generate new research, and to promote the industry in general.

Organizations participating in the Council are the Association of Playing Fields Officers and Landscape Managers, British Agrochemicals Association, British Association of Golf Course Architects, British Golf Greenkeepers' Association, British Lawnmower Manufacturers' Federation, British Turf Irrigation Association, Institute of Groundsmanship, Institute of Park and Recreation Administration, Joint Council for Landscape Industries, Sports Research Institute, and the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association Ltd.

It took a steering committee less than a year to draft the constitution and less than six months to have it approved by the organizations. The first full working meeting of the Council will be in late February. The idea was raised at a meeting of the Sports Turf Research Institute in June 1979.

Officers of the new group are Chairman M.J. Chance, Vice-Chairman W.N. Gilmour, Treasurer W. Royle, and Secretary J.P. Shildrick. Information on the group can be obtained from

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LANDSCAPE

CONTRACTOR NEWS

ALCA focuses on modern management

Sessions at the 1981 ALCA Annual Meeting and Trade Exhibit in New Orleans, Feb. 8-13, will stress managing a business in a computerized, highly technical world. Approximately 1,000 landscape contracting firms are expected to be represented at the meeting.

Here is a sketchy outline of the event:

Sunday, Feb. 8

Registration and Mardi Gras party

Monday, Feb. 9

Estate planning

Concurrent workshops: marketing design/build, personnel development in maintenance firms, land reclamation.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Trade exhibit opens

Al Hirt party in French Quarter

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Equipment demonstrations

Interior landscape seminar

ABC's of computer applications

Awards reception and luncheon

Thursday, Feb. 12

Learning to live with the computer

Computer display and demonstration

Banquet

Friday, Feb. 13

Financial management

Adjourn at noon

Complete registration information for the show is available from Associated Landscape Contractors of America, 1750 Old Meadow Rd., McLean, VA 22101.

Tenth tropical foliage course January 13th

Orlando, Florida, becomes the foliage center of the country when the National Tropical Foliage Short Course is offered for the tenth time, in addition to major national displays of foliage and equipment at the Orlando Expo Centre. This is the biggest event in the interior plant field to date.

The workshop is divided into three sections: production, interiorscape, and marketing. Production topics include soil mixes, plant pest diagnosis, nutrition, irrigation, and production of specific plants. Interiorscape, topics include bidding, transportation, acclimatization, installation, delivery, and selling. The marketing sessions will cover working with wholesalers, supplying the mass merchandiser, and working with super markets. Additional sessions on asset management, tissue culture, and inventory management are planned.

Florida's foliage growers and equipment suppliers will display their material at the Orlando Expo Centre beginning Tuesday, Jan. 13. The four-day event will be headquartered at the Orlando Howard Johnson's Downtown Hotel. For more information, contact the Foliage Education and Research Foundation, Inc., 305-886-1036.

ASLA offer health coverage at lower rates

Landscape architectural firms with at least 50 percent of the employees eligible for membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects will soon be able to take advantage of a group health/life insurance program that could lower premiums and raise coverage. Firms with less than ten employees may benefit the most from the program, according to ASLA President Robert Woerner. The plan is underwritten by Sentry Life Insurance Co., selected over other companies by the National Executive Committee. Contact ASLA, 1900 M Street, N.W., Suite 750, Washington, D.C. 20036 for more information.

J.P. Shildrick, Sports Turf Research Institute, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AU.

United States turf specialists have been attempting to form a similar group for the last three years without approval of a constitution.

SOILS

Computer data bank established by Scotts

Results from more than 100,000 soil tests made on U.S. golf courses have been stored on computer by the Pro-Turf Division of O.M. Scott & Co., Marysville, Ohio. With the information, Scotts hopes to produce summaries of soil characteristics for particular regions of the country. Superintendents in the regions can then find out what nutritional deficiencies need to be corrected.

Scott technical representatives will help analyze and interpret the soil test data for the superintendent. The desired result is more effective fertilization programs and perhaps lower costs.

The company reports that more than 90 percent of the nation's golf courses were tested for the information system.

OFFICERS

PGMS members cast ballots in Kansas City

John Van Vorst, supervisor of parks to Tenafly, NJ, is the new president of the Professional Grounds Management Society following elections during the group's latest meeting in Kansas City.

The president-elect for 1981 is Earl Wilson, vice president of Thornton-Wilson Inc., Maineville, OH. Wilson is a charter member of PGMS Southern Ohio Branch. Fred Rigger, grounds manager for the Padonia Swim Club in Cockeysville, MD, is the new vice president. Elected to a second term is Treasurer Robert Fisher, a past PGMS president and consulting horticulturist in Virginia.

LAW

Patent case decided in favor of Textron

A federal district court has ruled that a suit for patent infringement against the Jacobsen Division of Textron Inc. by Toro Company is invalid.

The Delaware court said that Jacobsen's manufacture of the Sno-Burst

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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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from expensive petroleum, says a University of California biologist.

"We do have an alternative to petroleum-based chemicals, and we have it in natural sources," says Eloy Rodriguez of UC, Irvine. "And desert plants are not rare; they grow like weeds."

"The brittlebush is a good example. It is very common in Southern California, and it produces a whole repertoire of defensive chemicals," he says. Like most natural pesticides, the shrubs' defenses don't directly kill insects, at least not in concentrations found in nature. The brittlebush makes several chemicals classified as terpenoids, which repel hungry pests.

The brittlebush also makes chemicals called precocenes that produce more dramatic effects by confusing the bugs' development. "The adult (insect) will be sterile and sometimes they are deformed," he said.

Aside from pesticides, some desert plants may be farmed for use as substitutes for other kinds of petroleum products as oil supplies dwindle. Two popular possibilities, he said, are guaye, which produces a type of rubber, and jojoba, which contains a lubri-

cant similar to whale oil. Both plants grow well in the desert but don't have the natural insecticides of the brittlebush. He cautioned, though, that just because a chemical is found in nature doesn't mean it's not dangerous.

SEED

Good harvest, markets help Vaughan-Jacklin

An excellent harvest of proprietary grass seed and promises of better sales in foreign countries and reclamation are brightening the profit picture for Vaughan-Jacklin Corp., Downers Grove, IL.

John Vaughan, president and chief executive officer, said sales have picked up and future bookings are very healthy for seed, foliage, and garden products sold by the corporation. Vaughan said potential sales to China, Japan and parts of Europe are great and implementation of reclamation regulations will start to take effect.

The corporation's sales for the third quarter of 1980 were down slightly but earnings increased. Bookings indicate a strong fourth quarter. Vaughan cited

this year's hot, dry summer for decline in sales of some plant products.

TURF

Study relates effect of petroleum spills

A field study conducted on "Tifgreen" bermudagrass has determined the injury symptoms and subsequent recovery rates from petroleum spill damage.

D. Johns and J.B. Beard of the department of soil & crop sciences, Texas A&M University, applied five petroleum products commonly used in turfgrass maintenance equipment—gasoline, motor oil, hydraulic fluid, brake fluid, and grease. They then attempted to treat the turf with calcined clay fines, activated charcoal, and detergent.

The detergent washing proved to be an effective treatment for turf with spilled hydraulic fluid, brake fluid, and motor oil. In two cases, they achieved complete recovery three to six weeks sooner than with other corrective procedures.

None of the corrective treatments were effective on either the gasoline or grease damaged turf. The bermudagrass recovered rapidly (three to four weeks) from gasoline spills without corrective procedures. It took more than 10 weeks to recover from grease spills.

EQUIPMENT

Standard issued for chain saw safety

Chain saw operators will benefit from new standards established for manufacturers that have been published by the American National Standard Institute.

The publication gives requirements for the design and construction of hand-held, gasoline powered chain saws. It includes requirements for throttle control systems, handles, pull-type starters, controls, fuel and oil tanks, exhaust systems, saw chains, bars, and guards.

Other requirements address chip discharge, sound levels, kickback, balance, and vibration. Test procedures, tables, and diagrams illustrating components and specifications are also provided.

Copies of American National Standard Safety Requirements for Gasoline Powered Chain Saws, ANSA B175.1-1979, are available from the Institute's Sales Department at \$5.50 each.

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SOIL

Workshop gives tips on seedling propagation

A five-day workshop on North American Forest Tree Nursery Soils provided close to 200 nurserymen information on how to grow better seedlings faster and at a lower cost through soil analysis and management.

Nurserymen from the U.S., Canada, and Europe heard a variety of topics from 21 speakers at the sessions, which were arranged by the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) in Syracuse, NY. The topics were grouped into two categories: biological factors of mycorrhizae, diseases, insects, seedling quality, and composition; and nutritional and soil chemical factors of fumigation, nutrition, fertility, and soil reaction.

The workshop also included a small dedication and tree planting memorial to Albert Leaf, ESF professor who pioneered most of the recent work in nursery soil testing and analysis.

Earl Stone, professor emeritus at Cornell University, summarized the workshop's four main objectives in a final speech: to help sharpen and understand applied biology, chemistry, and soil science involved in growing tree seedlings; to develop a more exact idea about the multiple effects that individual treatments may have, or interact with each other, in effects on plant growth; to suggest how to calculate, monitor, and control soil, water, and nutrition availability to a greater degree than often done; and to systematically examine each step, operation, and material input of the nursery program with a view to what it contributes to production, efficiency, cost, and stock quality.

Proceedings of the workshop are being published. Those interested in obtaining copies should write: Dr. Donald Bickelhaupt, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY 13210.

PESTICIDES

EPA clears confusion around ban on lindane

The Environmental Protection Agency has cleared the wording of its proposal to ban the pesticide lindane to allow its continued use by commercial applicators.

Although the final outcome in the controversy surrounding lindane will

not be published until next October, the Special Pesticide Review Division's projected date, the division says certified applicators will not be barred from using it. Position Document 2/3, which was published July 3, 1980 in the Federal Register, had confused the issue of whether commercial or homeowner use was affected. The words, "commercial ornamentals," were used to describe applicators.

Zoecon Corp., a major supplier of the pesticide in the United States, evaluated EPA's initial investigation and conducted their own. The company arrived at different conclusions, which makes it seriously question the benefits against the risks. The EPA held an independent scientific advisory council, which can only advise, and recommended the use of lindane be retained.

Bob Felix, executive vice president of the National Arborist Association, met with members of the EPA to help clarify the wording of the proposal and said they were more than receptive to his suggestions. Arborists, who use lindane for borer control on oaks, ash, rhododendrons, birch, and lilacs, would not mind if it was taken out of the hands of homeowners. "If you get more homeowners out of pesticides," Felix says, "everybody will be safer."

The EPA officially closed comments toward lindane on September 15, but would still like to receive them if they contain scientific data or methods for reducing exposure. Write: Document Control Office (TS-793), Room E-447, Office of Pesticides & Toxic Substances, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20460.

COMPANIES

Lakeshore Equipment hires product manager

Lakeshore Equipment and Supply Company recently hired Jack Bruns as its new product development manager for irrigation in Elyria, Ohio, and Dante Brunetti to head its nursery sales organization in Florida.

Bruns, former superintendent at the Youngstown, Ohio, Country Club, is a horticulture graduate of Iowa State University with specialization in turf-grass management and arboriculture.

Brunetti, an agricultural graduate of the University of Massachusetts, has 24 years' experience in production and marketing of nursery, fertilizer, and chemical materials.

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