

## UPDATE

BY WILLIAM HOFFMAN

### New nematode threatening pines

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reported that the pine wood nematode has been identified in pine species in 38 states. Ornamental pines seem to be the most susceptible with the Japanese black pines in the ocean beach areas from Long Island to North Carolina especially hard hit in the last two years. Some damage to Scots pine Christmas trees have been found especially in areas where dry summers and falls have placed added stress on the trees. The nematode is carried by long-horned beetles. Pest management is based on control of the beetles and by direct tree injection of a nematicide. The pine knot nematode, probably native to the United States, was first identified with pine tree deaths in Missouri in 1979.

### Floraboard attached to Farm Bill

Proponents of Floraboard were able to add the "Floral Research and Consumer Information Act" to the U. S. Senate Farm bill. The Senate version differs slightly from the bill originally introduced in the House in that the Floraboard shall convene an advisory panel drawn from the wholesale and retail segments of the flower and plant industry and shall consult it frequently on all marketing, promotion and research programs.

This new legislation was adopted by the Farm Bill conferees with no serious adverse comments since the costs to the Federal government will be minimal. Floraboard came into effect when President Reagan signed the 1981 Farm bill.

### EPA relaxes pesticide advertising

The 1978 amendments to the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) defined "use of a registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling" so that the following are not misuses: (1) applying a pesticide at any dosage, concentration, or frequency less than specified on the label; (2) applying a pesticide against any target pest not specified on the labeling if the application is to the site named on the labeling and not specifically forbidden by the labeling; (3) using any method of application not prohibited by the labeling and (4) mixing a pesticide or pesticides with a fertilizer unless labeling prohibits such mixtures.

### Not All MH Products Cancelled

Government Update in *Weeds, Trees & Turf*, December, 1981, implied that all MH registrations were suspended. This is not the case.

On August 14, 1980, EPA issued a 3 (c) (2) (B) notice to maleic hydrazide (MH) registrants requesting them to arrange for the submission of additional data. Registrants who did not respond to that notice would have both their diethanolamine (DEA) and potassium salt (K) registrations suspended. EPA issued their follow up notice of an Intent to Suspend Registrations on September 16, 1981. (Please find a copy of the Federal Register notice attached to this letter.)

Since one company has made a commitment to produce and submit the necessary toxicological studies on the potassium salt formulation of MH, that formulation *will not be suspended*. (Only those companies who did not respond in any way to EPA's notice will have their potassium salt formulations suspended.)

Since no registrant agreed to initiate studies for the DEA salt, all registrations were suspended. Registrants, however, will be allowed to sell or distribute existing stocks until they are exhausted.

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In other gypsy moth news, both Maryland and Delaware are gearing up to combat the defoliating caterpillars. The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service is no longer recommending the use of oak, particularly white oak, as a tree for home plantings. "White oak is the preferred food plant of the gypsy moth," explains Extension entomologist John Davidson. "Unfortunately, oak trees are among the most widely planted ornamental species." Davidson suggests planting tree varieties which gypsy moth caterpillars will not eat. He lists tulip poplar, sycamore, ash, catalpa, dogwood, hackberry, honey locust, horse chestnut, persimmon, walnut, osage orange and mulberry (all deciduous); and holly, arborvitae and juniper (evergreen) as food plants the insects avoid.

The Delaware Cooperative Extension Service and Department of Agriculture is currently planning meetings in New Castle and Kent counties to coordinate its 1982 control efforts. With Delaware having its first sizable outbreak of gypsy moths last spring, it is being especially vigilant. "One defoliation usually doesn't kill most trees," said University of Delaware extension pesticide specialists John McDaniel. "But if it occurs two years in a row, some may die."

### EQUIPMENT

#### Lawn and garden shipments show decline

Twelve-month shipments by reporting members of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) statistical program declined 20.6% when compared with the same period in 1980.

The 4.6 million walk-behind power mowers shipped in 1981 compares with 5.7 million units in the 1980 model year. Factory values declined from \$701 million to \$606 million, or 13.6%.

Shipments of riding garden tractors

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**Incoming ASLA** President Calvin Bishop (left) is congratulated by outgoing President William Behnke at the ASLA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. (For information on the meeting turn to this issue's Landscape Update column.)