

UPDATE

BY WILLIAM HOFFMAN

Marijuana—An important agricultural crop?

It doesn't matter whether you believe the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws figure of an \$8.2 billion crop of homegrown pot in 1981 or the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's lesser figure, the value of marijuana is nearing the value of the major crops of soybeans, corn and wheat. Cannabis indica, a Far East variety has replaced the native cannabis sativa, because it produces as much as two pounds of dried product per plant and one richer in tetrahydrocannabinol, the intoxicating chemical. Wild animals and poachers appear to be greater threats to the plantings than law enforcement agencies.

Import of rooted hyacinth bulbs now allowed

In 1980, during the revision of the import regulations for nursery stock, plants, roots, bulbs, seeds and other plant products, the importation of ferns, African violets, gloxinia, begonia and peperomia in soil-free growing media was allowed. Stringent conditions were required in order to prevent the entry of injurious plant diseases, insects or other pests into the United States. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA, is now adding hyacinths to the list. The soil-less media would be unused peat, sphagnum moss, vermiculite, or synthetic plastic materials. They estimate that not more than 20,000 rooted hyacinth bulbs would enter the first year—a small amount when compared with the 25 million hyacinth bulbs imported each year.

Fertilizer and limestone use up slightly

Fertilizer use in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1981 totaled 51.2 million tons, an increase of one percent from the tonnage consumed in the previous year.

Dry, bagged fertilizer continued to decline while use of dry bulk mixtures and fluid fertilizer increased. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported further that total 1981-82 use will be over 23 million nutrient tons—close to last year's level.

Overall fertilizer prices could average six to seven percent higher in the spring of 1982. Above normal inventories of phosphate and potash, plus a possibly stable demand, will hold back greater price increases.

The National Limestone Institute reported that limestone use for the year 1980 was about 34.4 million pounds, up about 10% from 1979 but still only about a third of the needs of our soils.

Pesticide applicator training in jeopardy

The House of Representative's Agriculture Subcommittee keeps an eye on the EPA administration of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and has reported out an amendment which is in direct opposition to White House plans. The amendment calls for the appropriation of \$4 million each fiscal year to the States for applicator training and pesticide certification and licensing.

While this Subcommittee has no power to appropriate money for pesticide regulatory programs of EPA, there is the possibility of such a figure showing up in the Congressional EPA funding bill.

These programs are completely eliminated in the President's budget with the expectation that the State's will do the funding. A victory for the President could cause many of the States to reduce pesticide regulatory activities drastically. They feel that the certification and training of applicators and the classification of restricted use pesticides were enacted into law at the Federal level and should be funded at that level.

With no certified applicators, there can be no restricted use pesticides, seriously affecting the efforts of EPA to make available the chemicals needed for safe pest control.

Green Section fielded 14 speakers to expound on irrigation, turf, design and playing conditions. During the conference Charles Wilson, retired director of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission and current research director of the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, was awarded the 1982 USGA Green Section Award. The award was given in recognition of Wilson's distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass.

Al Radko was awarded the first *Weeds Trees & Turf* "Man of the Year Award" during the show. *Weeds Trees & Turf* sought to recognize Radko for his 35 years of tireless achievements in golf course management. A member of the Green Section since 1953, Radko served as national director for the last five years.

Exhibitors had their own awards to present at the show. Smithco presented its "Smithco White Hat Award" to Illinois Lawn Equipment Co. as the Western Distributor of 1981. Boyd Distributing copped the "Outstanding Sales Performance Award" from Turfco Mfg. Co./National Mower Co.

The show came to a close with the election of GCSAA officers for 1982. James Wyllie, Bayview Golf Club, Brampton, Ont., was elected president. Other officers elected were: Robert Osterman, Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, CT, vice president; Paul Boizelle, The Onwentsia Club, Lake Forest, IL, executive committee; and John Hayden, San Jose Country Club, Jacksonville, FL, executive committee.



Showgoers register for Long Green Sweepstakes.

Power equipment sales to increase

Outdoor power equipment sales should increase during 1982, despite the present economic slowdown, according to the Homelite Division of Textron Inc., Charlotte, NC.

"We're starting to see a recovery in