

by William Hoffman

Five airports on beetle watch

The USDA is requiring five airports to inspect departing planes for hitchhiking Japanese beetles to prevent further spread of the pest. The airports are located in Delaware, New Jersey, Ohio and Maryland.

Beetle numbers in these areas are extremely high according to USDA. Gary Morehead, a USDA Animal and Plant Health inspector, said airlines must use mechanical or chemical means to keep the beetles off the aircraft.

The airports affected are Dover Air Force Base, Del.; McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; Port Columbus Airport, OH; Rickenbacker Air Force Base, OH; and Baltimore-Washington Airport, MD.

Fire ant panel offers little help

The imported fire ant symposium sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency offered little immediate help to EPA in resolving the control program for this insect.

The fire ant has now infested almost 1/4 of a billion acres in nine states from North Carolina to Texas. A panel on the social and economic factors relating to the fire ant recommended that an unsubsidized relief program would be the most feasible with property owners paying for the chemical treatment. Any program in which the federal or state government would participate would be so vulnerable to funding, legal, and management problems that it would never become operational.

The panel felt strongly that the fire ant problem should be considered a public health problem and not a threat to agriculture.

Several chemical companies reported on new products for the control of the fire ant. Most of the promising are of the biorational types like insect growth regulators and could be the most environmentally acceptable and safe. However, EPA representatives warned that even these compounds would have to be completely evaluated before being registered by the Agency. It would appear that the containment of the imported fire ant is years in the future.

Monsanto sues EPA for release of Roundup data

Claiming irreparable damage and contempt of a District Court order, Monsanto Company is suing EPA for releasing trade secret data on glyphosate, the primary component of Roundup, to a Washington, D.C., law firm.

Monsanto claims EPA did not follow regulations requiring 60-day notice before release of data, nor did it comply with a pretrial order from the U.S. District Court for Eastern Missouri.

The purpose of the law firm's request for data is unknown. The information released consisted of material used to support the registration of Roundup.

studying the use of plants in disturbed environments.

Roberts did his undergraduate work at the University of Rhode Island, then received his PhD in soil and plant physiology from Rutgers University. He went on to become a professor at Iowa State University and then chairman of the ornamental horticulture departments at the University of Florida and later at University of Rhode Island.

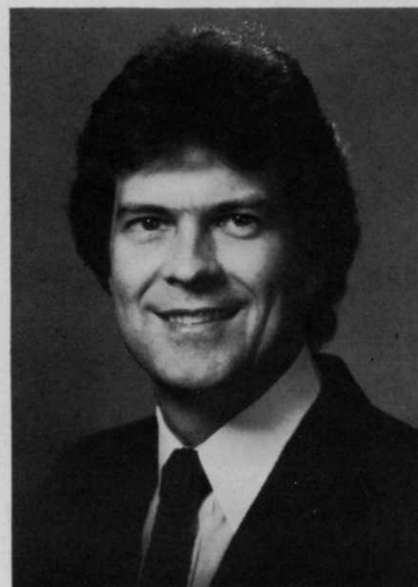
Roberts is succeeding Dr. Robert Schery, who is retiring after 25 years as the director of the Institute. The new location for the staff offices of the Lawn Institute will be P.O. Box 108, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578.

The board of the Institute was also elected at the Dallas meeting. Norman Rothwell of Rothwell Seeds Ltd. in Canada was elected president, Bob Peterson of E.F. Burlingham & Co. in Oregon is vice president and Robert Russell of J & L Adikes in New York is secretary/treasurer.

EQUIPMENT

Sloan replaces West at Cushman/Ryan

Gary Sloan has joined OMC Lincoln's advertising and marketing staff in Lincoln, NB. He succeeds Scott West who was promoted as a marketing manager for the company's West Coast Operations.



Gary Sloan

Sloan was promotion manager for Rickel Mfg. Corp., Salina, KS, prior to joining OMC. He will manage marketing of the Cushman and Ryan lines of turf equipment.