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LANDSCAPE

UPDATE

AAN opposes Fed "giveaway" bill

In a letter to members of the House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the American Association of Nurserymen recently voiced its opposition to the proposed H.R. 2838, a bill to permit federal nurseries to give surplus stock grown for reforestation programs to nonprofit groups for planting on local, state or federal "public" lands.

According to the AAN, this giveaway program will be in direct competition with the private sector; the association feels that the program, too, will be difficult to administer and monitor. Said a spokesman, "we feel confident, unfortunately, that the use of surplus stock will extend far beyond the stated purposes of the bill."

Perhaps most importantly, the AAN believes the bill is an ineffective attempt to deal with a symptom rather than the cause of the problem (of government overproduction), as the government, "need not and should not be, in the nursery production business to begin with."

The spokesmen went on to say the private sector is capable of producing the seedlings which the government may need for reforestation purposes. As a matter of principle and national policy, the government should not compete with the private sector.

ALCA membership tops 1,000

In its 1983 annual membership report, the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, reported its membership has grown to more than 1,000 members, broken down into the following categories: 759 contractors; 92 associates, 4 student chapters; 118 affiliates and students; 34 international and 12 sponsors.

ALCA President David R. Pinkus said that in 1983, membership reached its highest point ever. Revenue from new members exceeded 1982 by well over 50 percent.

Membership committee members and the ALCA staff said the program to identify and solicit new members will continue throughout 1984.

First irrigation designers certified

Twenty-two applicants have passed all three levels of the Irrigation Association's Irrigation Designer Certification Program and have become the first Certified Irrigation Designers under the program initiated a year ago.

The first Level III exam, the final step in the certification process, was given in conjunction with the Agri-Turf Exposition in Denver in December. Thirty-one registrants took the exam. There was a 71 percent passing rate.

Those passing the exam, among other things, will have their names included in a Certified Irrigation Designer Directory which will be published shortly and made available to irrigation specifiers.