

SHORTCUTS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.....This year marks two anniversaries for the Boy Scouts of America: 75th Diamond Jubilee and 55th year for its landscape architecture merit badge. Nearly 30,000 boys have earned the landscape architecture badge since its inception. Badge candidates—some as young as 11 years of age—must complete six requirements in areas like home grounds planning, topography, drainage, gardening, and plant study.

THE BIG TIME.....Trees were the subject of a recent news short in "Business Week" magazine. The brief article dealt with what homeowners should do to protect their property from possible damage by fallen trees and quoted Howard Eckel of The Davey Tree Expert Co., Kent, Ohio. (Davey, incidentally, publishes a free "Guide to Tree Beauty and Tree Care" booklet.)

MOLE CRICKETS BEWARE.....Mole crickets have been added to the Florida SLN label of Orthene 75S soluble powder insecticide for use on residential and commercial turf and golf courses. The label recommends a late afternoon or early evening application, after irrigation.

TRAINING AIDS.....Three turf-related organizations have announced new training aids. The New York Turfgrass Association has three 35mm slide sets available—one each on insects, diseases and weeds of turf. Each is \$30 for members and \$45 for non-members. Write them at 210 Cartwright Blvd., Massapequa Park, NY, 11762. The Professional Lawn Care Association is offering slide/cassette training programs on weed control and turf diseases. For more information, call executive vice-president Jim Brooks at (404) 977-5222. And OMC Lincoln has an 18-minute video tape featuring Dr. Robert Shearman from the University of Nebraska. "The Living Carpet," describes common causes, symptoms and treatment of thatch and compaction. Copies are available through dealers or by calling (800) 228-4444.



Dr. Robert Shearman

FOR CHAIN SAW DEVOTEES.....One-year limited warranties are now being provided on all professional chain saws being manufactured by Beard-Poulan/Weed Eater. "We're the only manufacturer, domestic or foreign, who believes strongly enough in its professional chain saws to guarantee them for a full year," says product manager Walter Bennett. The company is the nation's largest manufacturer of chain saws.

ZOYSIA SPORTS TURF?.....Well-known research agronomist Jack Murray of the Beltsville (Md.) Agricultural Research Center has been doing a ton of research on slow-establishing zoysiagrass, a turf he feels has quite a future—as a sports turf. He says a zoysia-tall fescue blend (1-2 pounds tall fescue, to 1/2-1 pound zoysia) provides a good athletic turf. Murray also told the North Central Turfgrass Exposition audience that a synthetic zoysiagrass will be available in four to five years.

'pesticides' had never been coined," says Becker of the University of Florida. "Something like 'quanticides' and 'qualicides' would have been much more positive terms. Everyone wants quality products. And everyone wants these products in sufficient quantity to keep the price down."

Both, he insists, are by-products of the correct use of pesticides.

Semantics aside, Becker says pesticide users can be "their own worst enemies and fuel public concern that pesticides are bad."

His message: "We must put our house in order." And this for several specific reasons.

Credibility. The public perceives that pesticides are bad, that they contaminate our environment, poison



Dr. William Becker

our water and food supplies. Incidents like the contaminated watermelon scare in California this past summer damage credibility. Five pesticide-related deaths in Florida (two due to misuse, one to suicide, two in murder cases) attract national attention, he points out.

Also, the potential loss of pesticides for uses which they are now approved threatens green industry effectiveness. "We are losing nematocides in large quantities," Becker says. Meanwhile, manufacturers face higher costs of pesticide development, testing, approval, and marketing.

"The industry will continue to try to develop better pesticides where thousands of acres are going to be treated," Becker says. New products for smaller, specialized acreages are becoming increasingly scarce.

Becker warns, "there are enough