

Horticulture enrollments stabilizing?

■ The December, 1987, issue of *LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT* reported that, though enrollment in horticulture and agronomy is generally down, some schools have been showing plateaus or slight increases. News from the University of Maryland backs this up.

Undergraduate enrollment in specialized horticulture remained steady despite decreases in other ag disciplines at Maryland, says the horticulture department's annual report.

Bruno Quebedeaux, Ph.D., credits a landscape design option for its strength. Since 1984, enrollment has risen from 87 to 89. The reason, Quebedeaux says, is a growing landscape industry in Maryland, where urbanization is supporting both public and private construction—especially in Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Manufacturer expects equipment sales to dip

■ Officials at JI Case, manufacturer and marketer of light- and medium-sized equipment, are predicting a flat year for equipment sales in 1988.

According to John Gleason, senior vice president for North American sales and marketing, domestic economic conditions, heavy foreign competition and stock market uncertainties could cause a modest decline in sales this year.

He adds that the decline won't come close to matching the recession of 1980 to 1982, from which equipment manufacturers took the last five years to recover.

Green industry is one of promise

■ "The challenge which the turf industry is facing is as important as that of the agriculture industry."

With those words, Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture S. Mason Carbaugh kicked off this year's Virginia Turfgrass Conference on a positive, but guarded, note. "The green industry will continue to flourish, but you must learn how to use your knowledge to best inform the public. You know the questions that have to be asked.

"It is your challenge to let the uninformed and ignorant know that the green industry can be safe to the environment and do its job on turf," Carbaugh continued. "There's only one environment, and we must learn how to coexist in it."

Carbaugh concluded his keynote speech in an upbeat fashion:

"At a time in our history when our ingenuity has helped create different substitutions in business and industry, there is still no substitute for the green industry. It is an industry of promise. It is an industry of alert, honest, risk-takers."

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