SHORT CUTS

THE BAN ON EDB...might backfire, writes Walter Shroeder in the New York State Professional Applicators Coalition newsletter. According to Shroeder, EDB was effective on mold spores. Some of the mold spores it helped to control produce aflatoxin, which Shroeder describes as "one of the most potent carcinogens known." Now that EDB is no longer used, Shroeder believes the consumers are receiving higher levels of a carcinogen with their food intake than they would if EDB was still around.

WHAT DO THEY WANT?...If they're baby boomers and senior citizens, they want instant color, mixed plantings, exotic materials and native stock. So says Dr. Chuck Greenidge, president of Greenidge and Associates, Inc., a consulting group located in Evergreen, Colo. Their goal, says Greenidge, is to guarantee "an immediately successful lawn and garden experience." That's something to consider when marketing your landscaping service. Greenidge says nursery consumers delay their purchases until just before the season breaks or until a pest or weed problem has already developed.

A NEW KEY FOR THE RING ... A microcomputer-assisted dichotomous key has been developed by Drs. A.E. Dudeck and J.A. Wetherington at the University of Florida to key out and identify seed of 21 commonly used turfgrasses. Called "Turfseed," the program has a "help" function that calls up entries from a glossary referencing technical terms displayed on any one screen. When an unknown seed sample is identified, or "keyed out," all characteristics of the identified sample are summarized on one screen. Knowledge of basic plant morphology and agrostology is a suggested prerequisite for interested users. For more information, contact IFAS Software Office, Building 120, Room 203, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

SAFETY MESSAGE IS OUT ... The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reports it has reached more than half the U.S. population with its safety education campaign. The message is to "Think Safety With Power in Your Hands." Dennis C. Dix, executive director of OPEI, says the message has been sent through dealer point-of-purchase materials, print and broadcast news, public service announcements and a nationally-syndicated radio program. "We believe we're making an impact," says Dix. The three-year safety campaign continues into 1990.

