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HSAF '63 Convention Program Like College Course in Its Diversity

Program plans for the Horticultural Spraymen's Association of Florida 1963 Convention promise delegates what nearly amounts to a distilled college course in turf maintenance.

Meeting for three lecture-and-panel-packed days Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at Orlando's Robert Meyer Motor Inn, HSAF members will hear noted authorities on such diverse subjects as lawn renovation, citrus spraying, growth retardants, and business management.

Also included on this year's program are the customary basic studies of importance to the membership. These include talks on chinch bugs, nematodes, diseases of ornamentals, common lawn insects, turf diseases, and weed control in established turf.

Field-oriented aspects of the program include an observation of lawn spraying, and an afternoon-long display of equipment, where suppliers will show off their latest machines.

To be repeated this year is the widely praised "panel of pros," in which selected experts who've appeared on the program will answer questions which delegates pose, either as a result of problems encountered by the sprayman in his business, or a question generated by some aspect of one of the lectures. This panel was extremely popular last year.

Of particular interest to some spraymen are the addresses on diagnosing lawn problems by Ralph White of Ousley Sod Co. in Pompano, and a session on fertilizers (organics vs. chemicals; liquids vs. dry) by industryman Charles Butterworth.

Talks on legislation, public relations, and advertising round out the offering for applicators who attend this fourth annual HSAF meeting. As in the past, the convention is open to interested applicators from all over the country. Last year, there were several non-Floridians in evidence.

Meeting Dates



30th Annual National Agricultural Chemicals Assn. Conference, The Homestead Hotel, Hot Springs, Va., Oct. 27-30.

Horticultural Spraymen's Assn. of Florida Annual Convention, Robert Meyer Motor Inn, Orlando, Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

Annual Washington State Weed Conference, Chinook Hotel, Yakima, Wash., Nov. 4-5.

American Society of Agronomy Annual Meeting, Denver Hilton Hotel, Denver, Colo., Nov. 18-22.

Weed Society of America, Pick-Congress Hotel, Chicago, Ill., Feb. 10-13.

Aquatic Weed Control Society Annual Meeting, Palmer House Hotel, Chicago, Ill., Feb. 11-12.

For information about registration or hotel facilities, write HSAF president Walter E. Ferguson, 2500 Ave. J, N.W., Winter Haven, Fla.

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Lawn Clippings Removal Studied

In a 3-year study of lawn management of Kentucky and Merion bluegrass, George A. Beach, horticulturist with Colorado State University, Fort Collins, concluded that although plots where clippings were removed were rated highest on appearance, the difference between ratings on removal and nonremoval was not statistically significant in most cases.

In the experiment, 12 lawn plots were checked each year for 3 years. "In 36 comparisons, 29 showed no significant difference in appearance whether clippings were removed or not," Beach revealed.

Plots were mowed often enough so that only 1/2 inch of blade was removed at each cutting to bring grass to the desired height, however, and if lawns are not cut this frequently, clippings would probably have to be removed for best appearance, Beach cautioned.

Removal or nonremoval of clippings also may depend on other management factors such as fertilization, Beach explained. "For example, if clippings are not removed and the grass is growing rapidly from fertilization, the abundance of dried clippings may damage the appearance somewhat."

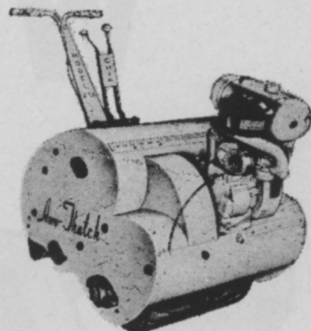
WSA, AWCS Set Joint Session

For applicators who are interested in attending both the Weed Society of America Conference and the Aquatic Weed Control Society meeting in Chicago, Ill., next February, a joint session has been arranged.

Since the WSA meet is slated for Feb. 10-13 at Chicago's Pick-Congress Hotel, and the AWCS will convene Feb. 11-12 at the Palmer House, this joint session has been scheduled to avoid some of the conflict of interests among delegates who wish to attend both meetings.

Program chairman for the AWCS is Dr. John Gallagher, Amchem Products, Inc., Ambler, Pa.; WSA secretary is Dr. G. C. Klingman, Crops Science Dept., N.C. State College, Raleigh, N.C. Those who want more details about either meeting should write directly to either Klingman or Gallagher.

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Ever-increasing importance of technical know-how for those who are responsible for maintaining fine stands of turfgrass was evidenced this year by a record-breaking attendance at the 11th Annual Florida Turfgrass Management Conference August 27-29, at the University of Florida, Gainesville.

Sponsored by the Florida Turf-Grass Association and the University of Florida's Agricultural Experiment Station and Department of Agriculture, the Confer-



On-the-spot examination of new turf maintenance techniques and chemicals was a highlight of Florida's turf management conference, during which Dr. G. C. Horn (with speaker) guided delegates through several test plots.

Importance for Turfmen of Scientific Knowledge Demonstrated by Record Florida Conference Attendance

ence attracted over 400 delegates from Florida and such widespread points as New York, California, Texas, and all the southern states.

Fields of interest represented this year included horticultural spraymen, lawn service and landscaping agencies, golf course, park and cemetery supervisors, and nurserymen.

During the general session, which featured turf insects, and throughout the professional discussion sections and tour of the turf research areas, every aspect of turf management and research was reviewed by speakers from across the country.

Praise Growth Retardants

Jack Cabler, assistant ornamental horticulturist with the Florida Agricultural Extension Service, reviewed one of the most significant research studies being conducted by the Experiment Stations. Cabler said the use of growth retardants appears very promising. After several more years of testing, these compounds may be available for the homeowner. "It has also been found that growth retardants help grasses grow in shade," Cabler indicated.

Other recent research reveals

By WALTER D. ANDERSON

Executive Secretary
Florida Turf-Grass Association
Jacksonville



Honors for Florida turf management pioneers included this year the presentation of a FT-GA Award of Honor to James E. Ousley, Sr. (left) for his work with the industry in general, and the FT-GA Trade Show specifically. Here he is congratulated by newly elected group secretary-treasurer, L. N. Clark.

that lawns fertilized with organic nitrogen are less susceptible to chinch bug damage than those fertilized with chemical nitrogen. Dr. G. C. Horn, associate turf technologist, and Dr. W. L. Pritchett, soils technologist, both of the Florida Experiment Stations, explain that they believe grass treated with organic nitrogen is less susceptible to chinch bugs

because organic fertilizers act more slowly than chemical fertilizers.

Other significant papers presented at the Conference included "Latest Look at Overseeding," "Rebuilding Gridiron Turf," "The Need for a Turf Specialist in a Cemetery Operation," "Comparisons of Vegetative and Seeded Grasses," "Diagnosing Lawn Problems," and "Weed Control and the Turf Nursery." All papers presented will be published in the Conference Proceedings, available from the FT-GA later in the fall.

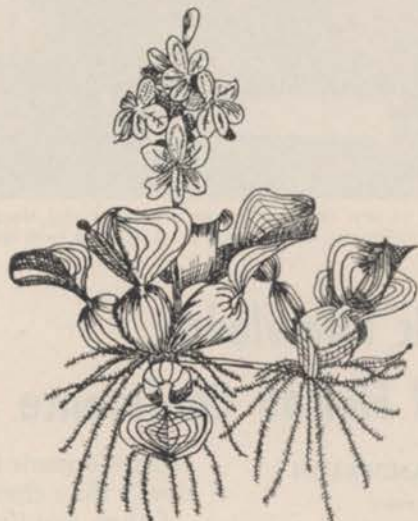
A new feature of the Conference was the "Industry Hour," in which representatives of leading chemical and fertilizer firms presented the latest information available on the use of their products in the field of turf. With 300 in attendance for this evening session, the popularity of this program was apparent and plans are to continue it, each year featuring a new aspect of turf interest, such as major equipment, soil amendments, etc.

At the annual meeting following the industry hour, Dr. Gene C. Nutter, Executive Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, was elected FT-GA President for the coming year. Elected to serve with him were James L. Blackledge, vice-president, Barco Inc., Lake Worth; and L. N. Clark, secretary-treasurer, Director of Parks and Recreation, Jacksonville Beach. Also elected as directors with a three-year term of office were Howard C. Bardsley, F. E. C.



Change of command. Incoming FT-GA president Dr. Gene C. Nutter (left) received congratulations and the symbolic gavel from retiring prexy Ralph W. White.

WATERHYACINTH
(*Eichhornia crassipes*)



Waterhyacinth, a flowering, tropical aquatic weed, reproduces by vegetative offshoots from parent plants and by seed. This free-floating weed is found throughout the Gulf Coast region of southern United States where it spreads so rapidly that it clogs inland waterways and prevents navigation for commerce and recreation.

Waterhyacinth was introduced into the United States from South America sometime before 1884. First official account of waterhyacinth was at the New Orleans Cotton Exposition in that year. It bears the nickname of "Million Dollar Weed" in Florida, though cost of its control has long since passed that mark. It is also a pest in areas of California.

A somewhat oval leaf-blade with parallel veins is borne on the end of an inflated bladderlike petiole. It is this bladder which bouys up the plants. Many petioles grow outward in a rosette pattern from a central axis.

Six-petaled flowers are showy and vary in color from white to bluish hues. Many flowers are borne on a single flower stalk which emerges from the central axis. Many tiny seeds are produced, but only about 5% germinate. Enough seedlings may become established in shallow water, decaying vegetation, or on mud along shorelines to reinfest bodies of water from which all waterhyacinth plants have been eliminated.

Waterhyacinth has a densely fibrous root system which dangles in the water but may become attached to mud for a time during periods of low water.

Underwater rhizomes, submerged stemlike structures, are the major means of this weed's spread. After a lateral growth of about six inches away from a parent plant, the rhizome sprouts a new plant. Ten individual plants can cover an acre of water after ten months growth. It is the rhizomes which bind mats of parent plants and offshoots together and restrict movement of watercraft through infested streams.

When a mat of waterhyacinth covers a stream, it so shades out sun that no other plants grow, and in shallow areas the oxygen may be so low under the mat that no fish survive. Mats block water flow and have been known to cause sewage backup in Florida. Matted plants, at times, float downstream and jam against bridges. Many mechanical and chemical controls have been tried; 2,4-D has been the most successful chemical used to date. However Amitrol-T and Diquat have recently been shown to be effective. Chemicals are applied as foliage sprays in a continuing program to eliminate this pest at its source.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

Fertilizer Co., Homestead; William Colburn, Superintendent of The Bay Hill Club, Orlando; and J. Leroy Fortner, Superior Fertilizer Company, Sarasota.

During the annual banquet on August 28, Cary Clark, turf management major at the University of Florida received the second FT-GA \$500 scholarship.

Numerous awards were made at the banquet to Floridians who have played a prominent role in turf over the years. Foremost of the awards was the presentation to James E. Ousley, Sr., of Pompano Beach, an FT-GA Director and 1962 Trade Show Chairman, of the first FT-GA Award of Honor, in recognition of his meritorious service to the Florida turf industry.

Aquatic Weed Control

(from page W-17)

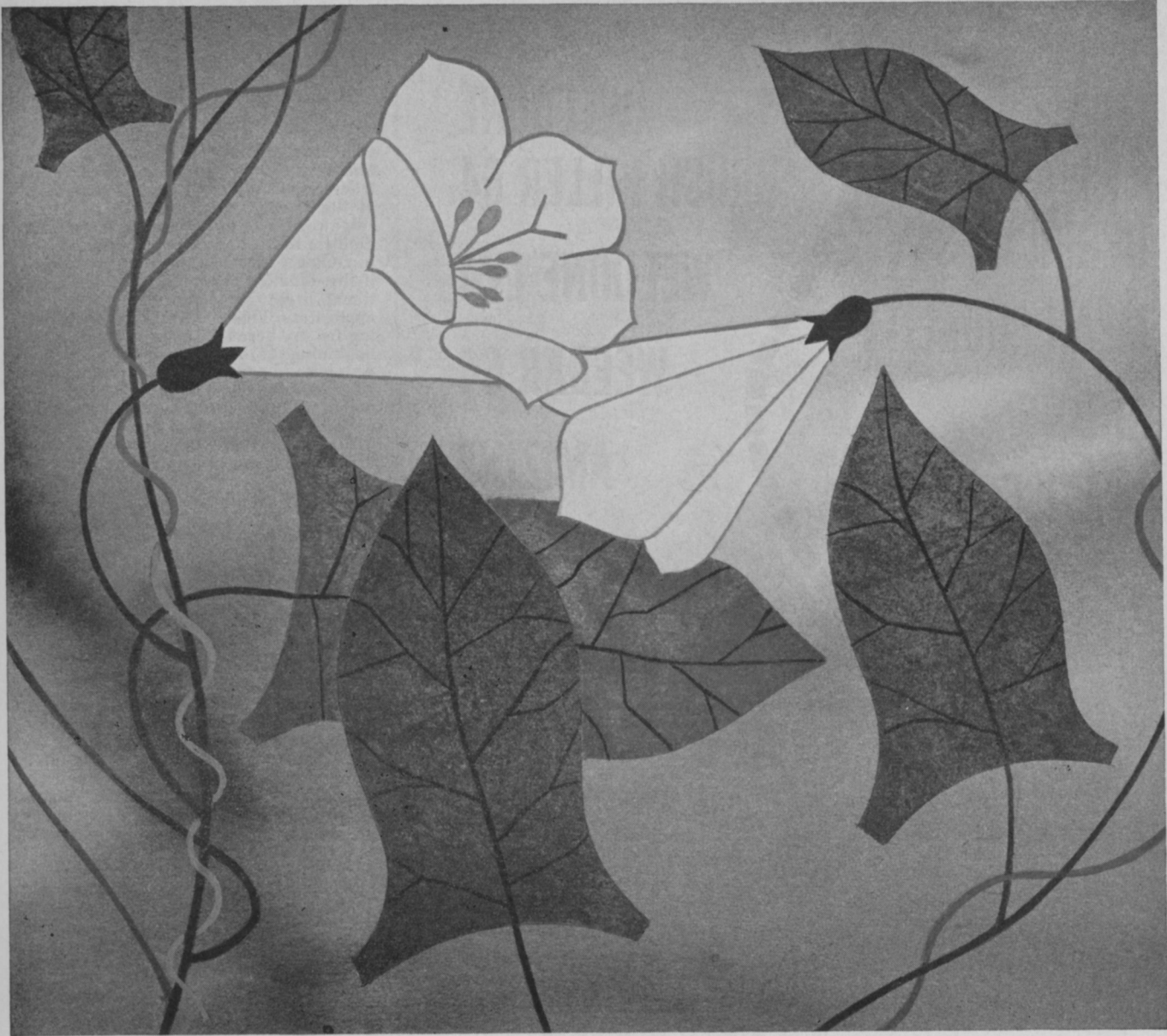
single midrib vein on each leaf from which small lateral veins are given off. Overall venation may be obscured by the smooth fleshiness of leaves. *Nymphaea* or white waterlily, on the other hand, has veins which radiate evenly from the petiole point of attachment. Identification of leaves can be used when plants are not flowering.

Nuphar's sparsely petaled flower will be yellow; *Nymphaea's* many-petaled flower will be white, rarely yellow, pink, or blue. After petals have dried and fallen, the globular seed receptacles will look alike on both species, so leaf venation identification again should be used.

Although *Nymphaea* is considered a true floating-leaf aquatic, some species of *Nuphar* are more erect. Stout petioles lift the arrow-shaped leaves out of the water.

The aquatic plants previously discussed do not constitute all pest species encountered. At one time or another, any number of species may become sufficiently plentiful to be bothersome. This listing is intended to offer a brief cross section of the more troublesome species at present.

Chemicals for control of these plants will be dealt with in the second installment of this series, which appears next month; equipment for application will appear in the final segment of this three-part article.



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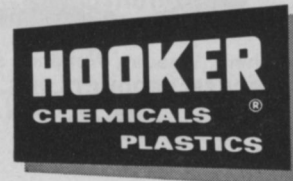
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Trimmings

Nostalgia Department. We were reminiscing recently about some of the many contract applicators who corresponded with us during the months of intensive poll-taking and research which preceded the establishment of *Weeds and Turf*, and were pleased to come across a memo from Archie Wheaton, who is supervisor of the Lucas Tree Expert Co., in Norridgewock, Maine. Archie wrote us that his firm felt it had achieved real success in contract brush control, and wondered if the aquatic field might not offer additional bright opportunities for diligent applicators. This was timely wool-gathering for us, because this issue marks the beginning of our three-part article on water weed control. Hope Archie enjoys what our technical staff has to say . . . and if anyone wonders why we waited until now to publish the article, suffice it to say that this was a most *ambitious* endeavor, and was a long time in preparation!

* * *

Business will be booming. Perhaps it's not something to approach with levity, but we've learned that a group of atomic experts predict that should a nuclear war come about, it is probable that a hardy survivor will be our old nemesis, crabgrass.

* * *

The Page boy's job. Speaking of applicators with broad fields of interest, while we were musing over some of the letters from CAs which came during the early days of the magazine, we found a communique from Jack Page, who runs Jack Page's Nursery in Walla Walla, Washington. Jack tells us his company has a spray service, does landscape work, and operates a nursery as well, and said he looks forward to the technical information W&T offers him each month. Jack's a landscape architect himself, and we hope this Page finds what he's looking for on *our* pages!

* * *

Kilmer Oak to fall. Looks like Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., is going to lose its famed Kilmer Oak. The majestic tree, several years in decline and now dead, is popularly thought to have inspired Joyce Kilmer's famous poem, "Trees." There's a lot of sentiment connected with the fine old oak, which once stood 68 feet tall and had a limb spread of 108 feet. Job of removal went to Eugene Pendolino of Garden State Tree Specialists in North Plainfield, N.J. Gene's only compensation, our news correspondent says, was a crosssection of the trunk which he wants for an office decoration. (Requests for crosssections have been widespread.) The tree was slated for demolition last month.

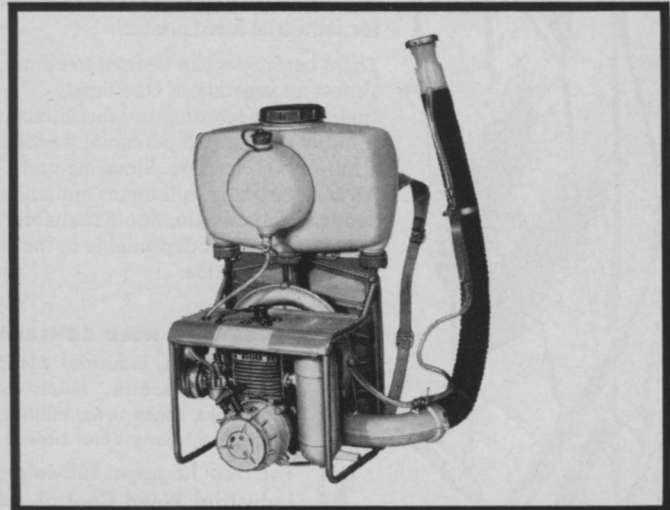
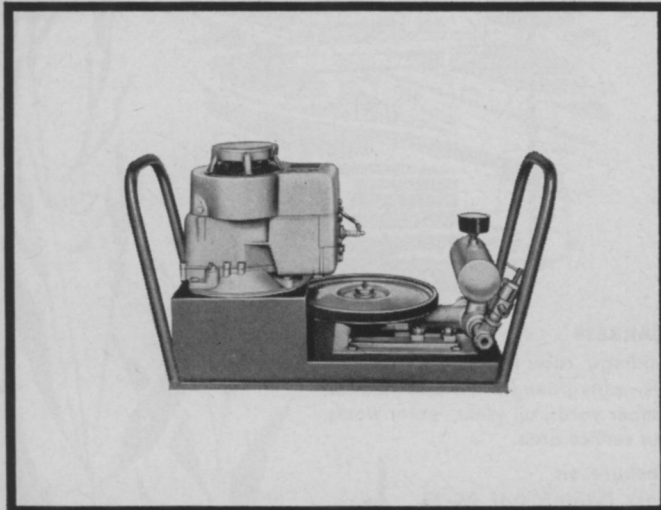
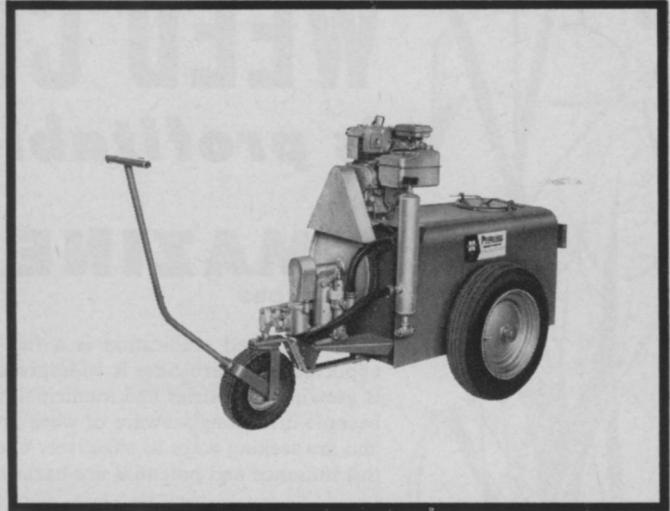
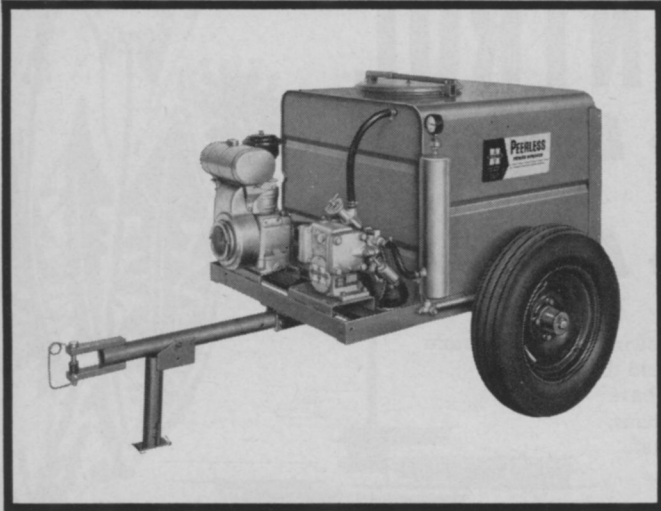
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Turfgrass honors. Our turf management friends in Florida like to give awards, it seems, and the latest bevy of prizes was handed out at the recent turfgrass conference (p. W-35). Honored for outstanding service to the industry were Ed Miller and Dewain Railey, researchers at the University of Florida, and Cliff Rasmussen, who's experimenting on turf at the experiment station in Ft. Lauderdale. Also cited were industry figures Howard Bardsley of Homestead and Dave Turner of Ft. Lauderdale. Often-honored Col. Frank Ward, a former FT-GA leader, received commendations, too. Congratulations to all!

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