

Fla. PC Rules Preoccupy Spraymen At Last Month's HSAF Convention

"The Horticultural Spraymen's Association of Florida and the Florida Pest Control Association will have to band together to protect their interests in legislative matters in the coming year," Dempsey Sapp, State Pest Control Commissioner from Gainesville, told delegates at the opening session of the 1966 HSAF convention and trade show, in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., November 3 and 4.

With all its activities, including speeches, panel discussions, and the annual banquet, compressed into a two-day schedule, HSAF brimmed with predictions of closer cooperation with the FPCA and of a possible legislative battle to defend the newly revised Florida Pest Control Act, and its protective provisions for both public and industry pros.

Sapp traced briefly the background of the law, which became effective July 1, 1965, and which includes lawn and ornamental spraymen as well as structural pest controllers. Basically, the law requires anyone performing pest control work as a business to obtain an operator's license from the five-man state Commission.

To qualify for a license, an individual must pass an examination made up and administered by the Commission, or he may have been included under a "grandfather clause" designed to protect capable practicing applicators at the time the law went into effect.

"The greatest task will be to educate both the public and those in the industry in the provisions of the new law," commissioner Sapp said. Too many operators, prospective operators, and others still do not fully understand its provisions. In its capacity of reviewing complaints against operators, the Commission holds both informal and formal hearings throughout the state. In many cases, Sapp pointed out, corrective action initiated at the hearing has proved sufficient. If necessary, however, the Com-



Bill Murray (left), named HSAF's new secretary-treasurer, acted as registrar for the '66 meet. Here he signs up John Carli, Chase & Co., Sanford, Fla., and Ray Meyers (right), of Orlando. Meyers was later named vice president of the spray group for the coming year.

mission has the power to suspend or revoke licenses, certificates, and identification cards. Chairman of the Commission is Sam Walkup, of Orkin Exterminating Co., Orlando, who introduced Sapp's talk. Larry Nipp, HSAF president, also sits on the Commission.

Enforcement of legal provisions is primarily the responsibility of the Florida State Board of Health. Outlining these regulations to the group was F. R. DuChanos, board member. He stressed that label registrations are "the final word" on which chemicals can be used for lawn and ornamental spraying. Use of any chemicals not registered for this purpose is prohibited, and the operator is required to maintain in his office files specimen labels of those chemicals he employs.

Short But Challenging History

From recognition of damage caused by chinch bugs to Florida lawns; from the beginnings of chemical research; from the discovery of nematodes and such diseases as dollar spot; from the proper use of chemicals and the appearance of chemical resist-

ances, the history of the lawn and ornamental spray industry in Florida is not a long one, but it has been challenging. This was the judgement of Dr. Gene Nutter, veteran turf expert from Jacksonville, as he and Ralph Jones, Wilson & Toomer Fertilizer Co., Jacksonville, discussed new trends in the industry.

Heretofore, most businesses have placed emphasis on residential spraying, particularly for chinch bugs. But, the Florida sprayman is beginning to branch out into other areas and to offer other services, including weed control, lawn renovation, fertilization, pruning, etc. Most spraymen still emphasize curative programs, but interest is growing in selling preventive maintenance.

Spraymen are also finding non-residential opportunities to supplement home lawn and ornamental work. Industrial weed control is a prime opportunity for horticultural spraymen because they already have the necessary labor and equipment, Nutter pointed out. Roadsides, airfields, and military grounds are other areas where spraymen

need to look to see what can be done, Jones added in the back-and-forth exchange of ideas on industry opportunities. Another strong possibility lies in the area of aquatic weed control, and this is particularly true of Florida, the speakers agreed.

Personnel shortages and a highly competitive business atmosphere also face the industry. These problems have been around for some time, but they are likely to become more severe. The individual sprayman will have to shoulder more of the burden of finding and training promising help. And, he will have to realize that "the honeymoon is over in business," Jones said. The sprayman will have to know where his business is making money and where it is not, and then take the necessary steps to correct the situation. Predicting that prices charged will probably come down rather than up, Jones suggested that the operator's living may well depend more on what he can save than on what he can make.

Florida Grasses Reviewed

Kicking off the morning session as the convention moved into its second day of talks, Ralph White, of Ousley Sod Co., Pompano Beach, reviewed for delegates the common Florida lawn grasses. All have their uses and their problems, White emphasized, and the lawn sprayman must know what these are. Otherwise, the customer will not be satisfied and may turn away from lawn grasses entirely, preferring such nonlawns as colored concrete.

Turning his attention to individual grasses, White noted that carpetgrass has no place in southern Florida; centipedegrass



Bringing spraymen up to date on new regulations were (left to right) Sam Walkup, Florida Pest Control Commissioner; F. R. DuChanos, of the State Board of Health; Craig Anderson, session chairman and new HSAF president-elect; and Dempsey Sapp, P.C. Commission member.

is not extremely shade and wear tolerant, can't be managed too closely, and is quite susceptible to brown patch fungus. Bahia-grass is susceptible to weed invasion and produces high, unsightly seed spikes during its reproduction period in fall; nematodes and certain diseases can become a problem in zoysiagrass; lawn caterpillars are the biggest problem in bermudagrass, and nematodes usually appear if the grass has been planted in an area for a long time; St. augustine-grass is apt to be severely damaged by chinch bugs and often accumulates very heavy thatch in well-fertilized and watered lawns.

Tackling the problem of what to do about thatch accumulation in St. augustinegrass, Lew Watson, Broward County Agricultural Agent, advised conventioners that "the key to successful renovation is to do it before too much thatch has accumulated." The secret is not to pull up too much at one time. For this reason, knives of vertical

mowers should be set no closer than about 3 in. apart.

Here is Watson's schedule for successful lawn renovation: 1. Investigate grass closely for insects, nematodes, and fungus, and if found treat this problem first, allowing time for the grass to recover sufficiently before renovating; 2. Fertilize 10 days to two weeks ahead of verticutting; 3. Aerate if possible and practical; 4. Verticut, being careful not to take out too much; 5. Rake, then vacuum, and 6. Apply herbicides—atrazine and simazine work well when applied about 10 days to two weeks after renovating.

No Homeowner Mowers

Lawn mowers for the homeowner are designed to be used about 30 hours per year, Art Griffes, of House and Garden Lawn Service, Ft. Lauderdale, pointed out in his talk on lawn maintenance equipment. For this reason, home mowers are not suitable for a lawn service, since they require too much maintenance. Griffes urged prospective buyers to test machinery under actual use conditions before making the purchase, and once the equipment is on the payroll, the lawn serviceman should keep complete records on each item so he will know just how much it is costing to operate.

When buying lawn equipment, consider first the size and maneuverability of the machine. Griffes suggested that the labor shortage and time savings pos-

(Continued on page 46)

Getting together after an informative educational session were (left to right) Ralph White, Lew Watson, Bill Murray, and Art Griffes. Murray, who chaired the session, was honored at the banquet for boosting HSAF membership in the Lake Worth area.



Monthly Insect Report

WTT's compilation of insect problems occurring in turfgrasses, trees, and ornamentals throughout the country.

Turf Insects

FALL ARMYWORM

(*Spodoptera frugiperda*)

Texas: Buildup continues in eastern portion of state; moderate to heavy in Kaufman, Henderson, and Gillespie Counties on lawns. Buildup expected to continue until frost.

GREEN JUNE BEETLE

(*Cotinis nitida*)

Oklahoma: Larvae heavy and damaging turf in small areas in Tulsa County.

BILLBUGS

Kansas: (*Sphenophorus venatus vestitus*) Larvae and adults noted in old Zoysia lawns in Johnson and Sedgwick Counties. **Utah:** (*Sphenophorus parvulus*) Spreading and damaging lawns in Salt Lake County.

FALSE CHINCH BUG

(*Nysius ericae*)

Idaho: Nymphs nuisance on lawns at Lewiston, Nez Perce County.

STRATIOMYID FLY

(*Altermetoponia rubriceps*)

California: Heavy in Westwood Terrace district of San Francisco County; lawns showing damage, large swarms of adults occurring.

WHITE GRUBS

(*Phyllophaga* spp.)

Alabama: Larvae damaged root systems of grass sod at Madison County Golf Course; controls necessary.

SNAIL

(*Vallonia pulchella*)

California: Heavy in lawn and turf at Carmel, Monterey County.

Insects of Ornamentals

BAGWORM

(*Thyridopteryx ephemeraefornis*)

Alabama: Pupating in central section on cedar, willow, hackberry, and other trees. **Virginia:** Infesting shrubs in Vinton, Roanoke County.

FALSE POWDER-POST BEETLE

(*Melalgus confertus*)

California: Larvae occurring in Conadria fig nursery stock in Grass Valley, Nevada County.

ROUNDHEADED WOOD BORERS

(*Obera tripunctata*)

Alabama: Larvae injuring twigs and smaller limbs of isolated dogwoods on lawns in Lee County. **Virginia:** Larvae infesting twigs of dogwoods and lilacs in Chesapeake.

BOXELDER BUG

(*Leptocoris trivittatus*)

Texas: Moderate to heavy on many shade trees and ornamental plants in southern portion of Hood County.

SALT-MARSH CATERPILLAR

(*Estigmene acrea*)

Florida: Moderate on 150 palms (*Phoenix roebelenii*) inspected in nursery in Davie, Broward County. Larvae cutting new growth out at tops of palms.

VARIABLE OAK LEAF CATERPILLAR

(*Heterocampa manteo*)

Oklahoma: Heavy on many ornamental oaks in Payne County.

SPIDER MITES

(*Tetranychus* sp.)

Wyoming: Large numbers present on ornamental junipers at Torrington, Goshen County.

IO MOTH

(*Automeris io*)

Florida: Infesting 50% of *Ixora coccinea* and completely defoliating some at nursery in Davie, Broward County.

LEAF ROLLER MOTH

(*Platynota stultana*)

California: Damaging holly nursery stock at Perkins, Sacramento County. Larvae and pupae populations high.

ARMORED SCALES

(*Unaspis euonymi*)

Alabama: Heavy on old euonymus plantings in Lee County. **Virginia:** Heavy on euonymus at home in Haynesville, Richmond County.

WHITE PEACH SCALE

(*Pseudaulacaspis pentagona*)

Alabama: Heavy on ornamental mulberry and cottonwood trees in Clay County.

Tree Insects

APHID

(*Myzocallis walshii*)

Virginia: Heavy on red oaks at Big Meadows Lodge on Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park. Leaves heavy with honeydew.

ELM LEAF BEETLE

(*Pyrrhalta luteola*)

Nevada: Light on elm in Eureka, Eureka County for second known infested area in county. Infestation and damage in Tonopah, Nye County, and Panaca, Lincoln County, heavier than in 1965. **New Mexico:** Serious on elm trees in Albuquerque area, Bernalillo County. Damage more common on Chinese Elm Trees than other elms. Some homeowners removing this species because of the

Compiled from information furnished by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, university staffs, and WTT readers. Turf and tree specialists are urged to send reports of insect problems noted in their areas to: Insect Reports, WEEDS TREES AND TURF, 1900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

pest. **Texas:** Light on most Chinese Elms in Upton County. **Utah:** Defoliated about 25% elm trees at Kanab, Kane County.

LEAFHOPPER

(*Opsiurus stactogalus*)

California: Adults heavy on tamarisk trees in Dos Palos, Merced County.

SAWFLY

(*Caliroa lineata*)

Texas: Larvae heavy on oak trees near Houston, Harris County.

FALL WEBWORM

(*Hyphantria cunea*)

New Mexico: Moderate to heavy, causing partial to complete defoliation of poplar, pecan, and elm trees throughout Dona Ana County. **Virginia:** Medium on sweetgum in Churchland area, Chesapeake. Larvae infesting sycamore trees and seeking overwintering sites around trees and buildings.

Ind. Treemen, Nurserymen Plan Jan. Joint Meeting

From 350 to 400 arborists and nurserymen are expected to attend the midwinter meetings of the Indiana Arborist Assn. and the Indiana Assn. of Nurserymen, being held concurrently at the Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Jan. 4-6.

Don Surber, National Cash Register Co., Toledo, Ohio, is scheduled to talk to both groups on "Profit Planning." Other speakers are Professor Glen Lehker, Purdue University, Lafayette, who will discuss "Pesticide Safety"; Dr. C. J. Carter, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Ill., slated to delineate some "Uncommon or Unusual Tree Diseases"; and Professor H. W. Gilbert, Purdue, who will consider "Trees for Streets."

Speakers and their topics set for arborist sessions include Paul Ramsey, N. G. Gilbert Corp., Muncie, Ind., "How Do We Measure Up As Managers"; Noel Wysong, Golconda, Ill., "Your Public Relations"; Gerald J. Mitchell, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Wage-Hour and Public Contract Div., Chicago, "The Wage-Hour Law and Its Application To The Tree Care Industry"; and Dr. Paul E. Tilford, Wooster, Ohio, "A Street Tree Program for Smaller Communities." Other topics are "Some New Ideas on Chemical Brush Control," by Richard E. Abbott, Ohio Power Co., Canton, and "Pest Problems

and Bug Blasters," by Dr. Donald L. Schuder, of Purdue.

Panel discussions on "Safe Operations of Aerial Lifts" and "Growth Retardants" are also among arborist activities at the upcoming meet.

Ralph Carmichael, president, Midwest Chapter, International Shade Tree Conference, is a featured speaker on the program for nursery interests. He'll discuss "Landscape Design and Application." Nurserymen will also hear talks on "Selling Up in Landscaping"; "Labor—Its Price, Availability, and Relation to Profit"; and "Keeping Old and New Customers Sold on Plant Material."

For further information, write Dr. Donald L. Schuder, Secretary, Indiana Assn. of Nurserymen, Agriculture Hall, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.; or Kenneth B. Flaig, Executive Secretary, Indiana Arborist Assn., 6509 Birchdale Drive, Fort Wayne, Ind.

January Tree Planting to Mark N.Y. Arborists' Meet

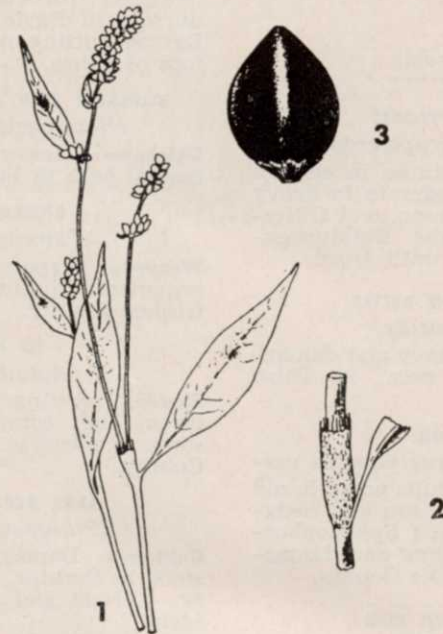
A tree planting ceremony, unusual for January, will take place when the New York State Arborists Assn. meets at the Concord Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, N.Y., Jan. 15-17. Not just a ceremony, it will show participants the proper techniques for winter plantings.

Moderated panel discussions on "Community Appreciation of Shade Trees" and "Legislation Affecting Arborists" will lead off on Sunday, Jan. 15, educational program. Monday will feature a look at "The Arborist Through Consumer Eyes," and a roundtable discussion, to be chaired by Professor Carl F. Gortzig, of Cornell University, Ithaca, on "Trees and Their Care in 1967." Also planned are sessions on work procedures and safety, which are to be developed both by commentary and audience participation.

For more information, contact William H. Schwab, Secretary, Hudson Valley Chapter, New York State Arborist Association, P.O. Box 321, Millbrook, N.Y.

Know Your Species

LADYSTHUMB (*Polygonum persicaria*)



Ladysthumb smartweed is also known as persicary, heartweed, and spotted knotweed. A seed-producing annual, ladysthumb is a common weed in the northern United States and southern Canada.

The plant is most frequently found in waste places, along roadsides and ditches, and in cultivated ground, particularly in low, wet areas.

Stems of ladysthumb are smooth and fleshy and are sometimes slightly hairy. Widely branched stems grow 6 inches to 3 feet tall.

Leaves, shown in (1), are alternate and pointed at both ends. A triangular dark spot is usually found in the middle of the leaves. Smooth-edged and 1 to 6 inches long, leaves are attached at the base to a sheath that extends around the stem (2). Sheaths are smooth and fringed with short bristles.

Flowers are pink to purple and are borne on dense, round spikes, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches long, at the ends of the stems. The plant flowers in the period, June to October.

Seeds (3) are heart shaped and may be flattened or 3-sided. Shiny, black seeds are about $\frac{3}{32}$ inch long and are produced from July to November. Seeds are frequently found in clover and small grain seeds.

Ladysthumb can usually be partially controlled by mowing when the flowers first appear. Good control may be obtained by using low-volatile esters of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T at the rate of 1 pound per acre. For maximum results, chemicals should be applied when plants are small. Under favorable conditions, first application will kill young weeds. Otherwise, further application is necessary for control.

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

(DRAWING FROM NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PUBLICATION NO. 36, USDA EXTENSION SERVICE)

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When answering ads where box number only is given, please address as follows: Box number, c/o Weeds Trees and Turf, 1900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

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More than 110 scientific papers will be presented when some 800 weed experts from 13 states gather Jan. 4 to 6 for the 21st Annual Northeastern Weed Control Conference, at the Hotel Commodore in New York City.

In addition to research reports, representatives from government, industry, universities, research institutions, regulatory agencies, and other areas will delve into the many phases of weed and control problems. NEWCC's program will emphasize latest developments and information pertaining to weed control in turf, ornamentals, forests, roadsides, industrial sites, railroad and power company rights-of-way, and aquatic environments, as well as in agronomic crops.

Final details for the 1967 meeting, one of four regional weed conferences held each year in the U.S., are firm and can be obtained by writing to Dr. Arthur Bing, Secretary-Treasurer, Northeastern Weed Control Con-

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HSAF Convention Report

(from page 42)

sible from using larger equipment make better buys of the bigger item. Consider its design and construction second, he advised. In particular, it should have more than "just enough" power. Third, consider the economy of maintenance. Larger items require more expensive parts, but not nearly as much replacement; small machines often eat up too many parts. Keep in mind, too, the availability of replacement parts. Finally, according to Griffes, consider the initial cost of the equipment; but do it last, not first.

Relay Panelists Answer Queries

Concluding HSAF's educational sessions, a panel of experts, so large it was divided into two sections, took questions from the floor. First team consisted of Dr. John Cabler, Turf-Grass Specialities, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. T. E. Freeman, Associate Plant Pathologist, University of Florida, Gainesville; Dr. Stratton Kerr, Associate Entomologist, University of Florida, Gainesville; and Doug Palmer, Junior College of Broward County, Ft. Lauderdale.

What is new for brown patch control? the panel was asked. Rohm & Haas' Fore and Diamond Alkali's Daconil 2787 look promising, was Dr. Freeman's reply.

What new chemicals look good for chinch bug control? Dursban from Dow and Akton from Shell have given good control at the rate of 1 lb. active ingredient per acre, Dr. Kerr said. Akton is available only with an experimental label for testing.

What are the prospects for a fungicide that will control all fungus diseases? Dr. Freeman expressed doubts that such a fungicide will be developed. In all likelihood, various chemicals will still be required for optimum control of the different fungi. Several of the broadest spectrum fungicides on the market now are Fore, Daconil, Thiram, and the organic mercury compounds.

What about reference guides for control of insect pests in Florida? The University of Florida's "Insect Control Guide," covers all

up-to-date recommendations, Dr. Kerr replied. This book can be obtained for \$5.00, which includes supplementary information as it is made available, from James Brogdon, Extension Entomologist, Department of Entomology, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Taking the baton at midpoint in the question and answer session were Dr. Evert Burt, Associate Turf Technologist, Plantation Field Laboratory, Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. Thomas Stringfellow, also from the field lab; Al Wills, Junior College of Broward County, Ft. Lauderdale; Dr. Huey Borders, Plantation; Dr. Tom Kochis, Plantation; and Lew Watson. Questions came thick and fast during the panel session, which was moderated by Ralph White, who was later named a director of HSAF for the coming two years at the business meeting.

Others chosen for key association offices included Larry Nipp, American Power Spray Co., Ft. Lauderdale, who will serve a second term as HSAF president; Craig Anderson, The Professional Sprayer, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale, who moved into the newly created position of president-elect; Ray Meyers, American Power Spray, Orlando, who becomes vice president; and Bill Murray, Greenlawn Spray Service, Lake Worth, who was named secretary-treasurer for the coming year. Selected as new directors-at-large were Robert Perry, Sunset Nursery, Tampa; and Earl Waldman, Earl's Lawn Spray Service, Port Charlotte.

But the convention was not all business, as the large turnout of almost 150 discovered at the annual banquet, the biggest yet, held in the host hotel, Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale. With longtime sprayman Charlie Johnson, of Charlie P. Johnson Spray Service Co., Inc., Miami, and Willard Fifield, Director of the Florida Agricultural Research Institute, Gainesville, as master of ceremonies and guest speaker, no dinner could end on a dour note. In a genial mood, HSAF members filtered from the hotel to return to the task of improving their industry in the state of Florida.

Trimmings

Topless Illustration. A frequent correspondent of ours has written in to ask what happened to the top of the photograph that appeared on page 24 of WTT's November issue. A group illustration of past presidents of the Northeastern Weed Control Conference, the photo was cropped just above the head of '65 president, Dr. Gideon Hill, of duPont Chemical Co. Now, we could claim that Dr. Hill just happened to be the tallest participant in the photo. And, we might add that we're not in the habit of running pics of walls and ceilings, preferring to leave this to interior decorators' journals. However, in truth, this would only be a half-truth. Those who have seen the ballroom of the Hotel Astor, longtime meeting place of the NEWCC, may recall the semidraped maidens adorning the wall. In defense of our cut, we quote Dr. Homer LeBaron, conference public relations chairman, of Geigy Agricultural Chemicals Corp.: "I might mention in passing that the background of this photograph was somewhat coincidental, but I hope it will not prevent your magazine from being distributed in the U.S. mail." What troubles us is that the background was only "somewhat" coincidental, and we're wondering what we'll run into when the NEWCC meets next January 4 to 6. Of course, the Hotel Astor will be no more, and we assume the maidens will be shipped off to a roadside museum. But then, there's always the possibility they are being removed to the Hotel Commodore, where Northeast weedmen will meet in '67. Shuddering thought.

* * *

Year Round Use for Yule Tree. With the holiday season close upon us, we hear that some cities plan to provide their residents an extra use for discarded Christmas trees. City chippers will chew up trees and homeowners will receive the chips for mulching their trees and shrubs. Sounds like a good idea, but it still doesn't remove the vexing necessity of taking down the Christmas tree, most unpleasant task of the holiday season. Wonder when someone will invent ornaments suitable for mulch?

* * *

Bit of the Auld Sod. Recently received some correspondence from County Down, Ireland, pertaining to the 18th Cen. practice of planting lawns not with grass, but with moss. Seems to have been an aristocratic preference adapted to Ireland's humid climate and highly acid soils. We're told that some moss lawns were of "many acres" and yellowish-golden in color. Just when moss ceased to be cultivated in lawns of the elite, we can't say. But we can say this: the more we travel around the country and view the tremendous strides being made in commercial sod production, the more we realize that an Irish aristocrat of centuries past would have difficulties bettering the cultivated sod readily available on today's market.

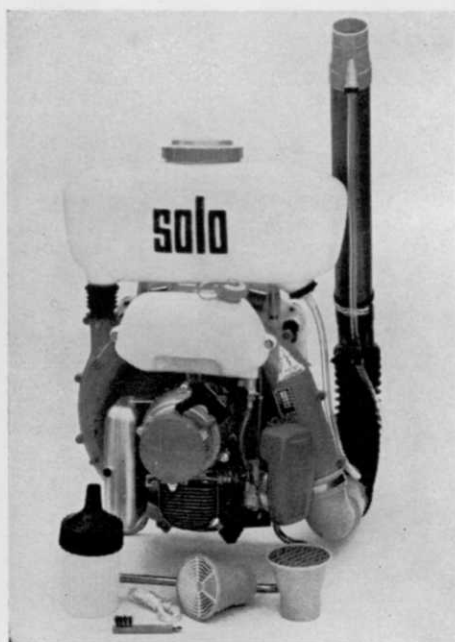


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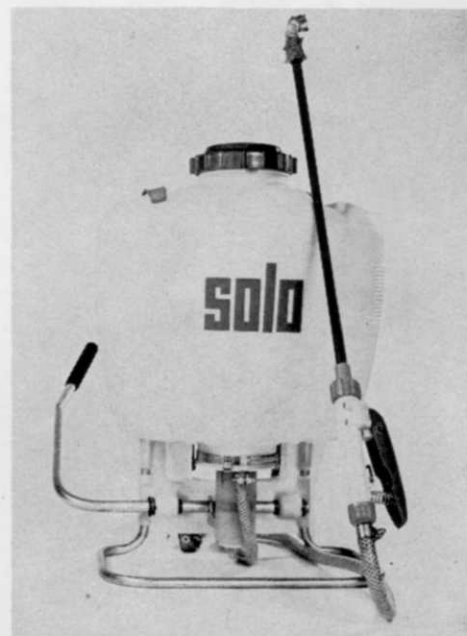


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