



SOD INDUSTRY SECTION

## State Fair Booth Promotes Sod Sales For The Borbonus Brothers of Idaho

Cloverdale sod grower Hans Borbonus uses an exhibit booth at the state fair to promote sales for his Boise, Idaho, operation.

Borbonus believes it is an excellent method of recruiting new customers. Last year at the Western Idaho State Fair he pulled 10,000 booth visitors. At a location near the main door of the chief exhibition building, he set up a small knoll which was covered with "instant lawn." An attendant was on hand at all times to encourage visitors to examine the product.

Besides fresh sod, Borbonus used a background of trees and a birdbath. A garden table and bench completed the motif, along with a few logs for effect.

Manning the booth is the key to success in promotion. Attendants spent sufficient time to discuss advantages of sodding for a new lawn. Many visitors were surprised to learn that sodding can be done in Idaho during all seasons except when the ground is frozen or covered with snow. Also, the fact that a complete lawn requiring only normal maintenance can be readied

shortly after receiving an order proved to be impressive.

A handout entitled "The Instant Lawn," also proved most

helpful. This promotion piece features sod growing and harvesting at the Cloverdale Nursery and Turf Farm and is a guide

Cloverdale Nursery fair booth which attracted 10,000 visitors at Idaho State Fair.



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For More Details Circle (114) on Reply Card

## Irrigation Stressed

# Midwest Regional Turf Conference



Sod is loaded on trailer trucks for installation by Cloverdale crew at landscaping site.

to preparation and sodding. It includes details on soil preparation, fertilizer applications, installation, and maintenance of the new lawn.

Potential customers were varied. They included apartment house owners, motels, commercial first, and homeowners. A number of parents with small children were interested in sodding only a small portion of their lawns.

Borbonus reports that it is difficult to evaluate immediate sales effect of the fair booth promotion. But he feels that potential sales for a number of months following the exhibit are reasonable. He believes the promotion well worth the cost as an advertising medium.

The farm is operated by Hans Georg Borbonus Landscaping, Inc. Hans Georg is president and his brother, Gerhard, vice-president. They handle 80 acres.

Coming in the  
May  
WEEDS TREES AND TURF  
New Airboat Sprayer  
Invert Spray System



Irrigation specialists on conference program are, left to right: Charles Watson, Toro; John Dunlap, Oakwood Country Club, Cleveland; Walter Wilke, March Irrigation; A. J. Miller, Miller Sprinkling Systems; and Thomas Kramer, Kirchdorfer Irrigation.

The Midwest Regional Turf Conference held every year at Purdue University offers a most intensive study of the industry. A round-up of current information is available on practically every subject which ties into the turf picture.

Program participants are specialists in their many fields as well as their own companies or educational institutions. Organization is superb, thanks largely to William H. Daniel, executive-secretary of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and Purdue agronomist, and the extensive facilities and faculty at Purdue.

Attendance for the 24th meeting this last month reached a new high of 741 by the beginning of the second day's program. A few sod growers and others registered after this to increase this figure slightly. Golf course superintendents accounted for the major segment of the group. Probably the most sophisticated program series this year featured irrigation. Specialists from a number of companies and golf course superintendents discussed

the current types of systems in detail.

### Miller Irrigation

President of Miller, Sprinkling Systems, Royal Oak, Mich., Austin J. Miller, told turf personnel that today they can have every switch, knob, fuse, clock and push button in the golf superintendents office, pumphouse or clubhouse. The other extreme is also possible and controllers can be scattered around the course in 20 or more locations.

The superintendents operating automatic systems are in the best position to give direction in establishing the happy medium, he said. No one solution is right for every course. Most superintendents recommend four to six satellite controller locations. This keeps the wire or tube runs reasonable and allows the operator to see the sprinkler he is turning on when manually operating the controller.

At the satellite locations, Miller pointed out, there should be separate controllers for greens, tees and fairways. Some superin-



tendents are even suggesting separate controllers for the sprinklers at the approach to the greens.

These satellite controllers should have no more than one automatic valve per station and must be capable of automatic, semi-automatic or manual operation independent of the central program. Miller said that by providing each satellite with a 24-hour starting clock, it can function fully automatic in case of a central program failure from fire, lightning or wire break. Each satellite controller should have a lightning arrestor on the primary electrical supply and a copper ground rod connected to the cabinet. Controller cabinets need to be on a 42" concrete base to prevent frost heave and resulting misalignment in later years. A concrete pad in front to stand on and at least a 12" concrete apron on the other three sides will permit mowing around the controllers and eliminate hand trimming. He pointed out that by supplying the satellite locations from the closest electrical source, wire size and distance is reduced. This usually means two or three sources of power, Miller said, thus reducing reliance on a single source.

Miller raised the question of central control. Central control or central programming, he believes, should be reserved for those functions the superintendent wants done from the office. This can be as simple as a Yes—No switch. Yes—I want water tonight, or No—I don't want water tonight. It can be as complete as remoting every function available at the satellite.

It is generally felt, Miller said, that central control should let the operator start irrigation program for greens, tees and fairways independent of one another. Syringing of greens, tees and fairways should also be independent and the syringe time should be variable.

Miller pointed out that it is

New officer slate, left to right: Theodore Woehle, vice-president; Robert Meier, Jr., president; and Dr. W. H. Daniel, executive - secretary.



possible to also have an on-off switch for each controller on the course so that parts of the program can be omitted. Appropriate lights on the panel will indicate switch position or the function in operation.

Of utmost importance, he said, is an emergency switch for turning off the program during operation. A sudden shower or call from the clubhouse that a sprinkler is running can make this

switch useful. An adjustable rain switch which will shut down the program after two tenths inches or more of rain might save a two a.m. drive to the course during a thunder shower, Miller stated. The controllers should automatically re-set to off after the above switches go off. Control of these remoted functions can be in a panel box mounted in the maintenance building or superintendent's office.

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Lee Schmidt, left, and Joe Williamson each received a \$300 golf course superintendent scholarship. Making the presentation is Norman Kramer, right, vice-president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Benton Harbour, Mich.

Most automatic systems, Miller pointed out, will cost over \$100,000 and when spending this amount of money the program deserves the services of a Professional Engineer with considerable experience in golf course irrigation. He cautioned against depending on a free plan from a material supplier or contractor.

#### March Irrigation

Walter Wilkie, March Irrigation and Supply Company, Muskegon, Mich., stated that most people blindly look upon any form of an automatic underground sprinkler system as a universal panacea to all of their watering needs. However, he pointed out, this is not the case. While many operators are appreciative of their system, they are somewhat disillusioned at the demands of the work load that they have fallen heir to as they try and implement the automatic system.

Wilkie said that installation on any given golf course will require from 18 to 36 controllers, depending upon the size and the

geography of the course. These are normally located in three or four controller areas. Management and operation of these controllers dictates success or failure with the system.

#### Award Program

Two Purdue University seniors majoring in turf studies received scholarship awards at the annual banquet.

They were Joe Williamson, Highland, Ind., and Lee Schmidt, Carmel, Ind. Each received a \$300 golf course superintendents' scholarship.

Also recognized were two January, 1969, Purdue graduates, each a recipient of a \$200 Mueller scholarship. They were David A. McManama, Carmel, and Dan Brier, Williamsport, Ind.

Newly elected officers of the Foundation for 1969-70 are Robert Meier, Jr., 6319 Wiche Road, Cincinnati, O., president; Theodore Woehrle, Birmingham, Mich., vice president, and W. H. Daniel, Purdue turf specialist, re-elected as executive secretary.

## Witnesses Help Kill Proposed DDT Bill In Washington State

Washington State legislators at a joint hearing of both houses recently killed a proposed bill to ban DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides.

Jack Daniels, well-known veteran pesticide applicator and past-president of the Northwest Spraymen Association, appeared as a witness in opposition to the bill. Daniels' testimony along with other qualified witnesses proved sufficient to convince legislators of the need for a go-slow policy regarding outright bans.

Daniels said in his statement regarding DDT to the group that he had "lived with it, breathed it, practically bathed in it, and never had any ill effects." He also stated that "there is no case on record of a death from DDT. It would be a tragedy to be deprived of it. The loss of these materials far outweighs the loss of a few fish and birds."

Washington State agricultural chemist, Richard Maxwell, said that "to the best of our knowledge, pesticides do not pose a danger to public health." He further stated that the effect on wildlife is not so certain and needs more research.

Backers of the bill to ban the pesticides used the popular line that pesticides concentrate in the fatty tissues of the bodies of fish, who eat the plankton that absorb the poisons. Fish, according to these statements, if they are not killed, are eaten by birds whose eggs fail to hatch.

Appearing in favor of the ban were housewives, University personnel, and a member of the Seattle Audubon Society. Fighting the bill were forestry association personnel, farm operators, entomologists, and commercial spraymen.



## Florida School Considers Beautification Project

An innovative project in beautification, termed the "campus-park concept," is being considered at Lake City Junior College and Forest Ranger School, Lake City, Fla., that would involve botany, biology, forest ranger, turf and park management and timber harvesting students.

The project, still in preliminary planning stages, would hope to: beautify the buildings and grounds; establish recreation and service areas for the college and community; and supply training sites and facilities for students, it is reported.

For example, the creation of a "green" biology pool behind the science building would not only enhance appearance of the area but would provide at-hand material for students in botany and biology classes.

## Air Pollutants Damage Plant Life, Says Darley

"We can't grow plants in dirty air," Dr. Ellis Darley, who is from the Air Pollution Center, University of California at Riverside, warned attendants of the combined conference of turfmen, arborists and nurserymen held recently at Colorado State University.

Odorless, invisible air pollution—mainly from automobiles—is damaging to plant life, Darley reports. Sun shining on the gases, such as sulfur dioxide and fluorine, given off by cars forms photochemical air pollutants, and these damage plants, he contends.

Although some plant varieties appear to be resistant to this pollution, many are not, he says. Vegetables develop brown-spotted leaves and become unsalable. Pine trees turn brown, their needles falling off. In the San Bernardino Valley alone, Darley cites, 25,000 acres of pine trees

have been affected in this manner by photochemical air pollutants.

Flowers—especially petunias—are also susceptible; 40-60 percent of Los Angeles' roses, carnations and orchids are affected, he reveals.

"We can't solve this problem until we realize that we breathe community air," Darley concludes. "We can't point to industry, for this is a community problem—we all drive cars."

## Balchem Process Retards Migration of Herbicides

New York's Balchem Corporation has recently developed an encapsulation process designed to prevent or retard migration of herbicides in the soil.

Balchem contends its new process, soon to be patented, prolongs effectiveness of herbicides that exhibit mobility through soil leeching or volatilization. It's economical, too, as less herbicides are required when the process is utilized, according to Balchem.

For details write the company, Box 175, Slate Hill, N.Y. 10973.

## Safe Pesticide Practices Stressed in UC Manual

The much-discussed combination of safety and pesticides is the main topic of "Pesticide Information and Safety Manual" put out by the University of California's Agricultural Extension Service.

Write for a copy to J. Blair Bailey, Pesticide Safety Specialist, Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720. Cost of each manual is \$2.50; checks should be made payable to the Regents of the University of California.

## California Program Saves Valuable Roadside Trees

A new program already underway in the Sacramento area for saving trees along freeway routes was recently announced by the California State Department of Public Works.

Trees on land purchased as rights-of-way for freeway construction will be examined, and those considered compatible with highway conditions will be preserved either through local care or highway maintenance work, it was reported. Many of these trees have died in the past due to lack of care.

In addition to preserving trees in their natural setting, the new policy also calls for the uprooting of palm, olive and certain evergreens capable of being stored in a tree "bank." Therefore valuable trees, even those in the direct path of construction, will be salvaged.

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## RAPID-GRO

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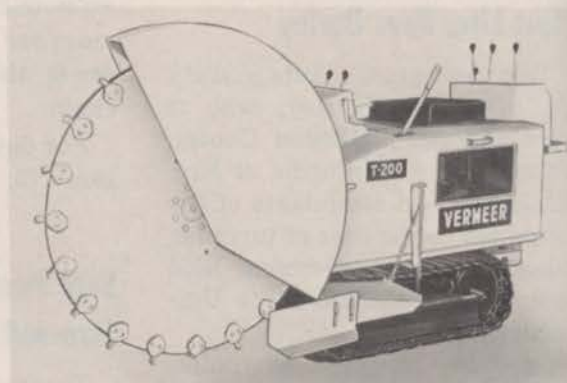
# New Products . . .

## Designed for the Vegetation Care Industry



Joseph T. Ryerson & Son, Inc. provides landscapers with rot-proof perimeter strips of flexible, heavy-duty  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or  $\frac{3}{8}$ "-thick Ryerson steel to simplify grounds maintenance and add beauty plus protection to driveways, athletic tracks, flower beds, etc., says Ryerson. Strips separate grass and gravel, stop weed growth along fenced areas, according to the company. Installs easily and permanently—16' or 20' strips fasten securely in place with tapered steel stakes driven through slots punched in the strips every 30 inches, Ryerson explains. Installed properly, edging lets mowers glide right over it. For more details circle (701) on reply card.

Vermeer Manufacturing Co., Pella, Iowa, now offers its new Model T-200 Root Cutter attachment that fits the company's T-200 Pow-R Trencher; attachment can be quickly removed for trenching, says Vermeer. Revolving cutting wheel features heavy-duty, carbide-tipped teeth that cut roots down to 18 inches below the ground's surface. Entire unit is mounted on rubber padded crawler tracks. For more details circle (702) on reply card.



International Harvester Company has recently developed its new Sand Trap Rake in conjunction with the needs of a greenskeeper at one of the nation's leading golf courses. This new unit, International Harvester contends, cuts manhours required for raking sand traps by 50 per cent, which frees maintenance workers for other chores. Uniform penetration of the rake eliminates hardpan and cultivates weeds and grass out of traps, according to the company. For more details circle (703) on reply card.





W. J. Heinrichs, Inc., Reedley, Calif., offers its Mini Turfmaster self-propelled dump truck that holds 3000 lbs. Features include: heavy-duty hydraulic cylinders; speeds to 20 mph; high flotation tires (no tire marks from heavy loads). For more details circle (704) on reply card.



Model #6 tool chest by Weather Guard Chest, St. Louis, is 18-gauge iron painted with white enamel and measures 69" long by 14½" deep. Provides ample storage plus side and rear visibility. Model #5 has section for power saw. Both have lockable hasps. For more details circle (705) on reply card.



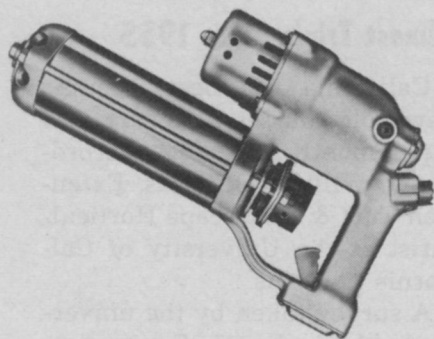
Lightweight aluminum Pruning Wand by Clyde Cutlery Corp., Clyde, O., ends ladder-climbing and arm-scratching when pruning to height of 10 ft., even inside dense shrubs. Easy pump action makes steel blade slash through branches to ¾" diam. For more details circle (707) on reply card.



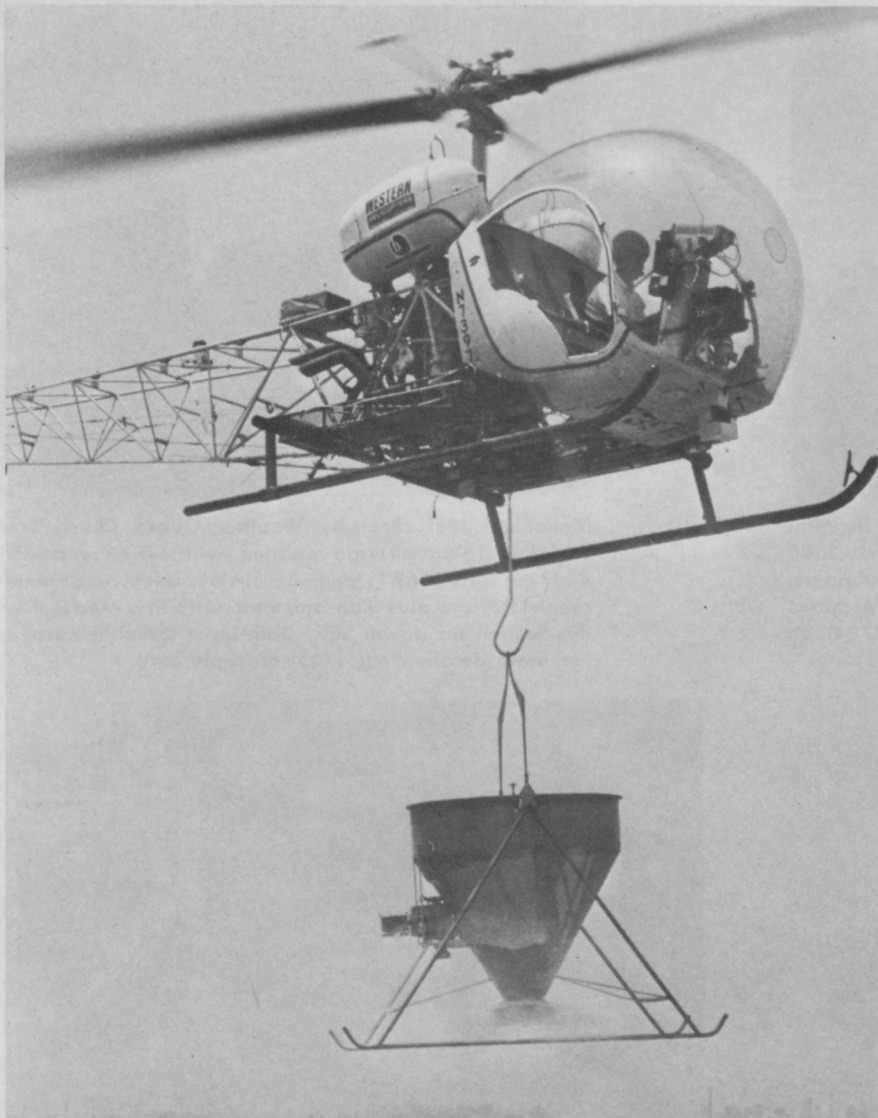
Sporty as well as protective are Smithco, Inc.'s (Wayne, Pa.) new red and white carousel canvas tops for the company's "Red Rider," "Red Ranger" and "Ranger-23" vehicles. Designed for driver and passenger protection in inclement weather, the tops and framework can be quickly and easily attached, says Smithco. For more details circle (706) on reply card.



Locke Mfg. Cos., Inc., Bridgeport, Conn., contends its heavy-duty rotary riding mower 32R is ideal for both institutional and home use. Unit boasts handling ease, comfort and maximum safety, says Locke. Devere-Locke 32R has 9-hp engine, steers with handlebar assembly with short turning radius. Cutting height adjusts from 1" to 4", with side trim on one side. Cutter arms and blades are statically balanced. For more details circle (708) on reply card.



Shown above, 1 of 4 Electromagnetic Hammer models recently acquired by POW-R-TRON, INC., Home, Pa., formerly produced by Syntron Div., FMC Corp. Hammers offer wide assortment of tooling plus long life and low maintenance (piston is only working part), says POW-R-TRON. For more details circle (709) on reply card.



Helicopter fertilizer/seed spreader, called the Sling-King, has been developed by Transland Aircraft, Inc. The unit is radio controlled and requires no hydraulic lines to the helicopter. Thus, no power take-off is needed from the helicopter engine. The unit has a 27 cubic foot fiberglass hopper, weighs less than 150 pounds and covers swath widths up to 85 feet. Capacity of hopper is 800 pounds of pelletized urea. A 3½ hp, 4-cycle, gasoline engine powers the spreader. (For more information, circle (710) on reader service card).

## California Golf Courses Almost Triple Since 1955

California has been opening new golf courses at the rate of 3 per month since 1960, according to William B. Davis, Extension Turf & Landscape Horticulturist at the University of California at Davis.

A survey taken by the university's Agricultural Extension Service in 1967 revealed that the state's golf courses actually in play totaled 665, with more than 50 courses either under construction or on the drawing board for

completion by 1970, Davis reports. This figure is a far cry from 1955's total of 234 golf courses.

Almost 60 percent of California's courses are regulation 18-hole, ranging from 5000 to 7000 yards with pars between 65 and 72, says Davis. About 22 percent are regulation 9's with pars from 32 to 36.

How much land is occupied by California's 665 golf courses? About 67,679 acres, according to Davis. Few crops produced in the state, he adds, require the amount of irrigation, fertiliza-

tion and continuous harvesting that must go into producing acceptable areas for the game of golf.

## Bunton Offers New Equipment Catalogue

The 1969 Bunton mowers and trimmers catalog is now ready for distribution. The catalog features self-propelled rotary power mowers, rider attachments, conventional push-type rotary power mowers, trimmer-edgers, trimmers and complete specifications for the complete line.

The Bunton Company manufactures this complete line of mowers and trimmers which includes: 21, 24, 28, 32, 36 and 52-inch self-propelled mowers; 18, 20 and 21-inch push-type mowers; and 8, 10, 12, and 18-inch power trimmers.

Circle (711) on reader card for a copy.

## Denver Trees Suffer From 'Gastric' Ailment

Denver's elms, cottonwoods and poplars can suffer from a gastric ailment known as wetwood, according to city forester George Stadler.

The non-infectious malady, not to be confused with Dutch elm disease, can be arrested and cured, Stadler reports. Bacteria causes carbohydrates and other tree materials to ferment and produce gas. Abnormally high sap pressures build up inside the tree trunk as the result. Up to 60 pounds per square inch have been recorded, Stadler reveals.

The pressurized sap, which produces a water-soaked condition, seeks the nearest escape route—cracks in the trunk or any other opening. Wilting of branches and twigs may also occur.

Stadler explains that holes are bored into the heartwood of the tree and pipes are inserted to drain off the sap to remedy the situation.



## Meeting Dates

**Northern California Turfgrass Council**, Club House, Willow Park Golf Course, Castro Valley, Calif., Apr. 7.

**Florida Turf-Grass Trade Show, Florida Turf-Grass Association**, Robert Meyer Motor Inn and Tangerine Bowl, Orlando, Fla., Apr. 23-25.

**Central Plains Field Day**, Research Plots, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., June 2.

**Central Plains Field Day, Central Plains Turfgrass Foundation**, Research Plots, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., June 2.

**Turf Research Field Day, Rutgers State University College of Agriculture and Environmental Science**, New Brunswick, N.J., June 11.

**Michigan Association of Municipal Cemeteries, 9th Annual Conference**, Holiday Inn, Traverse City, Mich., June 20-21.

**National Fertilizer Solutions Association, Round-Up Program**, Ridpath Hotel, Spokane, Wash., July 8-10.

**National Fertilizer Solutions Association, Round-Up Program**, Hotel Muehlebach, Kansas City, Mo., July 22-23.

**National Fertilizer Solutions Association, Round-Up Program**, Marriott Motor Inn, Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 13-14.

**Golf Course Superintendents Field Day, University of Rhode Island**, Kingston, R.I., Aug. 20.

**Lawn and Utility Turf Field Day, University of Rhode Island**, Kingston, R.I., Aug. 21.

**Central Plains Turf Conference**, Kansas State University, Ramada Inn, Manhattan, Kan., Oct. 15-17.

**National Fertilizer Solutions Association, National Convention and Equipment Exhibition**, Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 9-13.

Note: Dates for this column need to reach the editor's desk by the 10th of the month preceding the date of publication in order to make the printing deadline.

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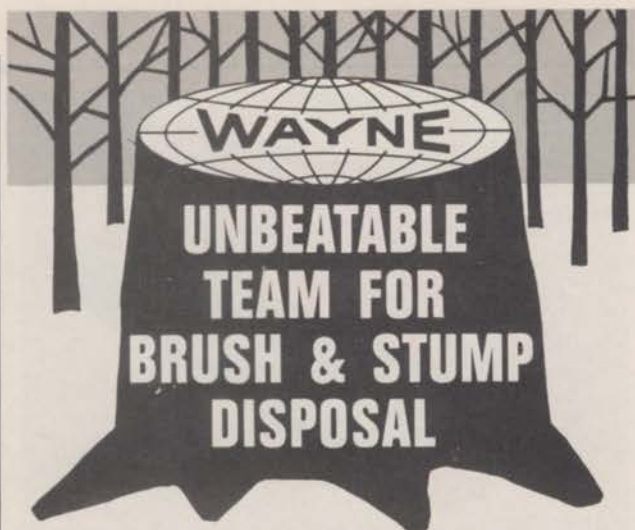
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LS-98

## Insect Report

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

### TURF INSECTS

**AN ARMORED SCALE**  
(*Aonidomytilus bilobis*)

CALIFORNIA: Medium on *Artiplex* sp. in Kettleman City, Kings County.

### INSECTS OF ORNAMENTALS

**A NOCTUID MOTH**  
(*Orthosia hibisci*)

MARYLAND: Larvae lightly damaged rose buds at University Park and Greenbelt in Prince Georges County.

**FORBES SCALE**  
(*Aspidiotus forbesi*)

FLORIDA: Found on dogwood, *Cornus florida*, at Williston, Levy County. This is a new Florida Department of Plant Industry county and host record.

**GRAPE SCALE**  
(*Diaspidiotus uvae*)

VIRGINIA: This species and *Chionaspis parkii* (an armored scale) infested about 10-15 percent of sycamore trees in nursery at Portsmouth, Norfolk County.

**PINEAPPLE SCALE**  
(*Diaspis bromeliae*)

CALIFORNIA: Medium on pineapple plants in a nursery in Kenwood, Sonoma County.

**BLACK VINE WEEVIL**  
(*Brachyrhinus sulcatus*)

OREGON: Severe on two large beds of ornamental maple rootstock in Portland, Multnomah County. Trees in small pots; grubs averaged 4-5 per pot.

### TREE INSECTS

**AN APHID**  
(*Cinara pilicornis*)

MARYLAND: Found on hemlock near Glen Burnie, Anne Arundel County. This is a new State record. Heavy on spruce at a home in Baltimore, Baltimore County. This is a new county record.

**SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE**  
(*Dendroctonus frontalis*)

ARKANSAS: Detection flights made in Ashley County. Sixteen spots of dead timber observed. First record of this species in State since 1913.

**SILVER-SPOTTED TIGER MOTH**  
(*Halisidota argentata*)

CALIFORNIA: Larvae damaging pine trees in Pacific Grove, Monterey County.

**PALES WEEVIL**  
(*Hylobius pales*)

ALABAMA: Adults feeding on 1 to 2-year-old pines in 10 to 15-acre planting in northwest Chambers County.

WEEDS TREES AND TURF, April, 1969