

# You don't have to put up with *Poa annua*.



## Put on Dacthal<sup>®</sup>

If you let *Poa annua* get the jump on you, your turf is in trouble. Dacthal weed preventer kills *Poa annua* as it germinates — so it can't grow up, crowd desirable grasses, then die and leave unsightly bare spots.

Since *Poa annua* problems vary with climate and with your turf management practices, you need a herbicide that's as versatile as it is effective. That's Dacthal. It's available in wettable powder or granular form. And you

can use it whether your program calls for no reseeding, mid-summer reseeding, or spring renovation.

Write for our booklet on Dacthal for *Poa annua* control. It's just part of the complete system of weed and disease control you can get from Agricultural Chemicals Division, Diamond Shamrock Corporation, Dept. H-2270, 300 Union Commerce Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

 **Diamond Shamrock  
Chemical Company**

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## Special for This Issue

- TurboTrim: Right-of-Way Maintenance With Chemicals** ..... 6  
*Mobley Company, Inc., Kilgore, Tex. side-trims trees up to 100 feet high using invert emulsions and a customized applicator built for rugged country.*
- Prepare for More Inflation** ..... 12  
*Financial writer David Markstein of New Orleans offers guidelines you can follow to live with inflation yet continue to operate a profitable business.*
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*John Brailsford organized a drainage district to turn a "swamp farm" into a profitable nursery featuring big trees.*
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*Golfers continued to play while a Ditch Witch trencher with vibratory plow installed the irrigation system.*
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*Endothall is the answer to this bluegrass weed headache, say Michigan State weed scientists.*

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## The Cover

When in rugged tree country, travel as loggers do, Mobley Company right-of-way maintenance contractors discovered. This Kilgore, Tex., firm tried four-wheel drive trucks but had to call on the loggers to pull them out of mudholes once too often. As a result, Mobley Company customized a logging vehicle built by the Franklin Equipment Co., Franklin, Va., to navigate the tough pipeline and utility right-of-way terrain in Southeast Texas. Mobley had to devise a new spraying technique also to reach the tall trees. With invert emulsions, spray can be placed accurately up to 100 feet. The story begins on page 6.



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# WEEDS TREES and TURF®

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## The People Who Really Get the Job Done

WHILE TRAVELING in recent months, we've become more aware of a group of people who don't get much public thanks for what they do. Yet their efforts weigh heavily on the success of a business. They're indispensable if we're to improve the environment.

Sure, they get paid for doing a job; and if they don't do it properly, they may not have a job.

Nevertheless, their skills and dependability rate an occasional pat on the back.

We're talking about . . . the mower operator who occasionally must ride at a precarious angle, but constantly be alert to avoid hitting and hurling objects that could injure someone . . . the man who operates howling tools to burnish the soldered seams of a chemical tank . . . the welder, whoever he is, under that hot hood . . . the operator of the sprayer whose accuracy is the difference between new contracts and lawsuits . . . the tree trimmer who maneuvers deftly around high voltage lines . . . the ground man who picks up the last small twig and stuffs it into the chipper . . . the mechanic who keeps cutting blades honed,

vehicles rolling, spray planes flying . . . the men and women who painstakingly compile data . . . the order-taker who gets it right and fills it right now . . . the worker who mixes the chemical *exactly* as recommended . . . the fellow who counts insects, or detects diseases . . . the sod cutter who works in the hot sun all day . . . the pruner who trims nursery stock as though each tree were his own . . .

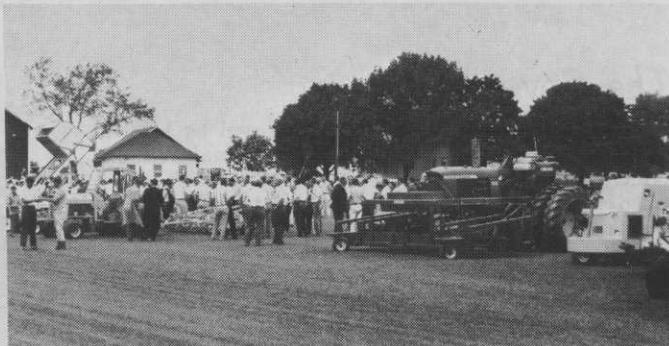
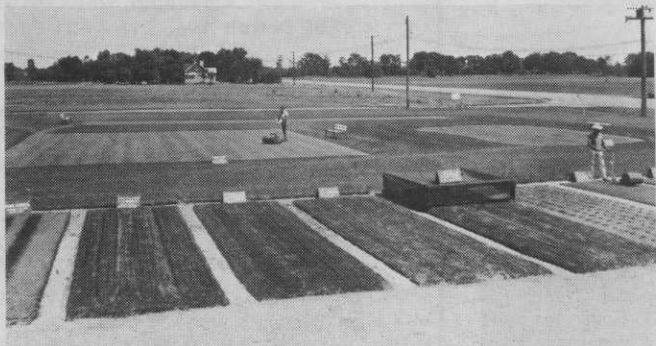
But you get the idea. You can name a hundred more.

Citizens can howl, bosses can order, corporations can finance, government can legislate on this matter of improving the environment. Finally, though, it is the people we've mentioned that get the job done.

So we just thought it would be nice to take a little time and space to say thanks. If some of them work for you, why not second the motion?

*Gene Ingalsbe*

# SOD PRODUCERS



## 1970 Conference and Field Day, July 28-30

This is your meeting of the year. The place: Ramada Inn, Dolton, Ill. The program begins at 1 p.m. with tours to area sod farms. Next day you'll hear the best in the industry talk about the national sod business as it is today and what it can become in the future.


You'll hear survey results on the industry, generally, on production costs, specifically. Specialists will discuss turf varieties, turf production, turf promotion. You will see successful sod operations, turf research plots, and the latest turf production equipment.

You will see the research plots pictured at left during a tour of Warren's Turf Nursery. The tour, beginning at 1 p.m., July 28, from the Ramada Inn at Dolton, Ill., also visits the Evergreen Sod Farm at Peotone. Field day demonstrations go on all day July 30 at the H & E Sod Farm just off Rt. 114, Momence, Ill. A landing strip for light aircraft will be available at H & E. Contact Dale Habenicht (312-798-2210) if you plan to fly. The equipment lineup is from last year.

For details, call Henry Indyk, Executive Secretary, Area Code 201 247-1766, Extension 1453

**American Sod Producers Association**

# Asplundh is speeding up delivery dates on Aerial Lift Trucks



Asplundh has scheduled regular production on the Forestry or General Service bodies, both complete on GMC chassis. These 45' lifts with a capacity of 350 pounds in all positions are fully insulated and have high pressure hydraulic systems to the baskets. Ready for fast delivery.

Can also be purchased with a rugged Asplundh Chipper, either 12" or 16" with adjustable telescoping exhaust chute and bonnet, new folding feed table.

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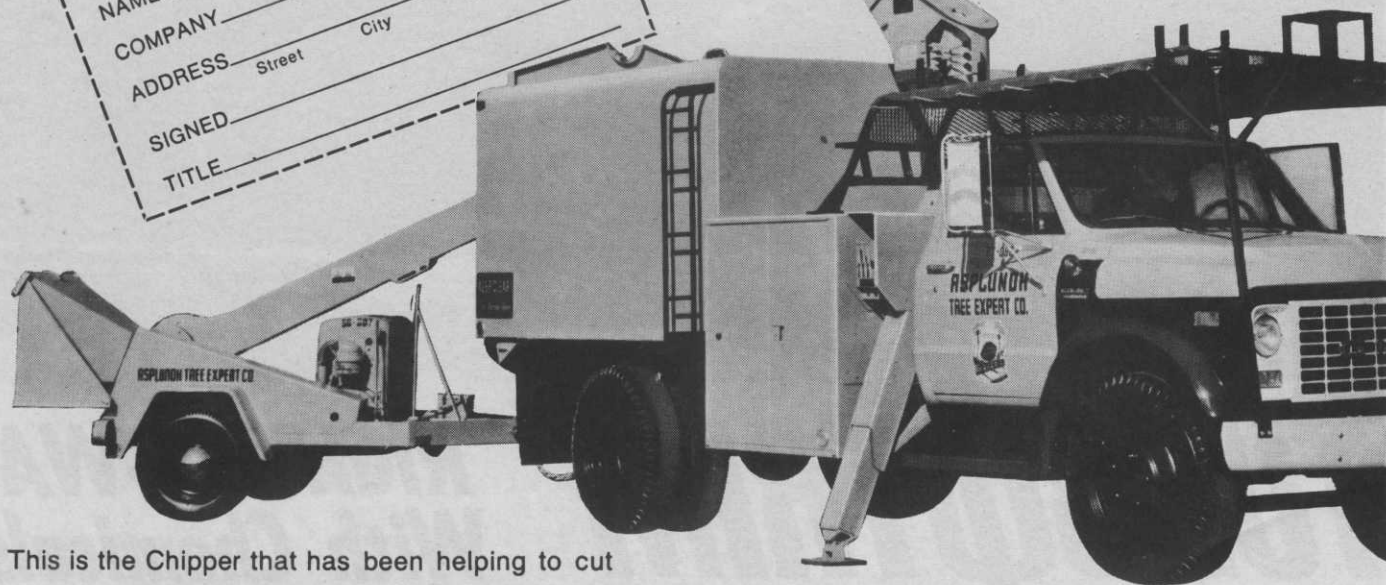
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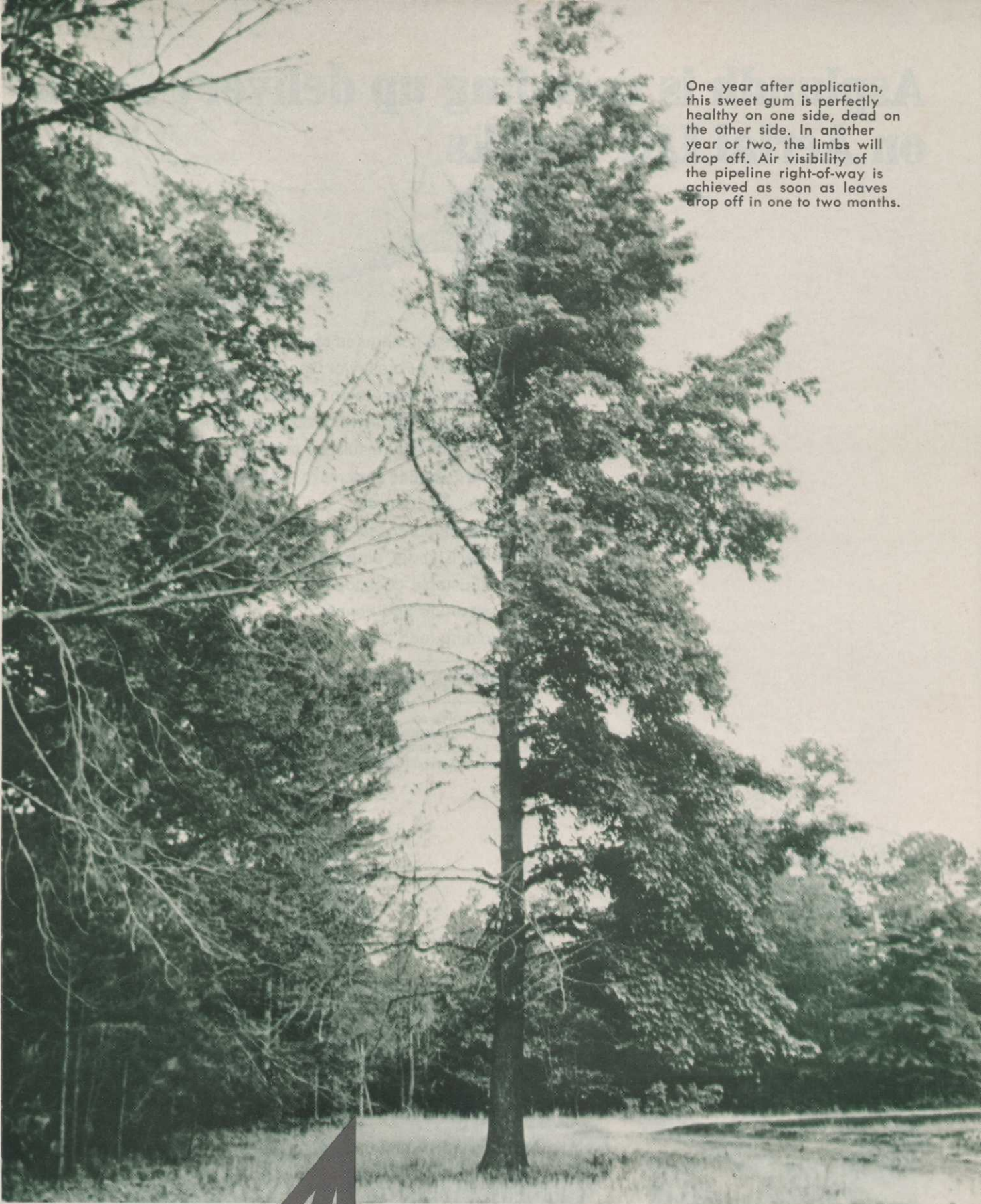
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This is the Chipper that has been helping to cut down on Air Pollution for the past twenty-five years.

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One year after application, this sweet gum is perfectly healthy on one side, dead on the other side. In another year or two, the limbs will drop off. Air visibility of the pipeline right-of-way is achieved as soon as leaves drop off in one to two months.

**TURBO**  **TRIM**

**RIGHT-OF-WAY**  
**With Chemicals**

**D**EEP IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS, near Kilgore, Tom Mobley and I headed for tall timber.

We had a hard time finding what we were looking for. It weighed 22,000 pounds, stood 10 feet high, stretched 30 feet long, was bright red and yellow, roared like an earth-moving tractor, and spit a mayonaise-like fluid 100 feet into the air.

Except for occasional pauses to analyze the quality of ripened blackberries, we searched diligently. The "putt-putt" of hundreds of oil well pump engines dominated sounds. Trees that had grown from saplings to 60 to 70 feet high after this world-famous oil field was developed three to four decades ago dominated our sight. The height and canopy of the trees, in fact, is the reason we have this particular Texas story to tell.

Though it is the colorful and dramatic symbol, the TurboTrim vehicle is not the subject of this report. The story is about a technique of maintaining rights-of-way by chemical side-trimming.

It's a technique that has developed in three years to a fifth and full-fledged division of the Mobley Company, Inc., Kilgore.

Tom Mobley is one of three brothers who own this Texas "mini-conglomerate." Tom is president of Mobley Company, Inc., and vice-president of the Chemogenics Division. John Mobley III is chairman of the board of Mobley Company, Inc., and president of the Chemogenics Division. David Mobley is president of the Applied Chemicals Division.

Factors that have proved the worth and produced the success of the TurboTrim, said Tom Mobley, are:

1. Height of application.
2. Accuracy of chemical placement.
3. Maximum effectiveness from amount of chemical used.
4. Speed of application and of job completion.

#### 5. Lower cost.

As have many businesses, the Chemogenics Division evolved from the solution of a problem.

Oil pipelines lace the countryside of east and southeast Texas as do streets and freeways in a metropolitan area. But for several decades, oil companies faced no difficulty in policing rights-of-way Mother Nature, appearing almost revengeful at having been drilled into and slashed through during the peak of oil drilling and pipeline

construction, counterattacked, pushing trees higher than the derricks and spreading limbs, brush and weeds over the pipeline trails. Most pipelines have had a moving program to keep the right-of-way clean a ground level. Pipeline walkers patrolled the lines to search for leaks.

Aerial reconnaissance of pipelines became more economical than maintaining linewalkers. The problem was seeing the right-of-way from the air.

"By the early 60s, Tom Mobley be-

Mobley Company's TurboTrim easily hits this tall pine, perhaps between 70 and 80 feet high. It's a two-man operation, R. C. Cloyd is the tractor driver and Ernie Ray is operating the TurboTrim. The modified John Bean blower sends the invert emulsion skyward at a velocity of 100 mph.



# MAINTENANCE

By GENE INGALSBE





This three- to four-foot section of an oak tree shows how fine a line can be drawn with TurboTrim. Maximum coverage on the left dwindles to no coverage on the right. Trimming by hand often resulted in insect infestations and vigorous resprouting. The limbs at left are shown one year after treatment. Sprouts after hand trimming are dead, and no new sprouting has occurred.



The invert emulsion comes out a creamy consistency providing drift control, rain resistance, more surface absorption, less evaporation loss, and placement accuracy.

"One of our pipeline customers agreed to provide a test site," Mobley continued. "We used Ammate plus a proprietary mix and a modification of the Stull bifluid system. Our wind machine was a modified John Bean, although it could be a Myers or somebody else's.

"A seven-mile stretch in deep east Texas was treated in August of 1967. Everything looked fine in the spring of 1968. We treated another 50 miles, still on an experimental basis.

"Upon review, we knew we were on the right track and that the system would do the job."

#### All Terrain Vehicle

The Mobley Company didn't walk or run into this new venture, rather, it plowed into it. This boldness in taking on the roughest terrain and vegetation conditions produced the TurboTrim applicator.

"The 50 miles we tackled were along the Gulf Coast and during an especially wet summer," recalled Mobley. We were using a four-wheel drive truck, and were constantly getting stuck. Along the way we saw loggers operating with big equipment, and on occasion hired their rig as a tow."

Impressed with the invincibility

gan, "overhanging trees were becoming a problem. Cutting was expensive and regrowth was inevitable. Cutting also brought on insect infestations. I've seen stretches of forest paralleling rights-of-ways killed by the pine beetle that entered the trees through the limb cuts and tree-climber's cleat wounds."

and material could treat the high limbs."

Stull's herbicide emulsion is one in which oil surrounds water droplets, as opposed to the more common emulsion of oil droplets in water. A "multiphase invert" is a Stull emulsion in which oil surrounds water surrounding oil.

#### New Technique Required

Mobley Company, through one of its older divisions, Applied Chemicals Division (formerly Walker Chem-Spray), had been providing weed control service, treating large industrial sites, tank farms and railroad yards for several years. The peculiar nature of the pipeline vegetation problem called for something different.

"The key problems were height of application and drift control," said Mobley. "In 1967, we tried out a John Bean RotoCast and Stull Chemical's bifluid invert emulsion system. We envisioned that with some modifications, this equipment



Tom Mobley, right, visits with Ernie Ray while the TurboTrim is being restocked. The men on the vehicle are Tim Davis and Dennis Sadler. At this particular stop, water was taken from a pond near the right-of-way.

of the logging vehicle, the Mobleys purchased a four-wheel drive, rubber-tire, articulating, all-terrain vehicle, made by Franklin Equipment, Inc., Franklin, Va.

Mobley engineers mounted a modified John Bean sprayer, a 1,000-gal. tank, a dozer blade in front, and a winch.

"It's great to drive," said R. C. Cloyd. "It can be mired, but not very often."

In 1969, the TurboTrim treated rights-of-way for two rural electric cooperatives, five pipelines and two investor-owned utilities.

"We worked the hardest areas last year," Mobley said, "but a Texas guess is that we'll cover 500 miles this year.

#### How TurboTrim Works

The TurboTrim program is this:

1. Chemical is applied only to limbs overhanging the right-of-way obscuring the vision of aerial patrolmen or interfering with conductors. The air blast carries the emulsion to every target portion of the tree.

2. Ten days to two weeks after application, the deadening process has begun. The chemical has penetrated each leaf, limb, and twig, and leaves have turned brown. Additional limb and twig growth has been stopped. Most leaves will fall within one or two months.

3. One year after treatment, the deadening process is complete. Each limb and twig treated is dead. The decay process has begun. The smaller twigs at the end of each limb are the first to fall to the ground in small pieces resembling the natural self-pruning of all trees. No additional growth will occur to the treated limbs.

4. Three to four years after treatment, all limbs have self-pruned and have been unnoticeably assimilated into the natural dead fall. No re-sprouting has occurred. The pruning process is complete.

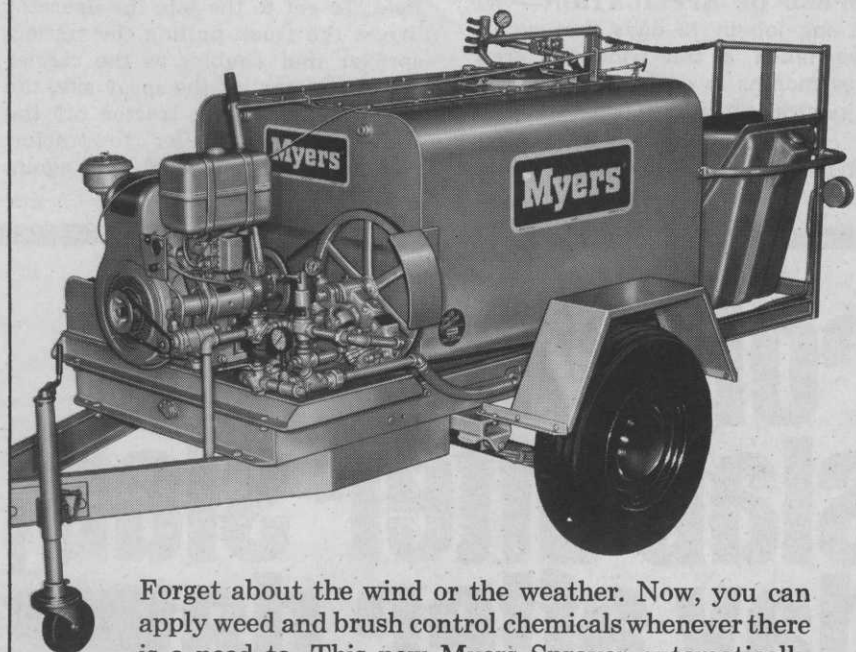
Back to the advantages of the TurboTrim:

**HEIGHT**—The more common, or conventional, spray equipment reaches 40-50 feet effectively, but much more chemical is necessary for greater heights, Mobley said. "The TurboTrim is effective up to 100 feet, partially due to the invert emulsion, to the equipment we use, and to the ability of the operator," he added.

The day we saw the TurboTrim perform, two trainees, Dennis Sadler and Tim Davis, were working along with Ernie Ray and R. C. Cloyd. By mid-June a second TurboTrim went into operation. One contract is

# Keep Herbicide Sprays in the Target Area

## ...with Myers new Du-All Invert Sprayer!



Forget about the wind or the weather. Now, you can apply weed and brush control chemicals whenever there is a need to. This new Myers Sprayer automatically mixes, meters and applies Visko-Rhap\* herbicides in mayonnaise-like, drift resistant droplets. No pre-mixing of heavy, hard-to-handle chemicals. No wind drift. Oily, wash-off resistant droplets are deposited right in the target area. Waste is minimized. You cover more acres per day more effectively with fewer refills. Want details? Just call your local Myers Sprayer Dealer, or write:

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CORPORATION

\*Trademark of Hercules, Incorporated, Wilmington, Delaware

in South Carolina.

**ACCURACY**—"We can hit within two or three feet of an imaginary line," said Mobley. "And because of the drift control we have, we can operate in 10 to 15 mph winds, generally speaking." Conventional rigs would have to shut down if the wind were half that velocity.

**EFFICIENCY**—"I would say our efficiency is 10 to 20 times that of other systems," Mobley estimated. "We use less material. And once the material hits the target, Mobley continued, it clings longer, allowing the chemical to take effect. "If we get the spray on one to two hours before a rain, we're in good shape," he said. In isolated cases, the chemical has taken effect even though a good rain came just 30 minutes after application, he reported.

An additional benefit in the right conditions, he added, is that we get some brush control from fall-back. We've killed 8-10-foot brush this way."

**SPEED OF APPLICATION**—"We did one job in 12 days that would have taken a tree-trimming crew three months to do."

**LOWER COST**—Considering time for completion, less material used, and length of effectiveness, Mobley

estimated that the TurboTrim is from 50% to five times cheaper than hand trimming.

## Trailer Spraying Foam On Turf Gets Attention

Where the TurboTrim gets stares of wonderment, another Mobley conceived and constructed spray apparatus gets stares of puzzlement.

With increasing frequency, unenlightened spectators see a tractor pulling a flat-bed trailer over pasture and golf courses spraying a thick white foam that seems to come from nowhere.

"Where's your tank?" they ask," reported Don Telge, manager of the chemical weed and brush control department. On close inspection, the 400-gal. tank is determined to be the box-like structure supporting the flat-bed.

The one-man rig is uniquely practical. To get to the job, the operator drives the truck pulling the trailer-sprayer that doubles as the carrier for the tractor. At the spray site, the operator drives the tractor off the trailer, hitches trailer to tractor, and takes off spraying. But again,

the rig is not the best part of the story.

## Herbicides With Foam

"We're using foam to apply 2,4-D and MSMA on golf courses, along fire walls, and pastures," said Telge. "I worked with the developer of the product, Norman Sachnik. I experimented with it when I worked as a ranch manager, then joined Range Engineering Co. to look for sales outlets."

The search also found Telge a job at the Mobley Company. Sachnik has since changed the name of his company to Mano Company and is headquartered in Houston.

The foaming agent is called Foam-wet. A special nozzle sucks in air to create the foam mixture. One gallon of water at 200 psi, said Telge, makes three or more gallons of foam.

"Foam stays on four to five times longer, increasing the effectiveness of the chemical used," said Telge. "It won't run off as water does."

"This means you can use less water—perhaps 50% less."

A veteran sprayman "can just tell a good job from a bad one with water," said Telge. "But it's much

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