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WEEDS TREES and TURF

Volume 12, No. 12 December, 1973

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"Serving The Green Industry"

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The Cover

A.M. Panic Hour is the time when equipment managers learn the true meaning of preventive maintenance. Our cover shows the North Hollywood maintenance facility of the Bureau of Transportation, City of Los Angeles. The article on Fleet Management begins on page 12 in this issue.

THE COVER — Managers Guide

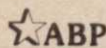
Equipment and supplies for the Green Industry are highly complex. The 1974 Managers Guide To Equipment And Supplies captures some of the action in this montage. Included are: a section of Certain-Teed pipe, Edwards sprayer mounted on a Jeep; Ford skid-steer loader with sod; Toro Whirlwind rotary mower; International Harvester flail and bell-mounted sickle cutters; and Stihl chain saw.

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OFFICIAL PENNCROSS STORY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

On May 22, 1972, we started construction of a new 8000 sq. ft. sod nursery here at Rancho Bernardo. It was completed on June 20, and given the final touches before seeding. Penn-cross Bent was chosen for several reasons, one being the success our new Executive course was having with it. The nursery was seeded on June 30, 1972, at a heavy 2½ pounds per 1000 square feet.

We watched until there was a very even green cast on the complete nursery and then, on July 11, we used a starter fertilizer. When the Penncross reached approximately ¾ of an inch we made our first cut with a ½" bench setting and continued on a daily mowing schedule until putting green height was reached.

Unbeknownst to me, some Japanese people had been watching the operation very closely. It came on with amazing speed, and sixty days from seeding we had a very good putting surface and about 4" depth on our root system. Before the sod was 90 days old we had cut and moved most of the 8000 sq. ft. to some problem greens.

This brought to my office the Japanese who had been watching the sod nursery since its conception. They asked what I had done in construction and what grass was used. They also asked if I thought I could repeat the nursery operation in Osaka, Japan? Sounds good! The only catches being: they wanted the recommendations by phone and mail and the greens had to be ready for play in early November for an American Pro Tournament. It was now August 10, 1972. I contacted my friend who had supplied the fertilizers and seed, and work began.

Fertilizer samples were sent to Japan to be inspected by the Japanese government. Fertilizer spreaders were shipped air freight, the government approved shipment of fertilizers and the move was on. The greens had already been roughed in and were ready for mix, final grade, and seeding.

After numerous meetings, letters, and phone calls to Osaka, the greens were seeded at 2 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. on September 1. The Penncross came up as predicted, was fertilized as planned, cut as soon as it was ready and progress was almost identical to our nursery here at Rancho Bernardo. They were ready by tournament time in mid-November 1972, and I'm told "better than any of the other greens at Ikeda Country Club." My new friends are very happy that they went with Penncross and claim to have the "Showplace" of Osaka, Japan.

This was all done gratis, but it was a very fulfilling experiment. Mr. Araki, President of Ikeda Country Club, flew to San Diego to give his personal thanks to my friend and myself. They favored us with some small gifts, took us out for a lovely dinner and we talked of our success with their new greens and their plans for more.

They are a very grateful people and I'm satisfied that my choice of Penncross is not only working for me in Rancho Bernardo, California, but also for my new friends in Osaka, Japan.

Signed: GARY A. SILOR

Address: 500 So. Chestnut, Escondido, Calif. 92025

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Editorial

Meeting the issues confronting the Green Industry continues as the greatest challenge facing every reader of this magazine. Issues such as FEPCA, OSHA, pollutions of noise, air, water, and energy drains must become centerstage in the thinking of Green Industry leaders. Indeed, solutions to these issues can only be found through concentrated cooperation by every individual.

Will we sit idly by while uninformed politicians decide who in the industry may spray environmental protection chemicals and which ones and when? Will we have to justify to a judge the need to operate a chain saw or a chipper in a residential area during a specific hour of the day? Have we as an industry blindly accepted the Occupational Safety and Health Act as being too big, too all encompassing and too dominant as a law to lobby, legislate and change into a workable, acceptable body of rules?

Not caring, not being concerned enough in plotting the course of the Green Industry in the future denotes only our interest in the material things of the present.

On the positive side, certain accomplishments by Green Industry organizations must be recognized as significant achievements. In this issue,

The Line Of Scrimmage

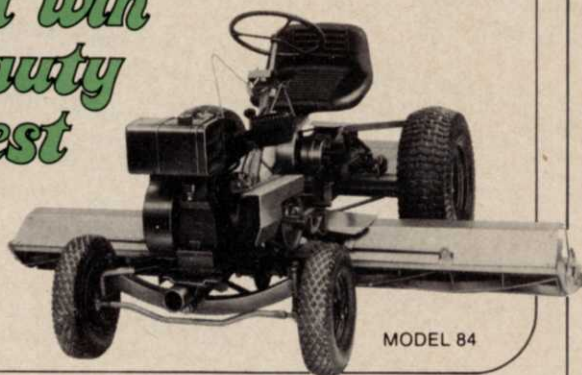
for example, leading organizations and associations have listed three major objectives met by their members this year. They have also published what they consider as goals to achieve in 1974.

Likewise, in November, leaders representing major Green Industry organizations met in Cleveland to discuss formation of a Green Industry Council. This group would act as the united voice for the industry in matters concerning the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act and other Federal legislation which has industry-wide implications.

We believe that efforts by Green Industry organizations have been worthy. Their action denotes action. Member involvement has created a magnetic attraction to involve the non-doer. But in a larger sense, the prime goal of every organization in this dynamic industry must be towards increased participation in meeting the great issues confronting the industry as a whole.

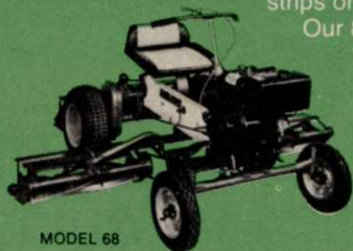
We are a cohesive industry, built out of the needs and wants of individuals. The issues of 1974 demand more attention by every individual. Complacency must be replaced by effective action. Our strength in the future will derive from a closer identification of what we may lose should our tools be taken away.

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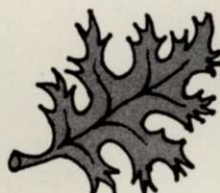
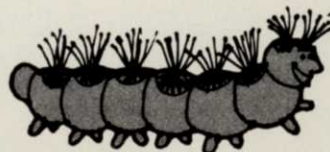
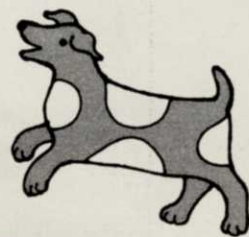
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Government News / Business

If you've been caught by the breath of OSHA and can't cough up money to pay the fine, take heart. An interagency agreement between OSHA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) has been set up. Purpose is to provide long-term loans to small businesses for compliance with OSHA.

Further word on Agrico Chemical Company. Sale by The Williams Companies, Tulsa, Okla. of Agrico to Lebanon Chemical Corporation, Lebanon, Pa. included only the Turf and Garden Products Division. The entire Agrico Company was not sold, as erroneously reported in the October issue of WTT. According to R. L. Balser of Agrico, the sale amounted to about a \$3 million deal, less than one percent of the total Agrico operation. Included in the purchase was the Turf and Garden Products plant at Danville, Ill. This brings to two the number of manufacturing plants operated by Lebanon Chemical and the result will be faster service to dealers. Added Note: Lebanon Chemical has now farmed out the operation to a newly created subsidiary, The Bishop Company. It too is based in Lebanon, Pa.

The noose of the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA) is starting to tighten. Provisions built into the time-release act have already begun to take affect. Now it is the pesticide producers. A producer who ships environmental protection chemicals in interstate commerce must register with EPA by December 24, 1973. This pre-Christmas present requires companies to submit annual reports on production, distribution and sales. For intrastate producers, the registration date is October 21, 1974.

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz may be given the legal machinery necessary to authorize use of DDT. A bill which would require EPA to clear DDT for use in cases where the Secretary declares that a temporary emergency exists has now passed the House Agricultural Committee. A number of additional approvals are needed yet, but it is conceivable that use of DDT on gypsy moth and tussock moth as well as other pest infestations could be in order in 1974.

Claims of insufficient fuel supply response in the natural gas, coal, nuclear power and petroleum industry as the cause of the energy crisis have been refuted by Robert L. Sansom, EPA assistant administrator for air and water programs. Nay, he says. The chief obstacles "appear to have been overreliance on foreign crude, poor oil industry planning, the restrictive quota system, and overly controlled natural gas prices." He said the American consumer is the true culprit in the energy crisis. Sansom spoke to the Arlington (Va.) Rotary Club in November. He said that EPA has already granted temporary variances to emission standards for power plants. However, he stressed that no general lifting of environmental regulations are in order. EPA will not be subjected to "energy blackmail" by suppliers who are not willing to come forward and explain why they cannot meet standards, he said.

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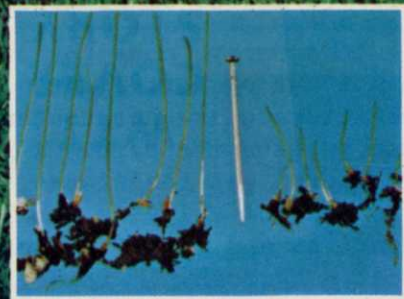


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The Fertilizer Outlook

Allocation, price controls, foreign demand, availability of components, tight supply, and capacity to produce have drastically changed the fertilizer market in the past 18 months. The forecast for 1974 is not overly encouraging. USDA economists predict a shortage of 1.7 million tons of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer; other sources closer to the problem forecast the shortage closer to 4 million tons.

A number of factors are responsible for the current situation. 1. About 25 million of 40 million set-aside acres were turned back into crop production this past year. Even more is scheduled for the plow in 1974. 2. Fertilizer manufacturers experienced strong foreign demand. This came about by devaluation of the U. S. dollar and Phase IV price controls. Foreign purchasers realized a comparative advantage and scooped up ton after ton at relative "bargain barn" prices.

3. Capacity to produce phosphoric acid has fallen short of realized demands for the past year or two. New production facilities have not come on-stream as expected. Raw phosphate supplies appear to be adequate to meet anticipated needs; the problem is in manufacturing the end products of ammonium phosphate and concentrated superphosphate. 4. Ammonia production has a funeral outlook. Domestic production has been at near capacity for more than a year. To complicate the situation, curtailments of natural gas, a major component, has forced producers to limit production. This failure to provide the fertilizer industry with an ample supply of natural gas will result in profound effects on our nation's food supply, comments John J. Clarke of Collier Carbon and Chemical Corp.

The single most important factor is natural gas. Whether the Washington political machine will give fertilizer producers the needed allocation is still much in the air. Says George Osburn, sales manager, turf products, Hercules Inc., "Supply of all nitrogen products will revolve around the availability of natural gas and the availability of production capacity for ammonia as well as other nitrogens."

Currently, action is taking place on several fronts. A recent decision by the Cost of Living Council has exempted sale of fertilizer and nutrient materials in producing fertilizer from Phase IV controls. This should help. Additionally, small bulk plants, which previously had terminated fertilizer production capabilities, are being asked by Washington to start up again. Also, with the U. S. dollar stronger abroad, predictions of foot-dragging in foreign markets are to be expected.

The tendency in the past has been to bargain hunt. It's a whole new ballgame now. If it is not already too late, establish an association with a supplier; he may be your best friend in the months to come. Review what your fertilizer needs were for the past few years. Note when you ordered. Could one order made right now take care of the year's requirements? Plan your inventory, but don't stockpile in anticipation of a disaster.

A special word to commercial turfgrass managers. Plan fertilizer programs for the short-range objective. Add as your turf needs it. Split applications of nitrogen fertilizer where potential for loss is high. Irrigate carefully, to prevent excessive losses of nitrogen by leaching.

In summary, many factors have been responsible for the current situation. We are not out of fertilizer. We are short, perhaps critically short. Fertilizer manufacturers are not content with the state of affairs. Efforts have already been taken to ease the pain. A government task force is seeking to raise the priorities for natural gas feedstocks to ammonia producers. The Department of Transportation is working on shipping bottlenecks, particularly rail. Sane thinking by politicians, executives and managers plus identifying needs by planning ahead will see the Green Industry through.