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# WEEDS TREES & TURF®

August 1976, Vol. 15, No. 8

**10 Oregon's Burning Issue** — Oregon grass seed growers depend upon open field burning for maintaining their seed at top quality, but now that 'smoke has gotten into the eyes' of Oregon legislators, both groups are fighting over the fire. It's the industry's survival at stake.

**12 Oregon's Willamette Valley Silted for Grass Culture** — A short profile about the Oregon seed growers affected by open field burning restrictions.

**16 Turf Herbicide Roundup** — Major manufacturers present their respective turf herbicides detailed by the weeds their products can control and the chemical components of active ingredients.

**27 Aeration: Helping Turf Breathe** — Varied methods of ventilating soil for its better health are spotlighted and described by Roger J. Thomas, vice president of the Turf Equipment Division of Jacobsen.

**30 Industry News** — New York tree firm reports gains with its employee stock ownership plan. Energy prices grip future of irrigation crop yields. Tree and landscaping merge for expanded market service. FTGA plans conference for Orlando. ALCA opens competition for landscaping awards.

People .....	6	Meeting Dates .....	48
Government News .....	8	Classifieds .....	47
Products .....	34	Advertisers Index .....	47

**The Cover** — Oregon's open field burning insures a heartier, more weed resistant crop for next year's seed.

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## People on the Move

Fred W. Slife of the University of Illinois was elected president of the *Weed Science Society of America* when it met in Denver last February. Slife succeeds Dr. C. R. Swanson of the USDA/Agricultural research, Service Southern Region, New Orleans. Keith C. Barrons, development officer for Dow Chemical Co., was named an honorary member.

Lots of changes are happening out in Washington. Here's some: John Rogers is the new superintendent at *Twin Lakes CC*, Federal Way and has David Gianoli as his replacement at *Green Meadows CC*. Ralph Strading, Jr. has stepped back into his former job of manager-superintendent at *Lewis River GC*, Woodland, replacing David.

C. R. (Chuck) Braun, Sr. is *Princeton Manufacturing Company's* new national sales manager. He will be in charge of the sales/marketing program for the Princeton's sod and nursery equipment. Princeton is located in Columbus, Ohio.

*Velsicol Chemical Corporation* elected Raymond W. Ver Hoeve as its executive vice president. He is responsible for all research and manufacturing activities of the corporation. Ver Hoeve has B.S. and M.S. degrees in chemical engineering from Syracuse University and attended the Executive Management Program at Pennsylvania State University.

Eric G. Mueller is now sales administrator for the outdoor power equipment division, *J I Case Company*. An honors business administration graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, he will monitor marketing systems analyze sales programs and measure sales force effectiveness.

Dr. Jim Beard of *Texas A & M* is preparing a new 'bible' of turfgrass maintenance. The USGA chose him as editor to produce a book of the latest scientific and practical knowledge of the subject. Bob Williams is one of the review committee board working with Dr. Beard.

Tom Mascarro is abandoning retirement to try making a new management tool. It's a *Poa annua* control machine and will probably find a test market around Chicago.

Mike McGee is the new superintendent at the *Newport Golf Course* at Newport Beach, Calif.

Chris Lemke now serves at superintendent at *Meadow Lakes Country Club*, Escondido, Calif. His dad is Ralph Lemke, superintendent at Stoneridge Country Club, Poway, Calif.



Uelner



Ver Hoeve

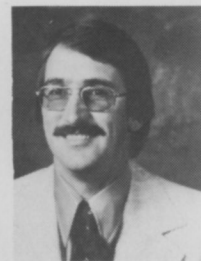
Roy W. Uelner was elected executive vice president of the *Allis-Chalmers Corp.* He will handle the company's worldwide operations in the agricultural equipment business. Uelner came to Allis-Chalmers as an industrial engineer, and has worked as a general plant manager, manager of combine operations, sales and marketing manager, and general manager and vice president of the agricultural equipment division.

New officers of the *Central New York Superintendents Association*

are: Dan Nicholas, *Village Green Country Club*, president; Eric Dann, *Drumlins Country Club*, vice president; Bill Stark, *Pompey Hills Country Club*, secretary; and Ed Brown, *Radison Country Club*, treasurer. Board members are Tom Brown, *Calvary Country Club*; Robert Miller, *Enjoy Country Club*; Jim Strain, *Birmingham Country Club*; and Dick Snyder, *Arrow Head Country Club*.



Black



Hoover

Ed Shoemaker, national sales manager for *Rain Bird*, has announced the appointment of Chuck Hoover as the company's turf district manager for Southern California. His experience includes coordinating the sale of extended, fabricated and molded plastic parts to the irrigation trade.

Dr. Henry Yonce is now an agricultural research scientist at *3M Company's* Agrichemicals Project. He will test herbicides, work with state and federal researchers in studies of agricultural chemicals and be in charge of 3M's field development programs in the southeastern U.S.

Glen and Cindy Butherus are sharing manager-superintendent duties at *Vernonia (Ia.) Golf Course*.

R. C. Black, president of *Perlite of Houston, Inc.*, was elected to a two-year term as president of the *Perlite Institute*. The honor came at the Institute's 27th Annual Meeting in Montreal. Black was vice president of the Institute and served as chairman of the Institute's Concrete committee and as a member of the applicator committee.



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# Government News

New safety regulations for farm equipment will affect farmers as employers. Effective since June 7, all agricultural equipment, despite age, must have a completely guarded power take-off drive line, and shields and guards that stay in place. Farmers are required to train employees in safe operations. After June 7, signs are required "at prominent locations" on tractors and power take-off driven equipment to warn employees about keeping shields in place. Other warning signs are also needed if removal or a guard or access door exposes employees to a moving part after the power is off. Employees are advised to look and listen for evidence for rotation and not remove the guard of access door until parts have stopped.

Sod farmers have won another soil depletion case. U. S. Tax Court upheld the right of sod growers to claim cost depletion allowance for soil removed in cutting sod. The ruling followed testimony proving soil would be of no value after 16 cuttings and could not be restored economically. A government appeal may follow.

According to research by Dr. Hardin B. Jones, professor of physiology and medical physics at the University of California at Berkeley, chlordane and heptachlor function more like cancer suppressants than causative agents. Many pesticides tests don't have proper controls, he says, and cancer results from toxic overdoses hundreds of thousands of times higher than farm applicators actually use. Dr. Hardin's studies support research by Dr. Bruce Ames and his co-workers also at Berkeley.

The EPA will have reviewed and classified pesticides by September. Although only private and commercial applicators will have power to make "restricted applications," chemicals falling under the 'general use' category are available for application by the public. Some 45 states are going through the final stages of preparing applicators certification plans, 11 have plans contingently approved by EPA. EPA plans to approve plans for eight states and 14 states are near completion. Applicators' certification is required by October, 1977.

Mallinckrodt, Inc. unsuccessfully filed a motion to reopen mercury hearings after they claimed to have proof of mercury used to control snow mold on golf courses. EPA, however, said the evidence is not substantial enough to affect the order and that the motion was filed too late.

Agencies have increased highway expense monies for all highway functions from \$13.5 billion to \$25.5 billion in 10 years but find themselves facing a steadily deteriorating highway system. Inflation makes the 1975 funding only \$12.8 billion in 1975 dollars. As highways take punishment from 139.2 million registered vehicles (up from 1965's 91.7 million) contributing 1.3 trillion miles on 3,825 million miles of highways (compared to 1965's 888 billion miles on 3,690 million miles), the Department of Transportation is considering a new mode of funding for highways. Whether it will be a highway trust fund or transportation trust fund or use of more general sharing money, is theory at present. The Department seeks to prevent highways from becoming like the railroads.



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# Field Burning Limits Threaten Seed Quality In Willamette Valley

The Willamette Valley of Oregon is a majestic place, spires of stately, sharpened pines, rolling hills and brightness of life around it. It is life, to the people who are there, the scenic spell about it and the living it returns to its people through its renown \$65 million grass seed industry.

But as seed growers continue to sow their fields, they find their work becoming increasingly difficult, not from erratic climate or weather, or encroachments on their land, but rather outside pressure upon one most vital part of their industry — field burning.

From where the Oregon seed growers, suppliers and users sit, the view of open field burning is essential, but other organized forces in Oregon view it as more than a 'burning' issue. It has become a struggle that threatens to severely affect the state's dominance as a producer of exceptional turf seed. Here's why:

The Willamette Valley grows 217 million pounds of annual and perennial ryegrass annually, half of which could support over 3 million pounds of beef or 12 billion quarts of milk. Some 13 billion pounds of Orchardgrass and tall fescue grow in the state's rich soil. When combined with ryegrass, the seed could flourish over 7,205 square miles of turf. It's enough seed for 70 percent of the market, and employs 7,000 to 10,000 persons. Field burning makes much of this possible.

Field burning helps because it reduces insects and rodents in seeds, dispatches trash and destroys diseases while retarding their regrowth. It also rids the fields of unmarketable and unprofitable straw, destroys about 95 percent of the weeds in the winter annual grass that would otherwise reemerge in greater numbers, and shocks plants into production for the next season.

Burning is economically neces-

sary for seed quality control in a valley with great production potential, but it is the valley that started the fight.

It received widespread attention in the late 1960's with a series of climatological studies, according to Joseph P. Hennessey, Jr. and Charles D. Craig, authors of *The Field Burning Climatology of the Willamette Valley* for the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University.

One study by Holzworth (1971) featured seasonal statistics of field burning but lacked a temporal solution for the problem. Holzworth measured morning (urban) mixing heights, afternoon mixing heights, average surface wind speeds, and mean mixed layer precipitation. Although Hennessey and Craig's report notes the valley's frequent air inversions, atmospheric stagnation and greater susceptibility to urban air pollution, they cite Holzworth as giving estimates and possible over-estimates of data. But the study caught public imagination and the message appeared to be 'end the burning.'

Resulting legislation in 1971 banning open field burning was repealed in 1975. In 1975, SB 311, a harsher manacle upon industry, was passed. The bill prescribes law and guidelines for phasing out burning in favor of field sanitizing by machine or other means, and uses restrictions, burning quotas, registrations, watchdog groups and task forces for enforcement even though burning is carefully controlled, not done during inversions and usually lasts only four to eight hours per day. Seed is usually burned only 12 days in Polk, Yamhill, Clackamas, Marion and Washington counties out of an approximate 70 day season. Since smoke management started in 1970, figures for visibility less than six miles in Eugene is well below five



hours, according to information of the U.S. Department of Commerce. With this information, however, and increasing cuts into the numbers of fields for burning, the bill was passed.

• Under SB 311, as of July 1, 1975, all farmers intending to burn seed must first get a valid open field burning permit from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and a fire permit and validation number from the local fire permit issuing agency for a specific field on the day it is to burn.

• DEQ will offer the registra-