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the job in the creation of  
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NIGHTS TO PRODUCE**

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KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

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## NEWS *continued*

### Sulfur-Coated Urea Use Cuts Fertilizer Losses

A recent study compared uncoated and sulfur-coated ureas for ammonia volatilization losses and nitrogen recovery by coastal bermudagrass and the results showed ammonia losses for sulfur-coated ureas were a fraction of those from uncoated urea.

Research at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station showed the coating, wax and microbicide (a suppressant to cut microbe breakdown) reduced losses to two percent. But urea coated only with sulfur lost six percent of its nitrogen. And in further contrast, volatilization losses from ordinary urea totaled 54 percent.

Tillage prior to urea addition resulted in a significant increase in  $NH_3$  loss. Sprinkle irrigation immediately following urea application substantially reduced  $NH_3$  losses. Dry matter yields and nitrogen recoveries by coastal bermudagrass were improved by tillage following urea addition. Nitrogen recovery percentages for topdressed sulfur-coated urea were 23 percent higher than for uncoated urea applied to the surface.



The top Hahn Turf Div. distributor in sales last year was Rhodes Turf Equipment Co., Southampton, Pa. At the recent Hahn sales meeting, Vollie Carr, (center) presented the award to John Mickel (left) and Bill Steltz of Rhodes.

### Green Survival Slide Show Available from Nurserymen

The American Association of Nurserymen has announced a new, revised edition of its Green Survival slide/sound presentation. Directed to the general public, the audio/visual program explains to the consumer the many small steps he can take to improve the quality of his life through the proper use of plant materials.

According to an AAN spokesman, the presentation can help make nursery industry businessmen community authorities on environmental improvement. The spokesman said it is ideal for showing to civic groups, schools, garden clubs, etc.

Copies of the presentation may be obtained for \$35 from the AAN, 230 Southern Building, Washington, DC 20005.

### Possible New Mower Rules Could Raise Unit Prices

If his foot slips and the lawn mower operator loses a toe, should the government try to put a price tag on his suffering? That is the central question confronting the Consumer Product Safety Commission as it considers proposed safety standards that could cost mower buyers a bundle.

The standards would require "dead man controls" to stop mower blades when the operator's hand left the handle; improved shields to reduce injuries from blades and objects thrown by the blades; im-

proved protection against burns and electric shock; improved mufflers and brakes and more stable mowers. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, the national trade association representing power mower makers, told the commission the proposed standards would hit consumers with \$368 million in higher mower prices during the initial year, hurt sales, put a number of manufacturers out of business and impose costs 10 times higher than any benefits. The commission should complete deliberations and formally propose the mower standards later this month.

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**NEWS** *continued*

## Pen-Gro Is Distributor Of Ransomes Machinery

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies of England has announced Pen-Gro Corp., South San Francisco, Calif. is exclusive distributor of its grass machinery and replacement parts in California, Nevada and Arizona.

Frank De Carli, Pen-Gro president, recently returned from England where details of the distributorship were finalized.

Pen-Gro pioneered the sale of hydraulic gang mowers in the United States since 1970, De Carli told WEEDS TREES & TURF. He has been responsible for the development of the hydraulic verticut system for turfgrass applications and originated the floating-type action head which now has been adopted by Ransomes, he said. The company recently moved to larger headquarters at 233 Ryan Way, 94080, to provide room for the new line.

## Nursery Grower Industry Is Booming Across Texas

A recent study of the Texas nursery industry proves interesting to nursery people across the country, because of various statistics.

Nursery sales in Texas are estimated at more than \$55 million for 1973 by Dr. H. B. Sorensen, an agricultural economist for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. He studied the types of businesses, sales volumes and production of nursery industries in Texas. He identified three groups in the nursery industry — growers, dealers and florists.

"Nursery growers produce over 50 percent of the plants they sell and sell over 60 percent of all plants wholesale," he told WEEDS, TREES & TURF. "Most growers sell to other nurseries, garden centers and landscape architect firms."

He said 45 percent of all sales are made within a radius of 50 miles. About 31 percent are made over a 200-mile radius. "Of the 455 nursery growers listed in the 1972 Texas Floral and Nursery Directory, 73 percent are individual proprietors,"

he said. "Partnership and corporation forms of operation are about equally prevalent after individual proprietors."

"According to the report, the average individual proprietor does about \$81,000 worth of business per year while the average corporation's yearly business volume is about \$470,000. In addition to the nursery growers, there are almost 5,000 licensed nursery dealers in Texas. He said there has also been an overall increase in business among nursery firms.

"In the three years since 1971, 71 percent of the firms reported a difference in business volume. About 85 percent of these reported an increase in business and 15 percent reported a decrease. Almost 60 percent said they expected an increase in business in the next three years."

Sorensen said the most common type of plants grown in Texas nurseries are deciduous shrubs, which make up about 35 percent of all plants grown. Shade and ornamental trees and broadleaf evergreen shrubs are almost equally common.

## U.S. Tall Fescue Seed Crop Reported Down 10 Percent

The forecast U.S. total production of tall fescue seed is at 94.9 million pounds, 10 percent below the 1974 crop, according to the Crop Reporting Board.

Average yield per acre nationally is 272 pounds in 1974 and 291 pounds in 1973. Total acreage expected to be harvested, however, is down 17 percent from 1974. In Oregon, the 1975 tall fescue seed crop is forecast at 10.2 million pounds, about the same as last year's final production of 10.1 million.

Yield per acre in Oregon is expected to be about 730 pounds, compared with 630 in 1974, but a 12 percent reduction in acreage in Oregon has offset gains made by higher yields. Total U.S. carryover of old crop seed on June 30 is estimated at 27.4 million pounds, which is the second highest carryover on record, it was reported in the newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.



## 42nd Iowa Superintendents Turf Conference Next Month

An impressive list of speakers will headline the 42nd Annual Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association Turfgrass Conference March 8-10 at the Scheman Center, Iowa State University, Ames.

Dr. Fred Grau will be keynote speaker for the "Pioneers in Progress" bicentennial program featuring many nationally known speakers who spoke at many of the previous conferences. Other speakers include Howard Kaerwar of Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis; Dr. William Daniel of Purdue University; Marvin Ferguson of Agri-Systems of Texas, Inc., Bryan, Texas; Robert Moore of Aquatrols Corp. of America, Pennsauken, N.J.; Lee Record, mid-continent director of the United States Golf Association Green Section; and Jerry Claussen, Rocky Mountain regional consultant for the National Golf Foundation.

The conference is expected to have more registrants than ever before, and a unique feature will be a "consult with the expert" evening at the Holiday Inn in Ames where there will be a chance to consult with experts on turf problems. The session will be March 8.

## Proposed Plant Labeling Before Senate Committee

Industry representatives testified against a proposed Federal Trade Commission plant labeling requirement at a recent hearing before the Senate Committee on Government Operations' Subcommittee on Federal Spending Practices, Efficiency and Open Government.

Mayo J. Thompson, former commissioner of the FTC told the subcommittee: "Decorating the nation's plant life with a set of bureaucratically ordered care tags would have about as much usefulness to the American public as a pair of socks on a rooster," it was reported in a recent copy of *Update*, an American Association of Nurserymen report. Thompson seriously questioned the FTC's cost-benefit analysis of regulation and concluded that proposed rule "will be ineffective and impose some

heavy costs" on both FTC and public at large. Thompson said enforcement of the rule would be costly and as a practical matter, virtually impossible.

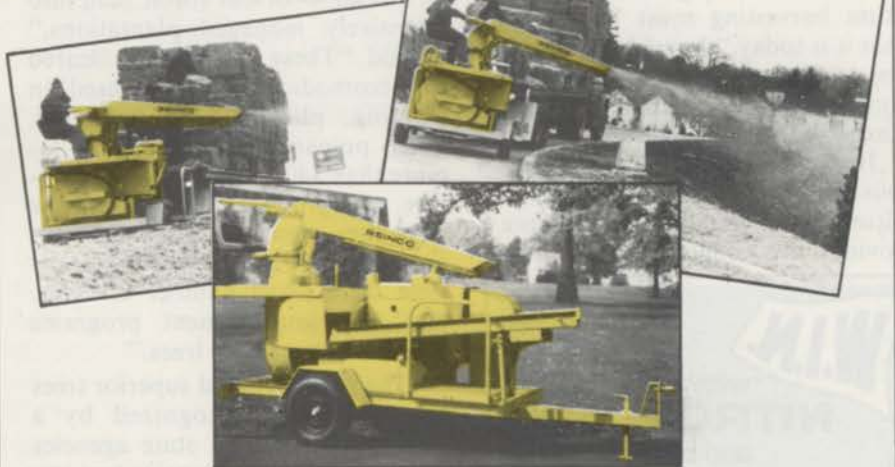
Robert F. Lederer, executive vice president of the Nurserymen association, said: "Should the proposed rule be instituted, the industry would be required to provide information which could not, in fact, be substantiated. This, coupled with the attendant increase in price of the

product to the consumer would serve no useful purpose."

Regarding plant toxicity labeling, Lederer labeled as misleading an FTC statement that recorded cases on ingestion of potentially poisonous plants by children exceed 12,000 a year. The National Clearinghouse for Poison Control Centers, to which the statistic has been attributed, noted that the number of individuals actually treated totals only 70 each year.

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## Expert Says Better Trees Will Boost Forest Output

The results of tree improvement started over 20 years ago are beginning to be seen in many southern states. Improved quantities of better pulp or lumber will be the pay-off for this long-range research, according to Robert L. Haney of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Bryan, Texas.

"Trees are like people," Haney told WEEDS, TREES & TURF, "they have a long life cycle and don't begin to mature until they are about 20 years old." He said the need for tree improvement is urgent. A recent report by the Southern Forest Resource Analysis Committee concluded the South must produce more than half of the nation's wood products by the year 2000.

"This means the annual growth of timber now being established for future harvesting must be double what it is today," he said. "And this must be done even though the amount of land available for forests is expected to be much less."

Hopes for achieving this ambitious goal hinge on identifying and culturing the best of what nature provides, according to Dr. J. P. van



*New officers of the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents recently elected. From left, David C. Holler, Gulph Mills Golf Club, secretary; Louis J. Amadio Jr., Philadelphia Electric Co. Country Club, vice president; John A. Segui, Waynesborough Country Club, president; David L. Linde, Wedgewood Golf Club, treasurer; and William Milsop, Old York Raod Country Club, sargeant-at-arms.*

Buijtenen. He is a professor with the experiment station at Texas A & M University and principal geneticist with the Texas Forest Service.

"The first step is to convert part — not all — of our forest land into intensively managed plantations," he said. "These sites must be cleared to accomodate machines used in planting, plowing and fertilizing. Such preparations are costly — more than \$40 to \$80 an acre. Therefore, tree growers must be sure the trees they plant will grow fast and reproduce as much wood as possible on a small number of acres. Our tree improvement programs supply these needed trees."

The need to breed superior trees has long been recognized by a number of southern state agencies which established extensive tree improvement programs. For instance, more than 20 years ago, the Texas Forest Service started a long-range test of parent trees originally selected from wild forest populations. For some time, grafts of these selections have furnished the Service with critically needed seed that was thought to be superior.

Now, plantings are finally old enough to show their real genetic worth. And they are providing new trees for another generation of selection. The oldest trees are now 60 to 70 feet tall, and are a good indication of the increased yields that can be expected from using seed from superior trees. Although volume growth differs widely among

individual tests, increases of 10 percent are common, while occasionally, increases of as much as 50 percent are found.

During the past 20 years, southern tree breeders have concentrated most of their efforts on breeding pines with the following traits — all-around good form and growth rate; high volume production; drought resistance; low wood density, desired for some type of pulpwood, such as newsprint; and high wood density desired for many types of pulpwood.

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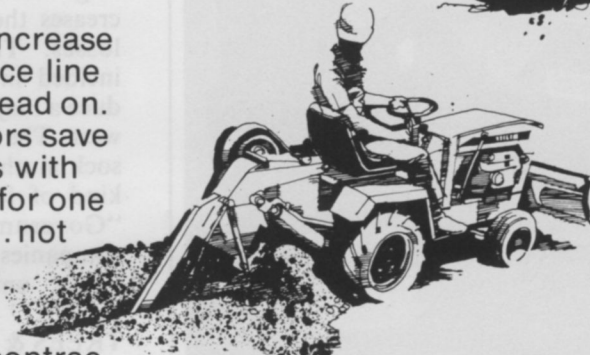
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# How contractors use Vermeer Trenchers for bigger profits



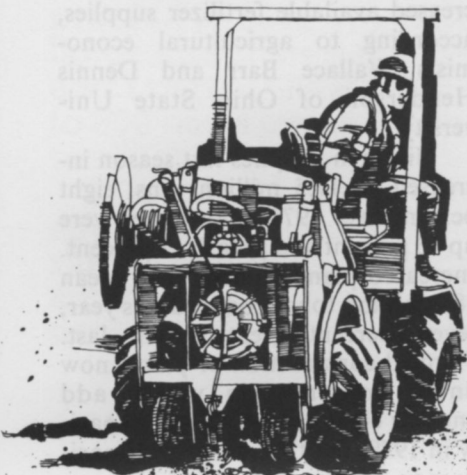
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backhoes and blades. For others, it's the new Vermeer LM-18, a compact, yet high production, vibratory plow that installs service lines down to 18" deep with one-hand hydraulic steering, center-pivot articulation, four-wheel drive and dual hydraulic systems. Or, how about the new Vermeer M-220. With hydrostatic drive and a 36 1/2 inch width, it's ideal for tight maneuvering in back yards or through narrow gates;

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THE DIGGIN' DUTCHMAN



## NEWS *continued*

### Study of Tussock Moth Begun by Idaho Scientists

Scientists at the University of Idaho, Moscow, are studying the biology and control of the Douglas-fir tussock moth in Northwest forests, hoping to uncover better ways to handle future outbreaks of the forest pest.

Howard W. Smith and Arthur R. Gittins, of the university depart-

ment of entomology are studying the parasites and predators of the dusky-maroon moth which stirred much controversy between environmentalists and foresters during a major outbreak in 1973 and 1974. The pair, assisted by research associate Russell W. Clausen and graduate assistant Kurt C. Volker, are looking at the effects of chemical and biological control agents on insects in the forest environment, principally the parasites and preda-

tors of the tussock moth. They are also studying the ecology of these natural control agents.

Native to the Northwest, the Douglas-fir tussock moth remains at relatively low population levels most of the time. It causes no appreciable damage at these endemic levels, and probably goes undetected to anyone but the trained observer. However, every six to 10 years, the pest population explodes into epidemic proportions. Tussock moth caterpillars kill thousands of trees and stunt the growth of thousands more because of varying degrees of defoliation or needle loss. The quality of future lumber supplies is frequently reduced because of the insect's damage to a tree's main shoot or leader.

Very dry weather, coupled with large tussock moth populations, increases the chances of forest stand losses. These circumstances coincided in 1973 and 1974 to produce a major outbreak in the Northwest. The economic impact of tussock moth damage differs from one kind of forest owner to the next. "Government and large timber companies can usually absorb the losses; small landowners usually cannot," Smith told WEEDS TREES & TURF. The thrust of the recent — and still controversial — spraying program which used DDT was toward assisting the small landowner who could hardly afford to lose even a single acre to moth attack.

### Fertilizer Supply Increases

Higher fertilizer prices apparently have encouraged more plant capacity and surpluses overseas have increased available fertilizer supplies, according to agricultural economists Wallace Barr and Dennis Henderson of Ohio State University.

Nitrogen supplies last season increased to 17.5 million tons, eight percent over 1974, phosphates were up 13 percent and potash 11 percent. Increased plant capacity may mean 18.8 million tons produced this year, seven percent greater than last. Planned construction or plants now under construction would add another eight million tons of capacity in 1979, but this increased capacity may or may not materialize.



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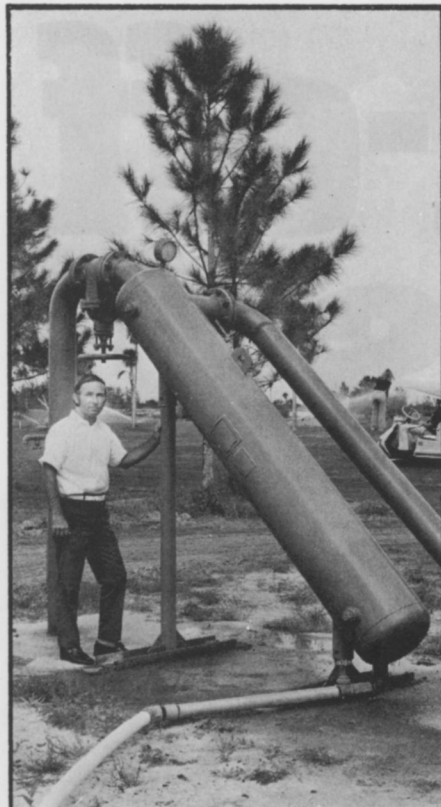
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## NEWS *continued*

### Landscape, Garden Clinic February 22 In Louisville

The National Landscape Association and Garden Centers of America will again sponsor a joint management clinic February 22-25 at The Galt House, Louisville, Kentucky. This is the second year these two organizations have cooperated in such a meeting.

The Landscape/Garden Center Management Clinic is designed so sessions dealing with only landscape operations will be held on different days from those dealing solely with garden center operations. For further information, contact the Landscape/Garden Center Management Clinic, 230 Southern Building, Washington, D.C. 20005.

### Fescue for Shade Tolerance Turf Research Expert Says

Although Glade may have more shade tolerance than other bluegrasses, for real shade tolerance, stick with the fescues, according to C. Richard Skogley, professor at the University of Rhode Island.

His comments were reported in a recent issue of the newsletter of the Maine Golf Course Superintendents Association by editor Vaughn Holyoke of the University of Maine. Speaking at a meeting of the association, Dr. Skogley also said Brunswick is one of the new bluegrasses that warrants a close look by turf people. Dr. Skogley pointed out that this variety topped the bluegrass list when managed at a 3/4-inch cutting height.

### Hesston and Versatile Terminate Merger Pact

Hesston Corp., Hesston, Kan. and Versatile Manufacturing Ltd., Winnipeg, Canada said discussions concerning Hesston's proposed acquisition of a controlling interest in Versatile were suspended and an agreement between the two terminated. Hesston's Lawn Equipment Division is located in Indianapolis, Ind.

The two equipment makers indicated interest in resuming the discussions later but said “the current financial climate in Canada and the

United States was not conducive to the completion of the merger at this time.”

Peter Pakosh, chairman, and Roy E. Robinson, president, the controlling holders of Versatile, had signed an agreement in September to sell a controlling interest to Hesston, Hesston said. At the time, Versatile announced the transaction involved 1.2 million, or slightly more than half, of the concern's voting shares in exchange for about \$20 a share in cash and Hesston stock.

### The Demand for Fertilizer Will Outrun Spring Supply

Coming off a disappointing 1975, the nation's fertilizer producers are happy about their prospects for spring. But that is not necessarily good news for the green industry.

Fertilizer inventories, a drag for most of last year, are being liquidated rapidly now. By April nitrogen fertilizers could be in extremely tight supply. Potash fertilizer supplies are already rather uncertain, says Jesse L. Way, general sales manager of Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp.'s Agricultural Chemicals Div. But R. R. Mehrhof, of Columbia Nitrogen Corp., says ammonia production for nitrogen fertilizers should be adequate.

Experts say there is no question demand for fertilizer will outrun supplies this spring. Ammonia products will be in especially tight supply and their prices may temporarily jump as much as 10 percent. But by summer, a reversal is expected to take place. Prices will start leveling off because a flood of new ammonia capacity is becoming to come on stream. Williams Co., parent company of Agrico Chemical Co., for example, has completed a \$350-million fertilizer expansion program.

They say next year and in 1978 the supply of nitrogen fertilizers will be heavy because of large new plants beginning. But unlike the situation in the late 1960, there will neither be a glut nor will prices fall much, it was reported in *Business Week*. The reason is that the economics of the fertilizer business has changed in the past 10 years, and raw materials are no longer cheap and plentiful.