Chemical Sales To Up 25% Prices Could Jump 15%

For U.S. chemical companies, 1976 is starting off very well. Sales of organic chemicals could be up as much as 25 or 30 percent for the first half of the year, and inorganic chemical sales could be up 10 to 15 percent. Prices of all types of chemicals for all industries will be increasing this year, too, it was reported in Business Week. In organic chemicals, price increases could average as high as 15 percent; in inorganics, prices could go up an average of 10 percent.

Demand will help producers make such increases stick. The chief reason, however, for the chemical price increases expected will be increasing energy and raw materials costs, according to industry experts. The price of everything from natural gas to oil and sulfur is soaring. And power rates are also up at least 10 percent.

New Franchise Distributor Announced by Rain Bird

Rain Bird, Glenmore, Calif. has appointed Century/Rain-Aid Supply Corp. as the new franchised turf distributor to serve the greater Chicago area market, northern Illi-



nois and northwest Indiana. Century/Rain-Aid Supply is a new division of Century Supply Corp. of Berkley, Mich.

According to Ernie Hodas, president of Century, the new division will stock and distribute the largest supply of Rain Bird sprinkler equipment and turf irrigation equipment in the Midwest. Century/Rain-Aid will also maintain a system design capability to assist in the installation of irrigation systems at golf courses, residences and commercial sites. The company is at 341 Lively Blvd., Elk Grove Village, Ill. 60007.

Record 1975 Sales Results For Diamond Shamrock

Diamond Shamrock Corp., Cleveland, said it had record sales and earnings for both the fourth quarter and 1975 and that it sees "considerably better" results this year.

The company said fourth quarter net income rose 20 percent to \$32.2 million, or \$1.89 a share, from year-earlier \$26.7 million, or \$1.65 a share. Sales gained 8.5 percent to \$285.8 million, from \$263.4 million.

Chairman C. A. Cash said it was too early to estimate 1976 earnings. But he said, "with the new chemical and plastics capacity already in place and anticipated increases in oil and gas production, we are well-positioned to continue earnings growth in 1976."

Herbicide Market Expansion Averaged 16% Last 5 Years

In the past five years, the herbicide market has expanded an average 16 percent a year in the United States and 26 percent abroad, according to a recent report in the Wall Street Journal.

Many analysts of the market say the herbicide market looks like the next possible market that might swing from shortage to oversupply, increasing price competition and substantial erosion of profit margins for the companies. "In our opinion, the days of rapid growth and high margins are coming to an end," says Jay J. Meltzer of Loeb, Rhoades & Co. in a recent review entitled, "Herbicide Suicide."

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NEWS continued

Landscape Fees the Subject Of an Industry-Wide Survey

While a large number of landscape companies charge a flat fee for commercial landscape design services, charging by the hour is more common, with the rate averaging \$17.80 an hour, according to a recent survey conducted by the National Landscape Association.

A total of 79 percent of the respondents indicated their firms offer residential landscape design services. The percentages reported by regions were relatively uniform, with the southern region having the lowest percentage offering such services. In response to how they charged for these designs, the majority of firms preferred a flat fee, with the average fee charged being \$108. The lowest average fee came from the Western Plains and the highest fee from the Northeast and Pacific regions.

For those firms indicating a perhour charge for residential landscape design plans, the average was \$15.45 an hour. New England led with an average rate of \$16.60 and the Great Lakes was lowest with \$13.80. Of the firms responding, 70 percent indicated they offer partial or total refund of the design costs when they get the planting contract. The survey showed that this practice is more prevalent in the Great Lakes and Western Plains than in other regions.

Commercial landscape design services were provided by 66 percent of the firms. It was found members in the Northeast, Southwest and Pacific areas specialize to a greater degree in commercial plans than firms in other regions. While a number of firms charge a flat fee, as was mentioned, charging by the hour is more common. The average rate of \$17.80 for this ranged from \$14.40 in the Great Lakes to \$22.75 in the Northeast. Just over one-half refund a part or all of the design costs when the planting contract is signed.

In response to the questions regarding landscape estimate ser-

vices, only 22 percent said they provide such a service. This is done on both a flat-fee and per-hour basis, but the per-hour charge appeared to be more common. Average hourly rate indicated was \$17.40, with a range from \$12 an hour in the Great Lakes area to \$22.50 in the Northeast. Regarding refunds, 60 percent of the respondents reported they credit part of all of the estimating job if they get the planting contract.

Insurance estimate service was provided by 84 percent of the firms. This practice seems universal with very little difference in the range. The Pacific area had the lowest percentage with 78 percent, and the Western Plains had the highest with 89 percent. About three times as many of the firms charge a flat fee for insurance estimates as charge on a per-hour basis. The average flat fee was \$20.60 and the average perhour rate was \$18.80.

Consulting service was offered by 74 percent of the responding landscape firms, with very little difference from region to region. The method of charging for these services was just opposite that for insurance estimates, the survey reported. About three times as many firms charge a per-hour rate as charge a flat fee. The average perhour rate was \$19.40 and the average flat fee was \$32.65. There was greater uniformity from region to region in the hourly rate than in the flat fee. The Southwest had the lowest average per hour consulting fee at \$18. The Western Plains had the highest at \$22.

The regions are: Northeast -New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Canadian provinces to the north of these states; Southern — Atlantic and Gulf Coast states from Delaware to Alabama and Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia; Great Lakes - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario; Western Plains states north of Missouri, Kansas and Colorado and Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Southwestern — Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas: Pacific - Arizona, Utah, Idaho and those states to the west including Hawaii, Alaska and British Colum-

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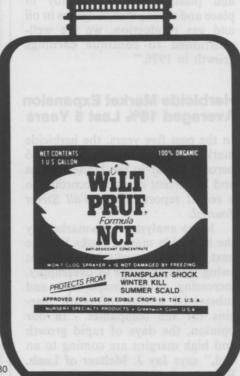
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Magic, myths and misconceptions

By WALTER E. MONEY, Guardian Tree Experts, Inc., Rockville, MD

Seminar of the Maryland Arborist Association. Approximately 20 arborists traveled to the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest of the U.S. Forest Service in the White Mountains of New Hampshire to be with Dr. Alex L. Shigo and see first hand "CODIT:" Compartmentalization of decay in trees.

The group gathered on a Wednesday evening at a nearby resort motel and got an early start on Thursday with a sneak preview of a new Forest Service slide program that Shigo has put together on CODIT. (We understand this program and cassette narrative will be available in a few months.)

Most of Thursday and half a day on Friday was spent walking through the woods with Shigo and his trusty powersaw. Al would explain to the arborists that outward signs indicate the internal condition of the tree, the cambium could be "metered" for vigor, and the heart of the tree probed with the Shigometer. Finally, he would fell the tree and dissect it with his Homelite "scalpel" and conclusively prove his points.

It was obvious that the more vigorous a tree was, the quicker it would wall off an attack by decay after wounding. Particularly, at the top and the bottom of the wound to keep the decay out of the crown and the roots. Also, the year after wounding the cambium develops a new type of tissue called the "barrier zone" to seal off the decay on the inside and allow the tree, with the succeeding annual rings, to develop clear healthy wood.

Some of the magic myths that Shigo's work has exploded are:

1. Tree paint: Only cosmetic; it appears to be of no help in preventing decay and insect attack. However, wound "treatments" that look promising are now under study.

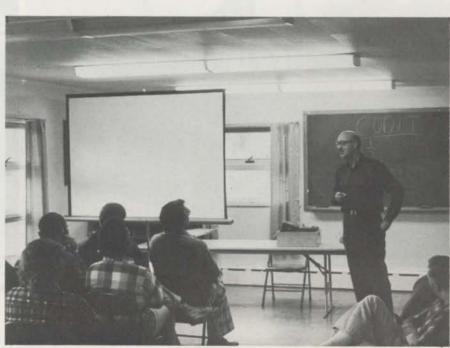
2. Once a fungus gets into a tree wound, it moves throughout the tree: Fungus only moves in the wounded compartment. The tree

needs to be rewounded before the fungus will spread further in the succeeding annual rings.

- 3. Heartwood fungus moves at will: Same rules apply.
- 4. Frost cracks caused by frost: Caused primarily by old basal wounds that have healed improperly and exert pressure from inside.
- 5. Thoroughly clean out old cavities before filling: Actually, thorough cleaning prior to filling a cavity breaks the compartment wall on the inside where it is most vulnerable and allows decay to spread.

These and many other myths have been perpetrated over the years due to theoretical "scholarly" analysis that was not based on factual studies. Shigo's work has revolutionized the tree-care industry and has also provided, in the Shigometer, the "X-Ray" machine arborists have needed for so long to read the vigor and itnernal condition of the trees under care.





A brief explanation of "CODIT" (compartmentalization of decay in trees) in the classroom before venturing into the research area.



Remember that a tree walls-off and compartmentalizes its wounds. The following year the cambium puts up a barrier zone so that succeeding rings of new wood are clear and healthy.



One of the newer and probably best use of the Shigometer to the professional arborist is the way in which the cambium can be quickly metered and checked for vigor as Al Butler demonstrates



Any tree the arborists picked was fair game to be dissected and analyzed.



Cutting sections and then lining them up was the easiest way to demonstrate decay.

BUDWORM (from page 20)

persistent weapons. Zectran was tested and used operationally from 1972 until last year, but production by the manufacturer, Dow Chemical Co., has been stopped and all supplies have now been exhausted.

A 16,000 acre pilot project testing Sevin 4-Oil carbaryl insecticide in 1974 showed "quite promising results," according to Dr. John Dimond, entomologist at the University of Maine. After receiving label clearance for spruce budworm in March, 1975, 500,000 acres of the total 2.2 million acre spray project were treated with Sevin 4-Oil, also a product of Union Carbide Corporation.

According to Jean Cartier, field development representative for the company, "Sevin 4-Oil is a new oilbased formulation of Sevin carbaryl which provides long residual insect control and allows application as an ultra low volume aerial spray. A major advantage is its resistance to weathering or rain wash off on plant surfaces.

Sumithion, an organophosphate of the Sumitomo Chemical Co. of Japan, was also in large scale use and other chemicals and methods of control were tested.

"We've tried parasite releases," Chadwick states, "but they can't keep up with the epidemic proportions of the budworm population." Bacillus thuringiensis, a bacterial control agent is also being tested. Natural or biological control factors, though they may be attractive to the project's critics, appear to be ineffective against the massive epidemic proportions of the present spruce budworm infestation. Chemical spraying remains the only viable economic option the foresters have, and it has achieved good success with results generally in the 90% kill bracket.

A major hindrance in the spray program has been the instability of funding. The total apportioned to the project this year was eight million dollars, half of which was to come from the federal government, and the other half from the state, and private lumber companies. But in recent years, notably last year, funding has come through only at the last minute imposing problems for the project directors regarding procurement of the required amount of insecticides, aircraft and logistics.

The project itself is reminiscent of the Presque Isle airport's heyday as the debarkation point for World War II bombers. Many of the project staff moved into the airport barracks weeks before the spraying started to set up the necessary mixing, pumping, communications and transportation equipment. Many of the people involved have had experience with other large scale programs of this sort.

Forty-six pilots flying insecticide on the forest in the 1975 operation came from as far away as Oregon, Arizona and Georgia, and (continued on page 50)

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-Meeting Dates

Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America, 47th international conference and show, Auditorium and Convention Hall, Minneapolis, Minn. Feb. 8-13.

Midwestern Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture, Sheraton-O'Hare Motor Hotel, Rosemont-Chicago, Ill., Feb. 10-12.

Illinois Landscape Contractors Assoc., annual seminar, Villa Olivia Country Club, Feb. 12-13.

American Society of Consulting Arborists, 10th annual meeting, Vacation Village, San Diego, California, Feb. 12-14.

Canada Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture, Chateau Frontenac Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec, Feb. 12-14.

National Arborist Assoc., annual meeting, Vacation Village, Mission Bay, San Diego, Calif., Feb. 15-19.

Wisconsin Arborist Association, annual convention, Midway Motor Lodge, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Feb. 18-19.

International Pesticide Applicators Association, Successful Business Management Practices, Botanical Gardens, Denver, Colorado, Feb. 20-21.

Southern Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture, Myrtle Beach Hilton, Myrtle Beach, S. Carolina, Feb. 22-25.

Shade Tree Short Course, 19th annual, Scheman Continuing Education Center, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Feb. 25-27.

International Erosion Control Conference, 7th annual, Downtown Sheraton Motor Inn, Portland, Oregon, Feb. 26-27

Midwest Turf Conference, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, Indiana, Mar. 1-3.

Professional Turf and Plant Conference, eighth annual, Saisbury Club, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, L.I., N.Y., Mar. 2.

Professional Turf and Landscape Conference, sixth annual, Ramada Inn, North Haven, Conn., Mar. 3.

Southern Turfgras Conference and Show, Cook Convention Center, Memphis, Tenn., Mar. 7-9.

Canadian Golf Superintendents Association, 27th Annual turfgrass show, Inn-on-the-Park, Toronto, Ontario, Mar. 8-10.

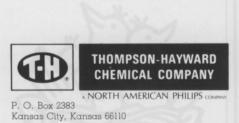
Northeastern Forest Pest Council, winter meeting, Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Mass., Mar. 10-11.

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BUDWORM (from page 46)

brought with them thousands of hours of flying time ranging from crop dusting, fire bombing and range spraying to stunt work in movies.

The forty-five planes used ranged from small chase or spotter planes which were used to guide the spray planes, to Generals MacArthur and Eisenhower's Constellations. TBM's, PV-2's and C-4's, familiar planes to many, were also in abundance. Also used were several helicopters for application on the difficult areas around towns and isolated forest land. Spraying was done in the early morning and early evening hours when wind caused drift would be minimized. The planes flew only 150 feet over the forest canopy spraying insecticide with the most accuracy possible

Spraying was confined to only the most seriously affected forest land while avoiding lakes, fish ponds and farms. The pilot's accuracy, combined with the swift biodegradation of the insecticides used and detailed mapping out of the target forests had reduced the possibility of harmful environmental impact. State health officials however, were also in attendance doing follow-up research on the wildlife and watersheds in the area.

The outlook for the future however, is grim. Although control efforts have been highly successful, they do not approach the extent of the total budworm infestation. The spray projects are expected to continue for a number of years, but officials are hoping for a beneficial shift in weather patterns or insect population developments which will provide deterrent on the epidemic.



WEEDS TREES and TURF

NEWS (continued)

Reduced Quarter Earnings Announced by Northrup

Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, said inventory write-downs reduced fourth fiscal quarter earnings about \$1.3 million, or 13 cents a share.

For fiscal 1974's fourth quarter, the company reported net income of \$1.6 million, or 16 cents a share. In fiscal 1975's first nine months, net income was \$8 million, equal to 80 cents a share. Major inventory adjustments occurred in wheat, Bermudagrass, ryegrasses and alfalfa, the company said.

Outboard Marine Corp. Announces 1975 Earnings

Outboard Marine Corp., Waukegan, Ill., parent company of Cushman-Ryan turf care equipment, has reported preliminary net earnings of \$20 million in fiscal 1975, a 20 percent increase from net earnings of \$16.7 million in fiscal 1974.

The preliminary net earnings, which are subject to final audit, are expected to be \$2.42 per share in fiscal 1975 compared to \$2.02 per share a year earlier.

Hawaii Turf Distributor Moves Into New Facilities

B. Hayman Co., Inc., Honululu a 100-year-old professional turf maintenance equipment and golf car distributor, has moved into new, 22,000-square-foot industrial space at 94-062 Leikane St., Waiphu.

Beard, Nutter and Coats Head Southern Turf Show

Dr. James B. Beard, Texas A & M University, Dr. G. Euel Coats, Mississippi State University, and Dr. Gene C. Nutter, Lake City Junior College, Lake City, Fla. are headline speakers for the annual Southern Turfgrass Conference and Equipment Show, March 7-9 in Memphis, Tenn.

Association president Gene Baston of the Country Club of Birmingham, Alabama said the equipment show will bring the leading suppliers of turf equipment for this regional show that is one of the biggest turf shows in the country.

Other speakers include: E. Edward Bates, product manager, F. E. Meyers and Brothers Co., Ashland, Ohio; W. C. Bowle, superintendent at Memphis Municipal Golf Courses; Jim Bridges, superintendent at Creeks Bend Golf Course, Hixson, Tenn.; Roy Clark,

chief of the pesticide branch of the Environmental Protection Agency offices in Atlanta; Bill Hoopes, manager of the Professional Turf Institute, O. M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, Ohio; Palmer Maples, Jr., superintendent at the Standard Club, Atlanta, and president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America; and Shull Vance, superintendent at Country Club of Mobile, Alabama.



Circle 143 on free information card

NEWS (continued)

Oregon Grass Seed Growers Threatened by State Law

Oregon's 1,800 Willamette Valley grass seed growers are fighting to keep the \$65-million grass seed industry from being flushed out of the valley in one huge environmental sweep. State law, passed in 1971, gave the grass seed industry until last year to come up with a smokefree way of sanitizing their grass seed fields.

The cultural practice of grass seed field burning has been carried out since the mid-1940s when it was determined that after-harvest burning of straw in fields killed insects and disease spores and rid fields of weed seeds. The 100-mile long, 50-mile wide valley has some 270,000 acres of grass seed fields producing virtually all of the ryegrass grown in the United States and a high percentage of the bluegrasses, fine fescues, bentgrass, orchardgrass and

smaller amounts of other turf and forage grasses.

Without burning, yields would drop as much as 50 percent in one year and serious problems of straw disposal and weed abatement would arise, say the growers. Costs in changing to new methods of burning would include purchase of a not-yet-perfected field sanitizing machine costing upward of \$10,000, plus propane, gasoline for pulling machinery and straw-gathering costs.



Factors to consider when selecting a fertilizer

We could have developed a series of ads on each of the 17 categories listed below, but this one chart really says it all.

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No Watering-In	Yes 🗸	No	No	No	No	No
Bad Weather Application	Yes 🖊	No	No	No	No	No
Heavy Traffic Application	Yes 🗸	No	No	No	No	No
No Spreader Clean Up	Yes 🗸	No	No	No	No	No
Sufficient Bulk for Coverage	Yes 🗸	No	No	No	No	No
All-Natural Growth Elements	Yes 🖊	No	No	No	No	No
Disease & Nematode Suppression	Yes 🗸	No	No	No	No	No
Water & Energy Conservation	Yes 🖊	No	No	No	No	No
Complements Natural Growth Curve	Yes 🖊	No	No	No	No	No
Snow & Ice Removal	Yes 🖊	No	No	No	No	No
Dormant Application	Yes 🖊	No	No	No	No	No
Low Salt Index	Yes 🗸	No	No	No	No	No
Bacterial Action	Yes 🖊	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Does Not Burn	Yes 🖊	No	No	No	No	No
Long Lasting	Yes 🗸	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Less Nitrogen Needed	Yes 🖊	No	No	No	No	Yes

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Roots of Water Hyacinth May Be Harvested for Gold

A geologist for a gold mining firm says his company may harvest the precious metal from the roots of the common water hyacinth. Manuel Bettencourt-Dias, a geologist for Gold Hill Mesa Corp., Colorado Springs, Colo., said his firm is interested in experiments now being carried on by researchers for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Researchers for NASA are carrying out field experiments to determine the capability of hyacinths to absorb such metals as lead, mercury, silver and gold from water. "Though highly experimental, the program has produced some interesting results thus far," Bettencourt-Dias told WEEDS TREES & TURF. He said NASA estimates under a program of regular harvesting, an acre of hyacinths can yield silver at a rate of a pound every four days. Results of tests with gold are expected to be similar.

The primary intent of the NASA research is to develop an inexpensive and efficient process of removing toxic pollutants from the nation's rivers and streams, but Bettencourt-Dias said he sees possible commercial use. He said his firm might be able to recover gold from the old famous Cripple Creek mining tailings using such a process.

"Presently, the accepted and proven method of gold recovery — vat-leaching — can economically remove only about 60 percent of the gold," he said. "Hyacinths, as a secondary method, might be able to recover some of the remaining 40 percent."