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FEBRUARY 1977, Vol. 16, No. 2

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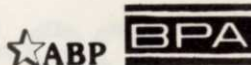
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## TO OUR READERS —

I have always had the feeling that climatic variations, regional problems and techniques were minimal differences when compared to the common goals and interests of the Green Industry. But this morning I'm not so sure. I'm having a hard time relating to those of you who live and work in the Sun-Belt.

We have been putting together this issue of WEEDS TREES & TURF in record cold. Last night the temperature dropped to 21 below and the expected high today is zero.

Schools have closed, some industries have shut down temporarily because of natural gas curtailments. The snow crackles as you walk. Hands and face go numb as you wait for the car heater to warm up. But this is our deadline week and neither sleet nor rain. . . .

This month's cover says it all — our Green Industry as it is today. The illustration was done by talented Cleveland artist Sam Capuano. If you look carefully you'll see golf courses, cemeteries, schools, parks, rights-of-way areas, airports, utilities, the whole gamut. And our February issue practically covers the whole gamut of professional applications.

First, we take a hard look at the specialty fertilizer market today. In Washington, Don Collins, vp for the Fertilizer Institute, told me the future looks good for the specialty fertilizer industry. As turf managers become more sophisticated they are demanding better fertilizers and getting them. But he does see possible problems in the areas of supply. See story on page 32.

Speaking of fertilizer you'll want to read Roger Brown's outstanding article on blended versus granulated on page 24. Brown told WEEDS TREES & TURF: "I've been connected with the turf chemical and fertilizer industry for 25 years. I've been employed by fertilizer manufacturers on both sides of the fence and there is considerable confusion. I believe this article will help many professional turf people make a fair judgement."

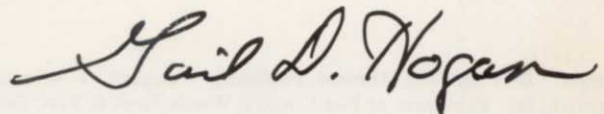
When it comes to the pesticide market, George

Kozelnicky of the University of Georgia is the man to know. He tells us he thinks of pesticides as plant protectants. On page 42 he gives some practical advice on how to save money with protectants.

Last month we told you about the most successful Ohio Turfgrass Conference. One featured speaker was Dr. Harry Niemczyk of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center who presented some enlightening information on thatch. He graciously agreed to prepare this information and more for WEEDS TREES & TURF. Some major new developments have taken place in the area of thatch as a barrier to insecticide effectiveness. But find out for yourself on page 16.

Our market looks strong and ever-changing, but this adds to the excitement. The best thing I've read this month about the future is the Crystal Ball Committee Report of the American Landscape Contractors Association. The report predicts the emergence of the Environmental landscaper, who will handle the big jobs resulting from ever-increasing regulations to protect the environment . . . mining revegetation, rights-of-way maintenance work . . . The report is mentioned in our Industry News on page 12. It's well worth the investment.

Things are looking brighter now that I write about the positive aspects of the business. The snows will melt, the ground will thaw and hopefully we cold-weather dwellers will survive for spring, the season of lawn care specialists. But that's another story and one we'll cover in full in March.





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# Government News

A case involving inferior grass seed which was called to federal attention beginning in 1971 by Maryland Turf and Seed officials has been settled in an Illinois U.S. District Court.

Maurice H. Day, Chief of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Turf and Seed Regulatory Section, says that the Seaboard Seed Company of Briston, Illinois, paid a \$2,750 settlement to end the case which was brought against it by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Ray Brush, of the American Association of Nurserymen, spent 8 hours on the witness stand defending nursery uses of chlordane and heptachlor in testimony at pesticide cancellation hearings convened by the Environmental Defense Fund.

Attorneys for Velsicol Chemical and the United States Department of Agriculture aided Brush in preparing his testimony. The hearings have not been completed.

Responding to a voluntary request from Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp. of New York, the EPA has proposed to officially end all U.S. sale of a chemical compound called BHC or benzene hexachloride which is common used in making pesticide products.

Hooker requested the EPA sales prohibition, technically called a cancellation of registration, in September 1976 after learning that EPA was evaluating BHC's environmental and human health effects. Hooker said it had actually stopped making the BHC pesticide ingredient, known as "technical grade" material, 4 months earlier.

OSHA has revised its directive concerning methods of guarding workers from physical contact with the point of operation of power press brakes. (A point of operation is the area of a machine where work is actually performed upon the material being processed.)


OSHA requires use of guarding devices to prevent a worker from having any part of his body in the point of operation while the machine is running. When guarding devices cannot be installed, alternate protective measures must be used. Such alternate measures include methods of keeping the worker at a safe distance from the point of operation.

The EPA has issued a list of agricultural pesticides that are candidates for restricted use only by farmers and others that have shown they can safely handle and apply them.

Under the 1972 Federal pesticides law, the application of restricted use pesticides will be limited only to certified applicators or persons working under their supervision. This program will take effect on October 21, 1977.

A proposed job health standard that would reduce worker exposure to cotton dust has been announced by OSHA. OSHA also announced that a public hearing on the proposal will begin April 5, 1977.


The proposal would reduce the present OSHA standard (1,000 micrograms of total dust per cubic meter of air) to 200 micrograms of respirable dust per cubic meter of air measured by a vertical elutriator. Respirable dust is proposed as the measure since larger, non-respirable dust particles are not thought to be harmful.



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