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# WEEDS TREES ETURE

JANUARY 1977, Vol. 16, No. 1

- 15 Buying Automatic Irrigation The awesome job of purchasing a new irrigation system can be simplified by applying logic. One superintendent tells how he did it successfully.
- 20 A Pulled Pipe System for Drainage Proper drainage is essential for healthy turf and plastic pipe can be installed to handle this with little disturbance to the land.
- 22 GCSAA Show Preview More than 5000 people ar expected to attend this outstanding conference and show in February. Here is a look at what you'll find there.
- 28 The Meticulous Consultant Veteran Irrigation Consultant Don Burns explains some of the unique concepts that have made him one of the most sought after specialists from Fresno to Maui.
- 42 Black Cutworm Control Cutworms in the larval stage cause severe damage to turf and plants but they can be controlled by several new and established materials.

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ON THE COVER: This month the emphasis is on irrigation, an all-important aspect of the Green Industry.

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Member, American Business Press, Business Publications Audit





Single Copy Price: \$1.00 for current and all back issues. Foreign \$1.50. Subscription Rates: WEEDS TREES AND TURF is mailed free, within the U.S. and possessions and Canada, to qualified persons engaged in the vegetation care industry and related fields in controlled circulation categories. Non-qualified subscriptions in the U.S. and Canada are \$10.00 per year; other countries, \$12.00 per year. Controlled circulation postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio 44101.

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### TO OUR READERS —

December was a busy month for the WEEDS TREES & TURF staff. On the 8th, I headed for Columbus for the Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show while Assistant Editor Eric Friedman went East to New Jersey Turfgrass Expo 76.

Going to these conferences and shows has got to be one of the most rewarding aspects of the job. It's here where we really get to meet our readers and contributors faceto-face. Communication is open, uninhibited.

The show in Columbus was a fantastic success. Nearly 1200 people attended the three-day series of seminars and exhibits. Among the notables was Dr. Robert Schery, director of the Lawn Institute. Dr. Schery was the author of our article on cultivars (October 1976). A friendly, personable man, he said feedback has been excellent and has promised to do another piece for us.

Among the many seminars I attended was one presented by Steven Kennedy, superintendent of the Columbus Country Club, on buying an irrigation system. Kennedy's talk was well received, and since our focus this month is irrigation, I got it all on tape. We present his straight-from-the-hip advice on page 15. Unfortunately, we could not transcribe his humor which struck familiar chords with many in the audience.

Friedman tells me his experience at the New Jersey Expo was "most edifying." He was hosted by Dr. Henry Indyk, the tireless, paternal chairman of the conference. In summing up the conference, Dr. Indyk told WEEDS TREES & TURF that a major objective was to bring together the total turfgrass industry.

"The format of the New Jersey Turfgrass Expo 76 effectively provided an opportunity not only for the dissemination of useful information on a wide range of topics, but also as an attractant for the unification of the heterogeneous mix which comprises the total turf industry."

Even more importantly, he added, than the attendance figures, which totaled more than 800, were the diverse turfgrass interests that were attracted for the pursuit of a common objective — increased knowledge' for better turf. "It was Green Power in the true sense of the phrase."

After Expo 76, Friedman went west to La Jolla, California, to interview irrigation consultant Don Burns. Because of the hectic pace that Burns maintains, he was not the ideal subject for a fireside tetea-tete. Friedman stalked him from the serene, coastal refuge into the desiccated flatlands of the Palm Desert where an omnipresent sun and the Santa Ana winds bake the picachos and breathe quick warmth into the desert bowl. How does Don Burns irrigate a barren wasteland? Find out on page 28.

More travel as that is the name of the game. We'll be heading west in January for the annual meeting of the Associated Landscape Contractors of America and to Dallas for the Southern Weed Science Society. We'll also be at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America convention in Portland in February. WEEDS TREES & TURF will have an exhibit booth. Stop in and talk with us. We need to hear from you.

Now we must get a bit more somber. As we put together our

irrigation issue we were constantly reminded of man's incredible indifference to his own well being.

In the past year we have witnessed drought-like conditions reminiscent, perhaps, more of an episode from the "Twilight Zone" than of days we can recall. Water has become a priceless commodity.

Data compiled by the Agricultural Climatology Service Office of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce in Washington vield the conclusion that the eastern Dakotas, Minnesota, northern and western Iowa, eastern Nebraska, and portions of Missouri suffered drought patterns similar to the record drought of the 1930s. Irregular rainfall patterns across the United States caused a multitude of drought-drainage problems. These were compounded by high temperatures and stiff winds, resulting in extensive turf damage.

For some reason, complacent folks that we are, we respond with alarm to crisis situations, but we fail to make ongoing provisions for addressing the source of the problem once the furor has waned.

We are extremely fortunate to possess the caliber of technology which can attempt to balance some of the mysterious inequities of the ecosystem. The highly evolved state of our irrigation systems and products is a tribute to our ingenuity. We must, however, learn as a nation that an inordinate sense of economic well being and technological prowess coupled with indulgent overuse of our natural resources is a formula for disaster.

In the coming year we must necessarily measure our uses of water against our own stringent guidelines for need.

Lail D. Nogan

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### Government News

EPA proposes to cancel BHC, a chemical used in pesticides manufacture, and asks for public comment on risks and benefits of pesticides containing benzene hexachloride. Despite the fact that BHC for use in other pesticides is no longer being made, some 58 U.S. firms are still employing old BHC stocks to produce some 86 different pest control products.

Scientists at the University of Wisconsin will study feasibility of transferring chloroplasts from one plant species to another, under a cooperative agreement with the USDA. USDA Agricultural Research Service will provide \$59,918 for the two-year study.

The USDA made three changes in the citrus blackfly quarantine: 1) replaced emergency regulations on the recent Florida outbreak with more formal citrus blackfly quarantine; 2) extended the regulated area in Florida to two additional counties; and 3) added two articles to the list of restricted items.

Three national parks and three national forest areas are the first to be officially recognized as Biosphere Reserves in the U.S. The Biosphere Reserve Project is an effort of the international Man and the Biosphere Program to protect representative segments of the world's natural regions as major centers for animal and plant preservation, environmental research, and education.

The six designated areas are: Coweeta Experimental Forest, N.C.; Great Smokey Mountains National Park, Tenn. and N.C.; Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, N.H.; Everglades National Park, Fla.; Virgin Islands National Park, V.I.; and Luquillo Experimental Forest, P.R.

Use of Mirex for fire ant control is to be discontinued by June 28, 1978. EPA Administrator Russell Train accepted the cancellation plan proposed by the state of Mississippi to end all use of the pesticide in the South. Train agreed to gradually phase out federal permission for Mirex production and use. Airplane applications against fire ants will end December 31, 1977. Ground treatment ends six months later. During the phase-out, more environmentally acceptable Mirex 10:5 will be substituted for current 4X bait.

Further increases in minimum wage become effective January 1, 1977. Seasonal exemptions will be eliminated. The minimum wage for agricultural employees becomes \$2.20/hour on January 1, and \$2.30/hour for other employees covered by law.

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