

Gerald E. Farrens, vice president and general manager of Farrens Tree Surgeons, Inc., Jacksonville, Fla., has been elected president of the National Arborist Association. Farrens, a graduate of Rollins College, is a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists and has served on the Board of Governors of the International Society of Arboriculture.

M. Scott West III has been named midwestern district sales manager for Outboard Marine Corporation's Cushman and Ryan product lines. His territory includes Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma.

Dr. Lawrence R. Schreiber has been named research leader at the Nursery Crops Research Laboratory, a facility of the U.S.D.A.'s Agricultural Research Service near Delaware, Ohio.

Dr. Schreiber has been a research plant pathologist at the laboratory since he joined ARS in 1961. He has worked on improving trees for use in urban environments through breeding and selection to increase resistance to disease and pollution stresses. He received his B.S. from Northwestern University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University.

Promotion of **Mark D. Lyle** to product manager in the project development group of the agricultural chemicals division has been announced by Stauffer Chemical Co..

In his new position Lyle will be responsible for the marketing and product development of Dyfonate, Trithion, Aspon, and Seven-4-Flowable. He joined the company in 1973 as a sales representative in North Dakota.

Professor Vincent C. Smith of Alfred State Agricultural and Technical College department of ornamental horticulture has retired after 30 years on the faculty. Professor Smith, who served as department chairman for 24 years, is the author of several articles on floriculture and has served as a consultant for golf courses and athletic fields. E. F. Burlingham & Sons announces management changes following the death of C. G. Burlingham, president and chairman. George W. Burlingham, formerly vice president, moves to president and chairman. Robert J. Peterson, who joined the company as an agronomist, is a director and vice president of seed promotion and public relations. R. B. Loomis becomes vice president of finance in addition to secretary-treasurer.



JUNE 1977/WEEDS TREES & TURF 51



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Aphid "alarm" defined to aid in pest control

Cornell University scientists have defined the chemicals used by aphids to signal danger in their insect communities.

Moreover, the entomologists say it may be possible to use this knowledge to manipulate these chemical alarms and protect valued crops against insect damage.

William S. Bowers, professor of entomology at the N.Y. State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, a unit of Cornell University, and Chikao Nishino, a post-doctoral associate, explain their findings in the May 6 issue of the journal "Science."

Their coauthors are Michael E. Montgomery, a post-doctoral associate, and Prof. Lowell R. Nault, of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, and Mervin W. Nielson (Ph.D.) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bowers explained that, in nature, when an aphid is attacked it secretes, in a dying gasp, a chemical warning to its cohorts. The response of fellow aphids, which are tiny herbivorous insects commonly called plant lice and known for their ability to cause feeding damage and transmit plant diseases, is to walk, fall or leap away from the plant and the oncoming enemy.

Five years ago, Bowers and his colleagues isolated and identified an alarm chemical, called trans-betafarnesene, used by two subfamilies of aphids. Recently, he has discovered a new alarm chemical called germacrene A, used by different species of aphids, which is a serious pest of forage crops.

Isolation of these chemicals from insects is noteworthy because they are extremely unstable. For example, when an aphid secretes germacrene A, the chemical alarm degrades within 15 seconds. This instability ensures that the alarm chemical breaks down soon after the predator moves on, thus enabling the aphids to return to the feeding site.

But now Cornell scientists have manipulated the alarm system and have synthesized a stable chemical capable of deterring the insects from returning to their feeding site for an extended period.

"We have approached this problem through the successful synthesis of several simple analogs of trans-betafarnesene, which are not quite exact copies of the real chemical alarm," said Bowers. "These analogs retain the warning quality of the natural chemical alarms but are considerably more stable than the natural chemicals. It may also be possible to develop analogs of the second chemical alarm, germacrene A," he added.

Bowers said that his chemical analogs, which have already been tested under laboratory conditions, will be given field tests this summer.

The research was supported, in part, by the National Science Foundation.

Healthier walnut and apple trees possible

Healthier, more vigorous apple and walnut trees may result thanks to technique developed by University of Missouri-Columbia plant pathologists.

"We adapted a technique used by the flower industry," reported Dr. Daniel Millikan. "It allows us to eliminate brown line in apples, a disorder which seriously hampers our export of nursery stock, because Canada has a quarantine against it.

"A further modification of the technique can be used to eliminate 'bunch' and 'ambers' in walnut, disorders which reduce walnut production efficiency."

Bunching of the terminal branches of the walnut tree makes the tree more susceptible to winter kill. The result is a devitalized, less productive tree.

Ambering in walnut meat causes flavor to be bitter or sour.

The methods for producing apples and walnuts free of bunching and ambering were reported recently at a joint meeting of the Missouri and Illinois academies of science, at the University of Missouri-St. Louis by Millikan's doctorial candidates, Shu-Ching Huang and Anna Lenartowicz.

Basically, the technique involves using tip meristem, a growing point in the plant. A microscopic piece of the growing point is removed from an infected plant in a sterile medium (free from bacteria and fungus). Then, with proper nutrition, it is grown into a vigorous disease-free plant.

"This plant can then serve as a source of healthy material for variety that was previously universally infected." said Millikan.

"This plant material can then be grafted onto another rootstock, and we can produce a disease-free tree that can be sold in Canada.

The tree will not only be more vigorous, but it will be a more efficient producer, because other virus problems will be eliminated, too."

Millikan said past experience with this technique on cherries resulted in 20 percent more trees being produced per acre.

"Besides," said Millikan, "all the trees were more uniform — all Grade A — which sold for about 20 percent more than lower grade."

He said that nurserymen will use his technique to completely eliminate brown line in five years.

"The result will be better, more efficient production which will ultimately benefit the consumer," he added. "Right now, brown line cuts nurserymen's production by about 30 percent. In the case of walnuts, the elimination of ambering and bunching will take a little longer."



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Some ryegrasses can minimize raggedness

Perennial ryegrasses have come a long way in their development and use the past decade and possess several favorable characteristics, but there is some good along with the bad. Raggedness from mowing is a particular problem with many of them.

Results from a University of California field experiment at San Jose indicate that the variety of perennial ryegrass you plant is a more important factor than the level of fertilization you apply to minimize raggedness from mowing.

The experiment was conducted by David L. Hanson, UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor for San Mateo County. He reported his findings during the Turf & Landscape Institute program held recently in Anaheim. The program is presented annually by UC Cooperative Extension and is sponsored by the Southern California Turfgrass Council and other supporting landscape associations. More than 1,100 persons turned out for this year's program.

Hanson established a series of varietal plots in the spring of 1974 at the UC Deciduous Fruit Field Station at San Jose to see what effect nitrogen fertilization would have on the cuttability of perennial ryegrasses. New varieties available at that time were included in the trial: Manhattan, Pennfine, Lamora, Linn, NK-100, and NK-S321.

The seed bed was prepared in a normal manner. Super-phosphate was applied at a rate of one pound of actual phosphorous per 1000 square feet. Seeding was by hand at a rate of six pounds per 1000 square feet in the 5 by 15-foot plots.

After allowing the grasses to establish themselves for four months, three fertilizer treatments of one and a half, three, and six pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet per year were applied across the varietal plots. For the next seven months, the plots were rated every other week for their cuttability (raggedness), as well as their color, texture, density, pest activity, and uniformity. At certain times of the year, Hanson noted, there were no apparent differences in the raggedness of the species mowed. A 30-inch reel mower, sharpened every month, was used in the test.

At the end of one year, all of the data collected was statistically analyzed to determine the significance of difference in fertilization and the differences by variety with respect to their raggedness from cutting.

Using a 0 to 10 scale (0 being something like a stand of mowed, and 10 being a clean-cut turfgrass stand), the six-pound rate of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet per year resulted in an average cuttability score on all varieties of 4.9. The three-pound and one and a half pound rates resulted in lower average scores.

A comparison of the results by variety at all fertilization rates showed that in this trial Manhattan had the cleanest cutting quality with a score of 6.0. NK-S321 was next with 5.4, followed by Pennifine at 5.0 and Lamora at 4.7. \Box

Circle 113 on free information card 54 WEEDS TREES & TURF/JUNE 1977

MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Tissue culture reproduction shows promise

Improved plants, duplicated vegetatively by tissue culture (rather than sexually by seed) are identical to the parent, can be obtained more rapidly than by seed, and can be disease-free.

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) scientists have found plant tissue culture techniques to be a valuable tool for studies of plant development, viral elimination from infected stocks, rapid clonal multiplication, pharmaceutical production, genetics, and crop improvement.

Plant parts can be grown in isolation and in environments of controlled nutrition, light, temperature and humidity.

Culture media have been developed that permit growth of cells and tissues of many plants in test tubes. Plant cells or tissues placed on appropriate media can be grown as a dividing mass of cells that can then be induced to form shoots or roots and complete plants.

According to Drs. Roberta H. Smith and H. James Price, plant physiologists and geneticists with TAES, plant cell cultures and the ability to manipulate them in test tubes have brought about much interest in the potential application of somatic cell (body cells other than germ cells) genetics for crop improvement.

Cell cultures may be employed in screening for disease resistance among cells. In one case, mutant plants have shown a greater resistance to infection than the variety from which they were derived.

Selection from other traits, such as insecticide and herbicide resistance, nematode resistance, improved nutritional quality, heat or cold tolerance, and salinity tolerance is a potential of cell cultures.

The biochemical constitution of plant tissues can be selected through screening of mutants at the cell level.

Previous research indicated that there is a potential to raise the level of specific amino acids and hence the nutritional quality of the plants.

Tissue culture techniques have been very effective in studying basic physiological growth and propagation of herbaceous angiosperms (flowering plants) and should be used to obtain similar information on woody plants.

The problem in the past has been due to the difficulty in culturing tissue from woody plants in test tubes.

Research indicates that there is a tremendous potential for tissue propagation of desirable pecan root-sticks in large numbers.



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Meeting Dates

American Association of Nurserymen's 102nd Annual Convention/Oregon Association of Nurserymen's Farwest Nursery, Garden, and Supply Trade Show, Seattle Center, Seattle, Wash., July 16-20.

American Sod Producers Association Annual Summer Convention & Field Days, St. Paul Radisson Hotel, St. Paul, Minn., July 20-22.

Illinois Landscape Contractors Association Annual Summer Field Day, Matt Tures Sons Nursery, Huntley, Ill., Aug. 3.

Plant Growth Regulator Working Group Annual Technical Meeting, Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, Ark., Aug. 9-11.

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Convention, Philadelphia Marriott, Pa., Aug. 14-18.

USDA Turfgrass Field Day, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center West, Beltsville, Md., Aug. 24.

Mt. Lake Right-of-Way Management Council Annual Meeting, Sheraton Motor Lodge, Charlottesville, Va., Sept. 12-14.

Virginia Tech Turfgrass Field Days and Trade Show, Stadium & Turfgrass Research Center, Blacksburg, Va., Sept. 21-22.

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58 WEEDS TREES & TURF/JUNE 1977

Products



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NK-200	5.0	4.1	3.9	202	2.3
Pelo	4.4	3.0	3.2	251	2.2
NK-100	4.1	2.7	2.6	220	2.3
Barenza	3.6	3.6	3.4	191	2.4
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