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Why is the Navy Concerned with Weed Control?

By M. T. PALERMO, *Applied Biology,*

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San Diego, California

Perhaps the first question that comes to many minds is: Why would the Navy be concerned with weed control? This is a logical question because many people often associate the Navy only with the fleet—battleships, aircraft carriers, submarines, etc. The branch of the Navy we are referring to is made up of the naval, land or shore establishments whose prime mission is to support the fleet.

Within this Naval District, the Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (formerly called the Southwest Division, Bureau of Yards and Docks) accomplishes the planning, design and construction of public works and public utilities. It also directs and administers the maintenance and/or operation of family housing facilities, utilities, and transportation. Under the Maintenance Division, the Applied Biology Office provides the District with professional consulting services in entomology and related fields of pest control of all activities.

The Eleventh Naval District, which encompasses all of Southern California, the State of Arizona, and Southern Nevada, includes a large number of naval activities with many acres comprised of mountains and deserts. Undesirable vegetation in improved or semi-improved land is usually controlled chemically. In unimproved areas it is controlled by chemical and sometimes mechanical means.

Chemical weed control at naval activities is conducted in close cooperation among the various departments through mutual agreement as to their cognizant interests. Our office of Applied Biology has the responsibility for herbicide application and the preparation of technical portions of contract specifications. It includes the technical training of application personnel, consultation and liaison on problems involving pesticide toxicity, procurement, handling or storage of materials, and the guidance of related station application operations for maximum efficiency and safety in applying herbicides.

The Office of Secretary of Defense requires that military installations sub-

mit a formal pest control summary report monthly to the appropriate department.

Reports received from Eleventh Naval District activities indicate that the man with the hoe is gradually being replaced by the man who is qualified to apply herbicides. With chemical control, personnel can select a material which will prolong results, thus reducing their labor costs. Each year more maintenance supervisors are aware of the substantial improvement in weed control by chemical means and fund it in their annual budget. During fiscal years 1965 and 1966 there was a substantial increase in funds spent for herbicides in the Eleventh Naval District. It is interesting to note that we find the Navy's rate of increase in the application of herbicides follows the national average according to the December, 1966, Pesticide Review published in the *National Agricultural Chemical News*.

Following are some of the reasons why the Navy is concerned with weed control:

1. *To prevent damage to asphalt pavements.* Parking areas, tennis courts, drill areas, sidewalks, airfield runways, etc., are expensive to maintain unless a soil sterilant is applied to the sub-base just prior to the first application of surface coating.

Our recommendations—For several years our specifications have called for borate-chlorate mixtures. Results have always been good. We welcome other recommendations for soil sterilants under A.C. However, these materials must be just as effective, economical, non-flammable, and nontoxic, both to the operator and animal life, as those in our present specifications.

2. *To eliminate the hazards of fires in ammunition, lumber and fuel storage areas; around power poles and communication lines; and under wooden bleacher seats in noncultivated areas.*

The herbicide of choice is one of the several soil sterilants — simazine, borate-chlorate, monuron or bromacil in either granular or suspension formulations.

3. *To improve visibility around airfield guide-lights, as well as utility lines and antennas.* Either contact or residual soil sterilants are being used.

4. *To reduce mosquito breeding in drainage ditches, sewage oxidation ponds and lakes.* There have been many man-hours of mosquito spraying and fogging saved through a good aquatic weed control program. For several years the principal herbicide combination has been amitrol and dalapon.

5. *To improve turf for appearance and durability.* Lawns, golf courses and athletic fields are better and more economically maintained with selective herbicides — 2, 4-D and some of the crabgrass killers.

6. *To maintain the health and welfare of personnel* by removal of weeds that may cause allergies and dermatitis, e.g., ragweed, sumac, poison oak, etc., and undesirable vegetation which harbors snakes, scorpions, and other pest animals.

7. *To conserve underground water in dry river beds by mechanical means.* Phreatophytes or "pump" plants are a class of vegetation which take more water from the ground than they need. Through the process of transpiration, plants such as salt cedar, willow, sycamore, tules, Bermuda grass, and alfalfa lower the water table. At Camp Pendleton, Marine units involved in the training effort of operating bulldozers clear enough plants and trees from the creek and river beds to eliminate an annual drain on the ground water that amounts to a minimum of 652,000 gallons or two acre feet for each acre cleared.

Recent small scale herbicide test plots indicate excellent control of phreatophytes in dry river beds.

8. *To reduce the number of man-hours in trimming grass around sprinkler heads and chemically edging lawns.* With a combination of Diquat and a green dye, Public Works Center, San Diego, saves four naval activities approximately \$12,500 per year in labor alone by chemically treating around 15,700 sprinkler heads on an average of four times a year. In edging lawns

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National Aerial Applicators Association

N. A. A. A.

Roll Out the Guns!

By F. FARRELL HIGBEE

John Neace, main rotor for the First Annual Conference, has his torque pedal all the way in and is spinning us toward a great get-together!

Pre-registrations for the conference indicate this may well be the biggest gathering of aerial applicators the world has ever seen and nearly every state is already represented!

Program details are worked out and talks on various subjects by Richard Reade, President of NAAA; Parke C. Brinkley, the Keynoter and President of the National Agricultural Chemical Association, will lead the way. Other speakers include Mike Smith of the Aero-Space and Aerophysics Department of Mississippi State University, Bill Marsh of Marsh Aviation in Phoenix, Charles Harper of Redsamen and East, Little Rock, Carl Heimer of Piper Aircraft, Lock Haven, Penna., John Coulston of Coastal Chemical Company, Oxnard, California, and Stanley W. Strew of Colloidal Products Company, Sausalito, California.

Conference activity will center around the displays in the Marriott Sundown Room Three and most of the space is already committed to systems and parts manufacturers, aircraft and chemical companies. Research and technical personnel from these companies will be on hand to answer your questions. The Ladies Program is confined to one big shopping spree and lunch on Monday plus, of course, an invitation to the social activities on Monday evening.



John Neace has lined up some expensive, glittering talent for the Monday evening dinner show you won't want to miss!

The serious side of the conference will be the business meetings of the Board of Directors on Sunday afternoon and a general meeting of the membership on Tuesday morning. Tuesday's agenda will include election of the new officers for the 1968 year and several special awards.

Notice of Annual Meetings

The constitution of the Association requires that an Annual Meeting of the membership be held each year. The time specified by the Board of Directors this year is in conjunction with the first annual conference in Dallas. In addition, a board meeting is required at least once each year. The dates and the areas to be covered are as follows:

Board of Directors meeting: December 3, 1967 — 3:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting: December 5, 1967 — 9:00 a.m.
Treasurer's Report	Resolutions
Executive Director's Report	By-law Changes
Nominating Committee	Special Awards
Logo Committee	Election of Officers
Proposed By-law Changes	General Business
	Committee Reports

Any paid up member, regardless of classification, shall have the right to attend a General or Board meeting of the Association. This shall include individual members who, by virtue of their membership in their state, regional or divisional group, belong to NAAA through their subsidiary member, and also includes Participating, Associate and Contributing Members.

A Letter from the President

The first annual conference follows a great NAAA year; one beyond expectations thanks to the unselfish cooperation of everyone. Timing was perfect, perhaps because applicators recognized the vital necessity for national representation and the need for cooperative action.

More than 500 individuals associated with 20 state and regional associations have signed up for membership in NAAA. In addition there are now 30 allied industrial members among insurance, aircraft and system manufacturers and chemical companies.

In spite of great strides, we still have a considerable distance to travel to reach all goals. There are even operators who don't feel they need to contribute any effort to NAAA, who want the free ride, or who don't believe that a favorable economic "climate" for their very survival is a mutual problem. Others are asking, what am I getting out of NAAA. To answer these pessimists, we need only to look at the record. Improved national image, better public relations and communications within all phases of the industry, favorable pesticide labeling rulings, cohesive national representation on opposition to air space, annual certificate charges and gas tax increases, wage and hour ruling protection, and the favorable cotton program legislation are examples of NAAA. The very hiring of our capable Executive Director, Farrell Higbee, establishment of a Washington office with a secretary, Farrell's good will tour throughout the states visiting operators, attendance at conventions such as the Midwest Agricultural Chemical Association and the National Agricultural Chemical Association, all added up to a lot of doing for you.

The NAAA fosters and promotes ag aviation and your officers and board have attended state meetings, resolved regional differences, and have helped establish new associations. This is progress! Come to Dallas and learn what your fellow operators are doing, broaden your horizons, and help yourself to better profit production through the "Preview of Tomorrow".

Sincerely,
Richard Reade
President

Pest Control Operators News

NEWS FROM KEN SCOTT

(Continued from Page 24)

the client had received excellent rough carpentry and that the workmanship and corrections were entirely commensurate with what he needed and with what we thought we had sold. Unfortunately, we had not dwelt in our report with the things so obvious to us that were open to criticism, because even Dale Carnegie would not dare.

We have received our money from this job and we appear to have a happy and satisfied client. The point is: did he have a right to be dissatisfied? What must we do in the future to assure ourselves that when we sell a Ford, our client has no right to expect a Cadillac when we deliver? Finally, how do we receive remuneration for work performed beyond our quotation?

The answer to all of these questions must be in the fields related to communications. Certainly we could not advocate written criticism of the deplorable conditions found, in the interest of very minimum diplomacy. Equally obvious is the fact that we cannot imply that we intend to perform unsightly work. We all are aware of the old adage; "You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." The inspector salesman must accept the responsibility for a full understanding when older structures are involved and the correction that is both commensurate and feasible must result in compromise with a situation. If the client's aesthetic senses demand fine cabinet work where it is not really warranted, then he should authorize a proportionate fee. If he agrees that all wood, exposed to weather, and neglected, results in deterioration, then the extent of correction must be agreed upon. In most instances, warped and weathered framing, neither infested nor infested, can be left in place, provided proper repairs, shoring and supplementation are performed. The old wood cannot be made to look new. Neither can the new wood be other than very evident.

When foundations are raised after having settled over a period of years, the client must be prepared to accept the fact that, after correction, a marble will roll across the floor unaided. When walls are levelled, plaster and stucco are likely to crack and these facts are so much better explained when delineated beforehand. When shower "tear-outs" are performed, minor existing cracks are likely to worsen and such contingencies should

be pre-determined. Fumigators have worries about cracking roof tile, sleazy antennas that cannot stand dismantling and shrubbery and plantings that must be disturbed or mutilated during the course of a job.

Our conclusion about matters of the above nature is that, when explanations are necessary, wherever humanly possible, they are best made prior to the performance of a job.

*Sincerely,
Ken Scott*

WHY IS THE NAVY . . .

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chemically, dalapon at the rate of 4 pounds plus a green dye in 100 gallons of water has been effective and labor-saving. Sometimes we find that the long Bermuda grass runners absorb and translocate the dalapon causing them to turn brown. Plant growth inhibitors are now being tried experimentally on Bermuda grass. If these show promise, station personnel can further reduce maintenance costs of lawns.

Conclusion

We in the Eleventh Naval District are very grateful for the cooperative and cordial relationship which exists between our office and the Federal, State, and County Agricultural offices. Those of us at Naval activities in this District share with our fellow community members in cooperating with universities, governmental agencies, and representatives of the chemical industry in the control or eradication of noxious weeds which affect Navy holdings or negatively affect land owners adjacent to Navy property.

Container Corp. Solves Drum Venting Problem

A new vent plug which protects against excessive pressure build up in shipping drums has been designed and produced by the plastics division of Container Corporation of America. This corrosion proof $\frac{3}{4}$ " NPT polyethylene plug automatically releases pressure between 1 and 3 PSI.

The CCA Vent Plug, which is designed to fit standard plastic and steel drum closures, functions by use of a Hypalon membrane within the plug.

Each CCA Vent Plug is tested to insure positive pressure release.

Central Valley District

Minutes of September 21, 1967, were read and approved. Treasurer's report was given.

Each member will be assessed \$24.60 for his share of the yellow page advertising for the next year.

Virgil Strong gave a report on the Federal Rat Control Bill meeting held October 18, 1967, at the P.C.O. Office in Los Angeles.

E. D. Crutchfield moved that the district write a letter regarding the Federal Rat Control Bill to Mr. Dick Peters and the Local Health Department, with copies to be sent to Phyllis Cartwright. Seconded by Art Wilcox. Motion passed.

Chairman Myers then appointed E. Crutchfield, V. Strong, G. Mann, N. Crest and C. Waggoner to draft letter.

Chairman Myers called for nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. Nominations: Chairman: Herman Robertson by E. D. Crutchfield. Vice Chairman: E. K. Sloan by E. D. Crutchfield. Secretary-Treasurer: William Eccles by Art Wilcox. Moved by E. D. Crutchfield - seconded by Cal Morgan that the Secretary cast a unanimous vote for all the nominated officers. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 P.M. by Chairman Myers.

Bill Gaston in Hospital

San Gabriel District Treasurer, Willard W. Gaston, entered St. Joseph Hospital November 13th for major ear surgery. We understand Bill will be in the hospital for quite a time and that the surgery is of a very delicate nature. Of course we all wish Bill the best and a very successful operation.

Marc de Magnin - "Smog Victim"

Personable Marc de Magnin, southern California representative for Velscol Corporation, is another hospital visitor this month. It seems that our smog has had such a terrible effect on Marc that he just can't breathe and has to have his nose operated on so he can live here!

When offered sympathy because he was having to undergo an operation Marc quickly came back with, "Oh, no I'm glad. It'll be so nice to breathe again

Pest Control Operators' News