

People Spread Weeds Better Than Anybody

Man is the most important agent in seed dissemination reports Frieda Wertman of Central Seed Laboratory in Hopkins Minn She spoke at the 13th annual Weed Science Society of America meeting in Atlanta

The distribution of agricultural and garden seeds is the prime source of weed seeds Almost every crop includes some seed which resembles the desirable kind in size-shape-weight and even color so well that even the best cleaning equipment does not do a perfect job

The actual spread of species varies A large number of plants remain confined to the area where they were introduced, others spread rapidly even though they had been introduced but once

Significant though man's role is Ms Wertman noted plants, fruit and seeds have natural means of dispersal Wind, water, animals and structural features of the seeds help in seed dispersal

Minute seeds like witchweed, paint-brush and orchids can be borne aloft like dust for miles The wind also carries heavy seeds that are plumed like the milkweeds, thistles, dandelions, and willows, or with wings like maple, poplar and dock Gusts of

wind may blow seeds across the surface of snow and ice or hasten their progress downstream

The winged fruits of common dock have corky protuberances which permit them to float These seeds also provide food for rodents and birds or if dropped in mud along with other seeds that

occur in wet areas, they adhere to the feathers, feet or fur of other animals.

Burred fruits and seeds like cocklebur, buffalobur, sticktight may help in the dispersal of the plant but they are more than a nuisance

Schweiker Sponsoring Schoolbus Safety Bill

WASHINGTON — Senator Richard S Schweiker (R-Pa) has joined as sponsor of a bill to set minimum safety standards for schoolbuses

"The yellow schoolbus is one of the most poorly designed vehicles in America for passenger protection," Schweiker said "In 1971 alone, there were 47,000 schoolbus accidents resulting in 150 deaths and 5,600 injuries One out of every 14 schoolbuses operating in Pennsylvania in 1969 was involved in an accident," he said

Schweiker said "I strongly favor national uniform standards for construction, engineering and performance of schoolbuses I also believe the use of seat belts

should be required in every schoolbus We should apply the same safety standards to our children's schoolbuses that we are beginning to apply to our own cars," he said

The schoolbus safety bill, S 847 requires

—U.S. Department of Transportation standards dealing with but not limited to emergency exits, interior protection, crash-worthiness, exhaust systems, and flammability of interior materials

—Construction of an experimental prototype safety schoolbus

—Manufacturers and dealers to certify and test drive all schoolbuses before delivery.

—National Transportation Safety Board inspections of all fatal schoolbus accidents

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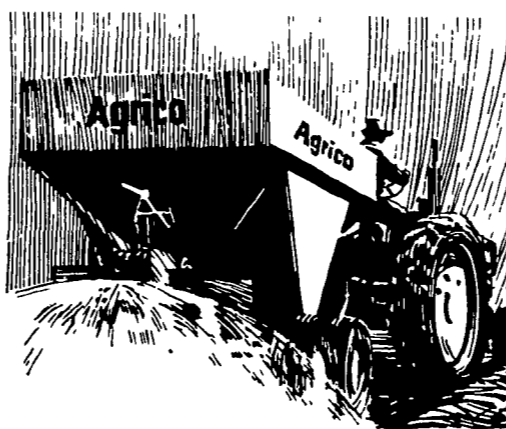
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