

Weed and no-till meeting on tap

The annual meeting of the Maryland Crop Improvement Association will get under way at 9:45 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom Lounge of the Student Union building on the University of Maryland campus at College Park. Morning program speakers will include Peter B. Ramaley, executive secretary of the Maryland Agricultural Commission, headquartered at Annapolis, and Dr. James R. Miller, agronomy department chairman at the University of Maryland in College Park.

At the close of the morning session, awards will be presented to the winners in the statewide corn and soybean yield contests, and this year's recipient of the Distinguished Maryland Agronomist award plaque will be announced.

Lunch is scheduled in the Black and White room of the Student Union. The afternoon program will consist of tours of Maryland state Department of Agriculture facilities located on the College Park campus.

NORTHEASTERN WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY

Theme for this year's annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society is "Agriculture - The No. 1 Industry." The three-day event will get under way at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday (Jan. 4) in the Francis Scott Key ballroom at the Baltimore Hilton hotel.

One of four major speakers at the first day's forenoon general session will be Dr. John M. Curtis, director of the statewide Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Maryland at College Park and Princess Anne. His topic will be "U.S. Agriculture - Its Impact Nationally and Throughout the World."

Thomas M. Fisher, sales manager for Ag-Chem, Inc., at Girdletree, Md. (Worcester county), will be moderator for a Tuesday afternoon workshop discussion on weed control in various tillage systems. And Frank J. Webb, Extension agronomist for the University of Delaware substation at Georgetown, Del., will moderate a Wednesday afternoon (Jan. 5) workshop session on effective weed control in soybeans.

A Thursday morning (Jan. 6) workshop session will be devoted to weed control in nursery or ornamental crops. A myriad of technical

papers will be presented at concurrent sessions during other portions of the three-day meeting. Several of these papers are being given by research workers from the University of Maryland.

Dr. James V. Parochetti, Extension agronomist at the University of Maryland in College Park, is secretary-treasurer of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. Vice-president and president-elect is Dr. C. Edward Beste, Extension weed specialist at the University of Maryland's vegetable research farm near Salisbury (Wicomico county), on the lower Eastern Shore.

MARYLAND PLANT RESEARCH APPROPRIATE to the SEASON

The Christmas season is a time when researchers at the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station begin looking for new prizes or discoveries among the many experiments they have involving greenhouse flower crops.

Much of the work during this season deals with poinsettias, flowers on the Christmas list of many people. Dr. Conrad B. Link, research horticulturist at the University of Maryland in College Park, has devoted some 20 years to the study of greenhouse crops in Maryland.

"Much of our breeding work deals with testing the lasting quality of various flowers, including the poinsettia. By lasting or keeping quality I mean, can a person buy a poinsettia or other flower from a commercial outlet and expect the flower or plant to last a long time under normal home conditions?"

Included in the varieties being tested at the University of Maryland are commercial varieties that are being offered for sale in Maryland. Comparisons are made between the new plants on the market and some of the standard kinds that have been around awhile, as well as new selections taken from the university breeding program.

According to Dr. Link, much of the research at this time of year deals with the use of growth regulators on flowering plants. These chemicals are used to influence the habit or rate of growth.

For example, one of the

experiments being conducted at Maryland is using growth regulators on poinsettias to induce branching so the flowers can be used in hanging baskets. These flowers can also be branched by mechanical means such as topping the plant or pinching, but growth

regulators make the job easier for commercial operators and reduce the labor requirements.

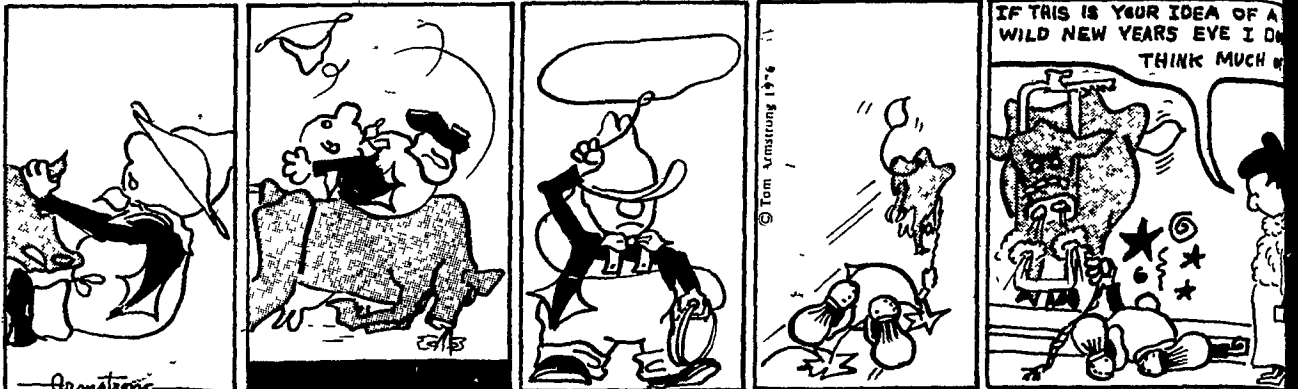
Growth regulators are also being used on greenhouse roses, Reiger begonias, azaleas, hydrangeas and several foliage plants. Hopefully, new kinds of

chemicals can be found that will improve the flowering, growth habit and lasting quality of a wide array of flowers under greenhouse conditions.

Know Where the Activities Will Be
Read the Farm Women Calendar

By Tom Armstrong

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