

Breeding Success

ALTHOUGH HIGH STANDARDS of groundsmanship can produce a fine turn from a single grass species, the maintenance costs may be high. It is for this reason that seed mixtures of two or more compatible types are usually sown. This produces a tightly-knit turf which prevents invasion from weeds and other grasses. If the constituents are chosen correctly, a uniform turf is produced. If too many types are used, or the wrong types included, then the resulting turf may be patchy in colour and texture.

Mommersteeg now have a comprehensive range of mixtures for almost every type of application. These include specials for golf tees, fairways, greens and for rough, tennis courts, bowling greens, cricket wickets and outfields, stadiums, playing fields and hockey pitches. There are also Mommersteeg mixtures for ornamental areas such as decorative parkland, lawns and building surrounds.

A development in recent years has been the introduction of Mommersteeg's Stadion. This unique fine-leaved perennial ryegrass has been specially bred for Britain's sports grounds and has proven persistency and ability to recover quickly from hard wear. Its outstanding visual feature is the dark green colour which it retains throughout Winter and Summer. It is a winter-active and summer-dormant variety, which withstands close mowing and is disease resistant.

Environmental needs

After long research, much of it in co-operation with scientific centres and plant breeders throughout the world, a series of grass strains has been bred specifically by Mommersteeg to meet important conservation needs.

Mommersteeg technical advisory service will give free advice on such particular problems as soil fertility, acidity or unusual and difficult conditions.

Seed catalogues and the booklet, 'Amenity Grass and the Environment', which was available at the Victoria Park exhibition may be obtained from the Mommersteeg Seed Company, Station Road, Findeon, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

Mommersteeg are Europe's largest specialist grass breeding company and one of the most outstanding plant breeders in the world. The company was founded in Holland in 1923, operates separate enterprises in Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom, and is associated with companies in many countries all over the globe.

As well as their deep involvement in ecological study, Mommersteeg are well-known for their agricultural grassland systems and sports turf. In addition they operate a Landscape Management Division to advise local authorities, property companies, architects, public utilities and other users. An associate company, International Environmental Consultants, is responsible for advisory work on a world wide basis.

D. G. REID DISCUSSES TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO) is for the protection of trees and woodlands; to prevent needless destruction and maltreatment. It acknowledges that the community has a right to invoke safeguards where amenity is concerned. It restricts the right of an owner to do as he wishes with trees which are considered of amenity value. It transfers the decision making (whether to preserve, prune or fell) from the owner to the community (the local authority). It does not, however, transfer the ownership nor the liability for any expenses which may be incurred in management.

A T.P.O. is made by the Local Planning Authority (L.P.A.). This, in effect, is the County