

# News

## TURFGRASS SEED

### Record year for ryegrass

The 1977-78 fiscal year which ended June 30 was a recordbreaker for ryegrass seed producers, as 268,141,136 pounds of ryegrass seed moved into the marketplace, according to Oregon Ryegrass Commission statistics. That figure far surpassed the previous record of 251 million pounds set in FY 1972-73.

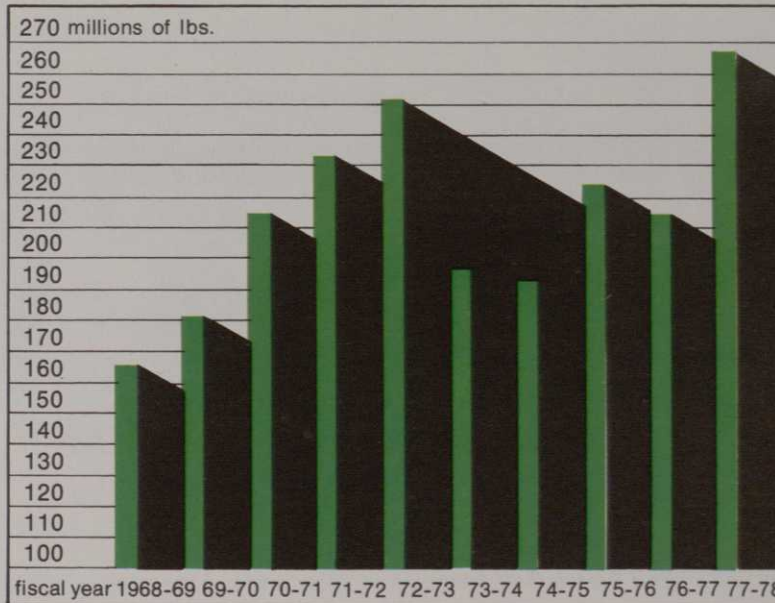
The 1977-78 figure shows a substantial increase over that of the previous year, which was 218,570,928 pounds of seed. The average for the "modern era" of ryegrass production in the 1970's, according to commission spokesman Wally Hunter, is about 217 million pounds per year. (All of these figures represent a combined total for perennial and annual varieties of ryegrass.)

"Most significant to golf course superintendents," Hunter told GOLF BUSINESS, "is the impact that the fine-bladed ryegrasses are having. About 8 years ago, a superintendent could choose from only three or four fine-bladed ryegrasses, and those were mostly in the development stage. But now there are Pennfine, Derby, Yorktown II, Loretta, Citation, and others.

"The superintendent now has a choice of fine-bladed varieties. He previously had little choice, and then only of unproven varieties with little production available. Now he can upgrade the quality of his turf by winter overseeding and get fast germination and establishment combined with good color. When transition comes in the spring, the ryegrass fades fairly rapidly and doesn't compete too vigorously with the bermudagrass."

Hunter added that the main reason for the large increase in product movement was that "use of ryegrass is broader than it once was. One person uses it and is pleased, then tells another. A superintendent especially will listen to another superintendent. So use begets use."

The product movement figure for ryegrass seed for the fourth quarter of FY 1977-78 was 46,843,615 pounds.



Ryegrass seed product movement graph shows great leap to a record year in FY 1977-78. Source: Oregon Ryegrass Commission

## OSHA

### Workers gain access to injury/illness logs

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration recently announced revised rules that will give employees, former employees, and their representatives access to *The Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses* which all employers with 11 or more employees are required by OSHA to maintain.

The new rule was scheduled to become effective 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register on July 21. Assistant Secretary of Labor Eula Bingham said that under the new final rule, "Employees will be more fully alerted to actual and possible hazards in the workplace and thus would be significantly assisted in their efforts to protect themselves from hazards."

Although the main thrust of the revision was towards tracing the effects of toxic substances, such as in manufacturing plants, it will also

enable workers in other kinds of businesses to check the accuracy of log entries and to identify patterns of injuries or illnesses requiring further investigation.

Prior to the revision, regular access to the log was limited to OSHA safety and health officers, representatives of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Secretary of HEW, and states under OSHA-approved state plans. Employees had access only to an annual statistical summary.

## PESTICIDES

### FIFRA accord ready for vote

State inspectors, in states with approved U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans, would be the primary enforcers of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act under an agreement reached in a House-Senate conference committee.

State primacy and other compromise measures reached in

the committee must still be approved by both houses and signed by the president before becoming law. Congressional sources said the conference committee's report probably would be adopted after Labor Day without much opposition.

Under the terms of the compromise, the 30 states with approved pesticide use plans would be given primary enforcement powers. EPA will review other states' plans to see if they comply with FIFRA. States without approved plans would be subject to EPA inspections.

EPA could intervene in states with approved plans when:

1) a state does not act within 30 days on a pesticide-use complaint or other information sent to them by EPA,

2) the EPA administrator determines that the state does not or cannot carry out its responsibilities under FIFRA,

3) an emergency arises requiring federal intervention.

"It is clear that EPA has to show good cause before taking away enforcement authority," a Senate committee staffer said. The conference report also includes an agreement for use inconsistent with the label. Although it would still be illegal to use a pesticide in a manner not permitted by labeling, exceptions to this would provide some freedom of choice. They include:

- using a pesticide at less than label concentration or dosage
- applying a pesticide against target pests not listed on the label, providing the application is to a labeled crop, animal, or site and the label does not specify use against only target pests
- using a method of application not listed on the label
- and mixing the pesticide with fertilizer if not specifically prohibited by the label.

(more news on next page)

NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION BOX SCORE					
January-July 1978		REGULATION COURSES	EXECUTIVE COURSES	PAR 3 COURSES	TOTAL
OPENED FOR PLAY	New	30	8	2	74
	Additions	28	6	0	
STARTED CONSTRUCTION	New	32	3	2	64
	Additions	23	2	2	
PROSPECTIVE		64	8	4	76