Some "equipment of the future" is beginning to show up on golf courses now, according to Carol Cole of Irrigation Design Associates in Royal Oaks, Mich. She explained that microprocessor chips are revolutionizing irrigation equipment just as they have pocket calculators, cash registers, and other electronic applications. The initial cost of conversion may seem high now, she said, but it will come down and microprocessor irrigation controllers will be much cheaper.

Massachusetts' show draws large crowds

About 1,350 attendees and 125 exhibitors took part in the 48th annual University of Massachusetts Turf Conference and Industrial Show at Springfield, Mass. in February. The highly attended golf favorably to Poa pratensis (Kentucky bluegrass).

Although Duff did not advocate developing a selection program for Poa annua, he did say it may be time to give poa a "second look. Instead of trying to come up with a herbicide program that is going to completely eliminate poa," he said, "if you have the right type you may find you can live with it pretty well."

An informative discussion focusing on sand topdressing by Dr. Robert N. Carrow, a professor at Kansas State University in Manhattan, was also enthusiastically received by a large number of the attendees.

Carrow said there are many benefits to sand topdressing if it is done correctly, but he warned, "If you don't do it right, you're better off not doing it at all." Carrow said proper topdressing aids in thatch control, creates a better micro-environment for turf plants, smooths the turf's surface, and can

be used to modify the soil surface.

Of all the topdressing mixes (high sand, pure sand, and low sand), the most effective is high sand, according to Carrow. "It has excellent physical properties, fairly good chemical properties, and good biological properties," he said. High sand mixes contain about 85 to 90 percent sand.

However, Carrow added that calcine clay or expanded shale can be substituted in the mix if sand is not available. "If you can't get a