

News

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Poa good for fairways, Vargas says in Maryland

Perennial ryegrass and annual bluegrass are the only really suitable turfs for golf course fairways, Michigan State University's Dr. Joseph M. Vargas told golf course superintendents at last month's Turfgrass '79 meeting in Baltimore.

"You are going to get 80 cents back on the dollar when you use perennial ryegrasses, as opposed to 5 cents back on the dollar for Kentucky bluegrasses," Dr. Vargas said.

The event, held January 8-10 at the Baltimore Hilton, drew more than 450 attendees. There were 42 exhibitors in 53 booths.

"I have heard my 'buddy' *Poa annua* called the 'failure grass,'" he

system and a substantial amount of money for mowing equipment, but yet "say they can't afford from \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year for a preventive fungicide program." He said for an average golf course, it takes about \$1,000 a spray for between seven and 10 sprays a season.

Angelo Cammarota, superintendent of Hobbit's Glen Club, Columbia, Md., was given an award as retiring director of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents' Association. The "godfather" of the Mid-Atlantic was also named a new director of the Maryland Turfgrass Council.

The Mid-Atlantic also awarded William J. Emerson, superintendent

RIGHT: Dr. Joseph Vargas recommends perennial ryegrasses and even *Poa annua* for fairways. **LOWER RIGHT:** William Emerson, past president of Mid-Atlantic GCSA.



told the audience. "In many cases, if it wasn't for *Poa*, they would not have anything but bare soil. Golf course superintendents have been trained for many years that *Poa annua* is a weed, and it just isn't so."

Vargas said that more research is needed on fertilization needs of perennial ryegrasses and annual bluegrass.

"We have a whole lot of research on Merion bluegrass," he said, and added jokingly to make his point, "but there is not enough Merion left on fairways in this country to fill a football field."

He also said that country clubs spend anywhere from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for an automatic sprinkler



of Towson (Md.) Golf and Country Club, its past president award. David S. Fairbank, superintendent of Army-Navy Country Club, Vienna, Va., was given the "Outstanding Service" Award.

TURFGRASS SEED

Coated seed will be available in spring

A Canadian firm, Oseco, Inc., has announced that it will introduce a coated grass seed mixture, HB-3, next spring.

The mixture contains Baron Kentucky bluegrass, Highlight chewing fescue, and either Pennfine or Manhattan perennial ryegrass.

Advantages of the coating, which contains phosphorus and a bit of lime, are improved germination especially under dry conditions, healthier establishment, and protection against fertilizer burn.

Oseco will custom coat other varieties of grass seed, if the order is large enough.

For further information, contact Oseco, Inc., P.O. Box 219, Brampton, Ontario, Canada L6V 2L2 (phone 416/457-5080).

RESEARCH

Wear simulator test results released

A wear simulator designed to measure comparative wear tolerances of turfgrasses was recently designed and constructed by turf scientists with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, under a grant from the United States Golf Association Green Section.

Test comparisons of 47 turfgrasses indicated that the simulator could separate turfgrass wear from soil compaction, could operate on a small-plot experimental basis, and could distinguish the relative wear tolerances within species and cultivars.

Test results also revealed that, as a group, the improved turf-type perennial ryegrasses have superior wear tolerance compared to fine-leaved fescue, rough bluegrass, and creeping bentgrasses.

However, as has been observed in the case of over-all winter turf performance, there is not a great deal of difference in wear tolerance among many of the recently released turf-type perennial ryegrasses.

Future plans call for the more wear tolerant grasses from the study to be combined into specific mixtures to determine if such polystands show superior wear

tolerance to the commercially available seed mixtures and blends.

Dr. James Beard, professor with the experiment station and Texas A&M University, said, "The research results here are part of a continuing series of investigations aimed at developing improved turfgrass and turfgrass cultural systems more resistant to turf wear and injury."

PESTICIDES

Shell and Dow stop making DBCP

The Shell Chemical Co., a division of the Shell Oil Co., is no longer manufacturing the pesticide DBCP (dibromochloropropane) in the United States and has no plans to import it, according to Rich Hansen, senior public affairs representative for the company. It was incorrectly reported in the November issue of GOLF BUSINESS and other publications that Shell was still importing the chemical for limited use.

J. S. Oostermeyer, general manager of Shell Chemical Co.'s agribusiness operations, said, "We believe DBCP is a good product that can be made in the U.S. even under the strict controls set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, but it will have to be made by a specialized producer, not someone like Shell that primarily makes large volume chemicals."

Shell marketed the product under the trade name Nemagon. The Dow Chemical Co., which sold DBCP under the Fumazone label, also discontinued making and importing the chemical about 18 months ago, according to W. C. Huck, a spokesman for the company's Agricultural Products Department.

Research revealed that excessive exposure to DBCP vapors damages the kidneys, testes, liver, and other tissues and also causes sterility in human males.

In 1978 OSHA set the maximum employee exposure standard at one part per billion during any 8-hour period. "We thoroughly reviewed the problems of manufacturing DBCP within the (OSHA) standard and concluded it was not feasible with our equipment," Oostermeyer said.

Although Shell will no longer produce the chemical,