



Publisher's Point

that Tifway II looks like Tifway, with the same desirable characteristics, but makes a denser, more weed-free turf, is more resistant to rootknot, ring, and sting nematodes, is more frost tolerant, exhibits a little better quality, and often greens up a little earlier in the spring. It is the combination of these traits, none of which can be used for identification, that warrant the release of Tifway II.

TURFGRASSES

Pickseed grasses get plant variety protection

Pickseed West, in Tangent, Oregon, has received Plant Variety Protection for America Kentucky bluegrass, Agram chewings fescue, and will begin marketing Exeter Colonial Bentgrass, which has been out of production for some years.

Exeter, developed at the University of Rhode Island under the direction of Dr. Richard Skogley, has been regarded for many years as a low maintenance turfgrass. It is characterized by medium dark green color, very fine leaf blade and has excellent winter hardiness and disease resistance.

Agram was selected and developed in Holland. It is an improved chewings fescue with excellent turf quality and medium dark color. It will make an excellent component in shade mixtures, according to Mike Robinson, Vice president of Pickseed West.

America is a low-growing, fine textured turf-type bluegrass with excellent density and dark green color. It performs well in both full sun and in moderate shade, Robinson adds.

FERTILIZER

New fertilizer process can cut volatilization, cost

A new fertilizer material should be available soon that will save energy, reduce nitrogen losses, and cut costs. A process developed and patented by scientists at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station has many benefits. It allows universal use of urea, the cheapest form of dry fertilizer and will significantly cut losses from leaving the fertilizer on



Reagan administration statements professing a more positive and open attitude for the concerns of business and industry seem to be more than just bureaucratic rhetoric. Remarks by several administration officials and congressmen during the recent National Club Association's Legislative Conference gave Ron Morris and me a distinct impression that the new administration is working to change several programs of concern to business and industry, particularly in regulatory matters. We, also, left the Washington Conference convinced that the present administration is much more open and receptive to hearing from individuals and groups with specific concerns and problems; even small industries like private clubs and turf maintenance.

At the conference, several administration officials reiterated Reagan's strong commitment to reducing federal programs and interference with the private sector. As one official said, "We're determined in our efforts to reduce federal spending and bring about needed regulatory reform in all sectors of the economy. Governmental agencies are going to change from their present adversary role. The American public and business have been viewed as the enemy long enough in Washington." Though not commenting on specific changes, another official indicated that the administration was working diligently to bring about needed revisions of OSHA and EPA regulations. President Reagan has

expressed two basic principals to be used as guidelines when assessing new federal regulations and regulatory reform. The first principal is to regulate only if there is a definite and proven need. The second guideline principal is to make certain that the benefits of the regulation outweigh the cost.

The NCA's legislative conference not only provided a very informative legal and legislative update of major issues affecting the private club industry, but served as a most effective forum for information and feedback between government and industry. I think its time for those of us in the turf maintenance industry to take greater advantage of the changing government attitudes in Washington and better communicate our concerns and opinions; both individually and collectively. A legislative update conference similar to NCA's, could be of significant value to our industry. It could serve to better identify the major issues confronting us, and demand sharper focus on our problems and concerns by the governmental officials invited to participate. Until such a conference materializes, each of us has the responsibility of making sure that our respective congressmen are kept informed of our principal needs and concerns.

the soil until rain or irrigation carries the nitrogen into the soil.

The process uses calcium or magnesium nitrates or chlorides to stabilize volatile nitrogen fertilizers, according to Dr. Lloyd Fenn, the soil chemist who developed the process. "The urea, at 90°F, when left on the

soil in the presence of calcium, remains to a large extent in the urea form for two to three weeks instead of the present one to two days with ordinary urea." Fenn states. The new fertilizer will soon be produced in liquid form by the Stroller Chemical Company in Houston.