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Meeting Dates

3rd Annual Florida Turf-Grass Trade Show, Hotel Seville, Miami Beach, April 30-May 2.
American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Convention, Hotel Baker, Dallas, Tex., June 28-July 1.

730 Delegates at Ohio Short Course Study Turf Diseases, Weed Control, Irrigation

A concise but detailed program for the annual Ohio Short Course for Arborists, Turf Management Specialists, Landscape Contractors, Garden Center Operators, and Nurserymen attracted a record 730 delegates to the Columbus Plaza Hotel in Columbus, Jan. 27-30.

A highlight of the yearly seminar was an address by Dr. Houston Couch, of Pennsylvania State University, on turfgrass diseases. Dr. Couch reminded delegates that although hard to recognize, Helminthosporium fungi cause more trouble than all other turf diseases combined.

The best control of all such ills is prevention. Dr. Couch listed the following fungicides as particularly effective when used in preventive maintenance: Actidione-Thiram; Dyrene; Maneb; Dithane M-45; Tersan OM; or Thimer.

Apply every 7-14 days from July through August for Zonate Eyespot and Helminthosporium Leaf Spot, the Pennsylvania expert suggested. All other diseases of this same group can be controlled with applications at the same intervals in April through June. Use manufacturers' suggested rates.

Dr. Robert W. Miller from Ohio State's Department of Agronomy discussed irrigation of turf and problems so involved.

Overwatering is a hazard, Dr. Miller warned, and results in exclusion of air from roots, while underwatering results in shallow rooted turf. Apply enough water to penetrate at least 6 inches or 12 inches in light textured soils each time the turf is watered.

Another Ohio agronomist, Dr. Edward Stroube, lectured the group on weed control practices. Annual grasses such as goosegrass, foxtails, and crabgrass succumb to preemergence applications of Zytron, Daichal, Bandane, and Treflan. Dr. Stroube commented. The chloranes and arsenicals are sometimes erratic in preemergence use, although they do have a long residual effect, he continued.

Seeding practices were analyzed by Dr. Kenneth Bader, also an OSU agronomist. The best time to sow seed is late summer or early fall, with spring a second choice, he commented. Some thought could be given to late fall or early winter seedings.

Dr. Bader suggested that turf managers roll the area lightly after seeding to establish good soil-seed contact.

Final speaker, Dr. Richard Davis, from the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in Wooster, examined turf fertilization techniques. Soil testing is the first step to correct fertilizer management, the scientist urged, whether one is seeding a new lawn or caring for an established one. Soil tests should be repeated every 3 to 4 years.

Dr. Davis concluded with a mention of the 1964 Ohio Lawn and Ornamental Days, open to all horticulturists and the public, which are to be held Sept. 15-16 in Columbus.