Sod, Shrugs of New Centipede Variety

A new drought-hardy, shade-tolerant centipede turfgrass has been approved for release by the agricultural experiment station of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. It is named Oklawn.

Sod and shrugs of the new variety will be available to certified seed growers for the 1966 season. Thereafter, it is expected that enough sod and shrugs will be produced to supply public demand.

Called a “lazy man’s grass” by Dr. Wayne Huffine of Oklahoma State, Oklawn does not require high management practices. It is adapted to all of Oklahoma, with the possible exception of the high plains. It should also do exceptionally well in southern and southeastern states, University officials said.

Oklawn is a bluish-green, medium-textured, slow-growing perennial which spreads by above-ground runners. The runners root at the nodes, forming a dense sod which resists bermudagrass and weed invasion. It grows to a maximum height of 3 to 4 inches above the soil surface. Propagation may be either by sod or shrugs.

Oklawn is resistant to insects and diseases, the school’s spokesmen maintain. It grows well in partial shade as well as in full sunlight. It has shown excellent heat and drought tolerance, surviving temperatures ranging from 15° below zero to 115° F.

Oklawn grows well on moderately acid, medium-fertile soils and actually is not its best on highly fertile ground. For more information, sod producers and seed growers may write to the Agricultural Information Services, Agricultural Experiment Station, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

Soft-Treading Sprayer Rig

Uses Air Bags for Traction

Contract applicators can now increase and diversify their spraying service with the addition of a ground spraying vehicle which can be used on windy days and at night when airplanes are grounded.

Called the Rolligon Two-Bagger Model 2251, this soft-treading vehicle, equipped with air bags instead of wheels, and accompanying spray boom, averaged 25 acres per hour when used on Texas rice fields. The machines can double their capacity by conducting another 10-hour shift at night, spraying an average of 500 acres every 24 hours, says Rolligon Corp., Houston, Texas.

Use of air-inflated rubber bags for wheels allows the Rolligon Two-Bagger to traverse soft grounds with less impact than the step of a man walking, the company says.

Complete details on this product are available from the Rolligon Corp., 1602 Old Spanish Trail, P.O. Box 20096, Houston, Texas 77025.