Meeting Dates

South Carolina Nurserymen's Assn., Short Course, Clemson House, Clemson, June 12-14.
Western Society of Soil Science, Meeting, University of Washington, Seattle, June 13-18.
Michigan Upper Peninsula Turfgrass Conference, Escanaba, June 17.
New Jersey Society of Certified Tree Experts, Meeting, Essex County Highway Dept., Verona, June 20.
Lawn and Turfgrass Equipment and Products Show and Research Field Day, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., June 20-21.
Sod Producers Field Day, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., June 22.
Southwest Fertilizer Conference, Marriott Motor Hotel, Dallas, Texas, July 20-21.
West Virginia Nurserymen's Assn. Meeting, White Sulphur Springs, Aug. 3-4.
Joint Convention and Trade Show, by Southern Nurserymen's Assn., Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas Nurserymen's Assns, Jung Hotel, New Orleans, Aug. 7-10.
Indiana Association of Nurserymen, Inc., Summer Meeting, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Aug. 8-11.
Midwest Turf Field Days, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., Aug. 15-16.
International Shade Tree Conference, 42nd Annual Convention, Sherraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 28-Sept. 2.

Sod Industry Mechanizations Debut at Rutgers, June 20-22

Three days of sod growing talks, equipment demonstrations, and field shows, including a sod problem clinic and a research tour, are scheduled at the Rutgers University, College of Agriculture and Environmental Science campus, New Brunswick, N. J., June 20-22. The program is sponsored by Rutgers in cooperation with the Cultivated Sod Association of New Jersey, Inc.

Arrangements for the events are under direction of Dr. Henry W. Indyk, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, and CSANJ secretary.

Lawn and turfgrass products will be shown Monday, June 20. The newest and latest in all types of equipment for turf work and various products presently available for growing and maintaining attractive lawns and turfgrass areas will be exhibited.

Live exhibits of turfgrasses, weeds, insects and diseases are to be displayed. In addition, a clinic, staffed by a group of specialists, will stand ready to diagnose problems and answer questions.

The Turfgrass Research Field Day, usually conducted during August, will be held on June 21. Guided tours of the turfgrass research plots will be conducted periodically by the turfgrass research staff.

Turf Research Tour, June 22

Visitors will have opportunities to observe and discuss turfgrass research being conducted at Rutgers Wednesday morning, June 22. The tour of campus facilities is part of the all-day and evening Sod Producers Field Day. Particular emphasis will be placed on new turfgrass varieties in the breeding and selection program which constitutes a large segment of the research program at Rutgers.

Afternoon activities are to show mechanization advances in the production, cutting, and handling of sod. Featured will be field demonstrations of a land leveler, stone picker, soil fumigation, seeders, aerial and ground application of fertilizer, gang mowers, sod cutters, mechanical sod roller, palletization, and boom loaders. Plans include public demonstrations for the first time of the new and improved model of a self-propelled, hydraulically operated sod cutter, roller, palletizer combination developed by Princeton Turf Farms. Field demonstrations will be conducted on one
of Princeton Turf's sod farms, Cranbury, New Jersey.

Besides the Turfgrass Research Field Day and the equipment demonstrations, the day’s activities will extend into the evening to include a dinner meeting and an informal round-table discussion of sod production problems.

In conjunction with these activities, the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy will be holding its annual Conference.

Interested sod producers from the United States and Canada or anyone with a new development in mechanization who may wish to have it demonstrated is welcome to participate. More detailed information on exhibit space or the program may be obtained by contacting Dr. Henry W. Indyk, College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, New Brunswick, N. J.

Watch Trees for Fertilizer Deficiency Signs Snyder Says

Sparse foliage, weak new growth, and light green leaf color are all signs that point to need for more fertilizer, says Dr. Leon C. Snyder, head of the University of Minnesota Dept. of Horticultural Science.

Tree fertilization programs become more important, Snyder explains, when root zone areas are covered with paved drive-ways and sidewalks, limiting soil area in which tree roots can develop. Another factor which causes trees to require more fertilizer is fallen leaf removal. Normally dead leaves and branches would fall to the ground and decompose, renewing soil fertility. But landscaped areas are deprived of this source of tree food through grounds cleaning programs, Snyder reminded tree service people. He recommends early spring, or late fall tree fertilizing, once every three or four years.

“A complete fertilizer comparatively high in nitrogen such as 10-8-6 is good for evergreens, and a 10-10-10 analysis should be used for deciduous trees,” Snyder says. As a general guide he suggests using 2 to 4 lbs. of complete fertilizer for each inch in diameter of the trunk, measuring trees at breast height. Thus a 12-inch tree might require 24 to 48 lbs. of fertilizer, depending on soil and rate of desired growth.

Punch-bar application gets fertilizer close to feeding roots Snyder points out. Holes about 18 inches deep at intervals of 2 feet, in a band just under outermost branches, with about ¼ cup of fertilizer in each, and then filled with compost, give desired penetration he says.

Entomologist Kerr Says Lawn Caterpillars Crop Up Quickly

Lawn caterpillars are easy kill but quite difficult to control reports associate entomologist Dr. Stratton Kerr of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.

Kerr says the destructive infestations can crop up again as early as 3 weeks after lawn treatment. Lawn damage occurs when the caterpillars chew the blades down so grass has an extremely close-mowed appearance. The pest feeds on almost all common Florida lawn grasses.

Damaged areas appear first along hedges and flower beds. Then injury starts in a patchy distribution across the lawn, with injured spots being only about 2 or 3 feet across. The spots enlarge in heavy infestations, reaching a peak in the summer.

Control is complicated because the bugs feed up the grass blades instead of down on the runners like cinch bugs do. As the lawn is mowed insecticide is chopped off, reducing the total treated area. This means effective control requires applications of insecticide about every 3 to 4 weeks.

Dr. Kerr recommends Sevin and toxaphene as two of the better insecticides for lawn caterpillar control. Other effective controls he suggests are diazinon and DDT. He cautions that applicators should start as soon as an infestation is noticed because 5 or 6 days’ delay gives the lawn pest time to do most of its damage. Control efforts will be wasted if they do not catch the lawn caterpillars right away, Kerr notes.