**Meeting Dates**


Southern California Equipment and Materials Educational Exposition, City Park, Lynwood, Calif., Oct. 16-17.

Central Plains Turfgrass Conference, Central Plains Turfgrass Association, USA Green Section and Kansas State University, K-State Campus, Manhattan, Kan., Oct. 16-18.

Industrial Weed Control Conference, 3rd Annual, Texas A&M University, Memorial Student Center, College Station, Tex., Oct. 20-22.

Southern Fertilizer Conference, National Plant Food Institute, Marriott Hotel, Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 23-25.


Golf Turf Symposium, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents of America and Milwaukee Sewage Commission, Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 11-12.

30th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Fountainbleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 19-24.

American Sod Producers Association Annual Meeting, Fountainbleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 22.


Lawn and Utility Turf Growers Course, Rutgers University, College of Agriculture and Environmental Science Campus, New Brunswick, N.J., Feb. 17-19.

Golf and Utility Turf Growers Course, Rutgers University, College of Agricultural and Environmental Science Campus, New Brunswick, N.J., Feb. 17-19.

**HRI Study Reveals Scope of Nursery Industry**

The American Association of Nurserymen's Horticultural Research Institute has made available, for the first time, information that measures the economic size and scope of the nursery industry.

A summary of the HRI project—entitled "Scope of the Nursery Industry"—contains data regarding all types of nursery businesses, from wholesale operations to landscape, mail order and garden centers. Figures presented include employment profiles, job classifications, payrolls, production acreage, chemical and equipment uses and business profiles of all types.

The study, for example, reveals that wholesale nursery growers spend over $13 million annually on fertilizer and pest control chemicals: $8 million on fertilizers, $2 million on weed killers, $2 million on insecticides and $1 million on fungicides. Preliminary figures of the summary also indicate that retail nursery stock sales during 1966 amounted to over $1.6 billion.

The entire "Scope" summary may be obtained by sending $3 to: Horticultural Research Institute, 833 Southern Building, Washington, D.C. 20005. Copies are free to HRI members.

**American Golf Courses Stricken with Blight**

Pythium Blight—also known as "cottony blight"—is a grass-killing fungus that is causing fairways and greens of golf courses across the nation to be closed for repairs, according to a survey by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The disease is most aggressive in moisture-saturated atmospheres where temperatures range between 85°F and 95°F, says GCSAA. It has no known cause or cure, nor are there any preventive measures for curbing it. Chemical programs may contain the fungus briefly, according to the survey, but the surest "stopper" is cool, dry weather. This unfortunately leaves the golf superintendent at the mercy of the uncontrollable weather.

A whitish cobwebby substance forms in and on top of infected turf in early morning. With the rising of the sun, the turf becomes water-soaked, with the darkened fungus giving off a greasy appearance. Later in the day the "web" disappears, and the infected leaves take on a tan to red color. In early infection periods, these spots run in streaks, following the surface drainage patterns of the links.

The most seriously damaged courses, the survey notes, are in the following areas: metropolitan St. Louis and the remainder of the crabgrass belt, ranging from Kansas City to Washington D.C.; the Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati areas plus the Carolinas; central Illinois and central Indiana.

**New Fertilizer Packet Regulated by Weather**

Wisconsin's S & D Products, Inc. is now manufacturing the recently developed "Root Contact Paket," a slow-release fertilizer.

Improved plant survival, increased shoot growth and lower replacement costs are among the advantages of using the new packet fertilizer, says its developer, Professor O. J. Attoe, Soils Department, University of Wisconsin.

The packet is a heat-sealed, polyethylene-paper envelope containing specified quantities of water-soluble (16-8-16) fertilizer. Upon planting, the packet is placed unopened next to plant roots. Soil vapor enters micropore "pinholes" in the
packet's sides and slowly dis-
solves the fertilizer, which es-
capes in liquid form. The combi-
nation of slow release and mini-
mal amounts of fertilizer deliv-
ered to a plant at any one time
assures that fertilizer burn of
root tendrils will not occur, At-
toe says.

The packet's activity is largely
controlled by the seasons, i.e. it
operates through a timing mech-
anism triggered by vapor pres-
sure in warm soil and halted
when the soil is cold. Thus, fer-
tilizer is not released during
plants' dormant periods, accord-
ing to Attoe.

The life of a two-ounce packet
is usually about five years, he
says. In warmer climates, how-
ever, it is reduced to about three.

Recommended for roses, potted
plants, deciduous bushes, ever-
greens, shade and fruit trees,
Root Contact Paket may be used
in new plantings or with estab-
lished plants.

For more information, write
S & D Products, Inc., 216 S. Min-
nesota St., Prairie du Chien,
Wis. 53821.

MSU Says Lawns Need Air
Circulation and Nitrogen

A recent Michigan State Uni-
versity study has indicated that
 surrounding your lawn with a
solid screen of trees and shrubs
will increase lawn maintenance
problems.

If air movement across a lawn
is restricted, the grass may die
from high temperatures. This re-
 sults in a brown, weak turf in-
capable of resisting injury from
insects, drought or disease.

Another MSU tip concerns the
addition of nitrogen in develop-
ing a more lush lawn. Dr. Paul
E. Rieke, MSU soil scientist, sug-
gests guidelines for nitrogen ap-
plication.

On Merion bluegrass and bent-
grass receiving plenty of water,
apply 6 to 8 lbs. of actual nitro-
gen annually per 1000 sq. ft. of
turf. As no more than 2 lbs. of
actual nitrogen should ever be
applied at a time, divide this
amount among 3 or 4 applica-
tions.

Use 8 lbs. of nitrogen annually
on heavily watered, sandy soil;
on low management turf, use
4 to 6 lbs.

On other Kentucky bluegrass,
3 to 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. should
be applied to turf getting lots of
water; 2 to 3 lbs. for non-irri-
gated turf. For red fescues, only
1 to 3 lbs. should be applied per
1000 sq. ft.

MSU studies show that about
40% of your total fertilizer re-
quirement should be applied in
April and May, about 20% in
June and July, and the remain-
ing 40% in August and Sep-
tember.

The key to good lawn main-
tenance is getting an early start
with fertilizer to help your grass
get a jump on any weeds that
may be present, says Rieke. It
may be necessary to mow more
often, making sure clippings are
removed to avoid susceptibility
to thatching.

If your lawn has come through
the winter with a good stand
and color, fertilize a little later
in the spring, Rieke suggests.
This will mean less mowing, less
nitrogen, and fewer clippings to
remove.

Booklet Illustrates
Proper Chain Saw Usage

McCulloch Corporation is now
offering a new, revised edition
of its pocket-sized booklet,
"CHAIN SAW OPERATION." Text and illustrations cover tree
felling, bucking, limbing and
firewood cutting plus wearing
apparel and chain saw main-
tenance tips.

For a free copy, write the Pub-
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Corp., 6101 W. Century Blvd.,
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