American Sod Producers Gather July 28-30

If you want to know more about "The Sod Industry in the United States," then mark July 28, 29, and 30 on your calendar. This subject will be the theme for the fourth annual session of the American Sod Producers Association.

The conference and field day shapes up this way: On July 28, a bus tour, leaving from the Ramada Inn at Dolton, Ill., will be conducted to Warren's Turf Nurseries and Evergreen Sod Farm. The educational session will begin at 9 a.m., July 29, at the Ramada Inn, followed by the annual meeting and banquet. Field demonstrations of sod equipment will be shown on July 30 at the H & E Sod Farm at Momence, Ill.

Arthur V. Edwards, editorial director of WEEDS TREES and TURF magazine, will keynote the educational session with an updated survey report on the national sod industry. Complementing his presentation will be reports on the "State of the Michigan Sod Industry" and a Chicago accounting firm's survey of "Sod Production Costs in the United States."

Ten-Point Checklist

What points in these plans do Sampson and his staff particularly consider? These can be broken down into the ten following steps with site selection receiving primary attention:

1. See that the terrain is a usable piece of property.
2. Check the site's availability to the people it is going to serve.
3. Note the amount of turf space for playfields.
4. Determine what future maintenance costs the terrain, soil condition, availability of water, and other variables might produce.
5. Know what vegetation is going in, its upkeep, and replacement costs.
6. Suggest—if necessary, for more economical maintenance — where mow strips should be added, trees placed, ground cover and shrubbery minimized.
7. Decide, if the automatic irrigation system is of good standards and adequate.
8. Ask for details of the lighting plan to avoid dark spots and nuisance lights.
9. Consider the walks for aesthetics as well as maintenance.
10. Look into the maintenance financing plan.

"In other words," Sampson sums it up, "it is the tendency of all of us to get rid of culls. We don't want to accept culls. We want to set our standard high so the whole planned community program will remain as tremendous as it set out to be."

Beck Invents Sod System

For Harvesting and Laying

Beck Manufacturing Co., Auburn, Ala., announces development of a revolutionary new sod harvesting and laying system.

Using this new system, two men can easily harvest up to 1,000 square yards of sod per hour. A unique feature of the new system permits laying sod with an inexpensive tractor attachment almost as fast as it is harvested.

Manual lifting and handling of sod is completely eliminated, so tiring of workers is not a factor.

Sale price of the laying device is expected to be under $200.

Demonstration of the entire system is planned for the American Sod Producers Association field day in August.