ON A 90-DEGREE DAY, baseball and football players can expect to play in temperatures up to 123 degrees if artificial turf is under foot. That’s the finding of testing in Busch Stadium, St. Louis, and corroborated by similar data from the Orange Bowl, Miami.

Bill Simmons of the St. Louis football Cardinals said that on one day when the official temperature was 90 degrees, the field surface temperature was 123 degrees. It was 116 degrees at one foot and 114 degrees at six feet.

Testing by the Miami News produced similar conclusions. Artificial grass gets about 20 degrees hotter than natural turf, the News said. At an air temperature of 93 degrees, natural turf remaining in the stadium pushed the mercury to 96 degrees. Where the artificial grass had been installed, the temperature was 116 degrees.

MORE LEGISLATION is wanted by Oregon Associated Landscape Contractors. The group has proposed a law that would require landscape contractors to meet certain qualifications and apply for a license through the Oregon State Agriculture Department. Ronald Vandehegy of Portland, original president of the group, said the move was to protect the public from “fly-by-night” operators.

DENVER, COLO., has had more than one fight on its hands over Dutch Elm Disease. The scourge has invaded the city’s estimated 200,000 elms, or 60% of the total tree population. Some 3,000 have been determined by infrared aerial photography to be diseased. Tree experts believe the total could skyrocket to 20,000 to 30,000 in the next few years. Sanitation is essential to reducing the spread of the disease, including tree removal and destruction. But pollution proponents managed to ban open burning last January. The problem had been on how to dispose of the trees, for mere stockpiling of dead trees wouldn’t eliminate the brooding places for the elm bark beetle. Verbal fighting has been torrid, but as of the first week in August the state health department issued special burning permits for destroying the dead and dying trees.

TORDON IS A SAFE HERBICIDE, said Dr. Gordon Shrum, chairman of British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority, Vancouver. And to prove his point to reporters, he picked up a six-ounce glass of Tordon mixed with water at twice the concentration of spray formulas and drank it to the last drop.

When answering ads where box number only is given, please address as follows: Box number, c/o Weeds Trees and Turf, 9800 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

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SMALL Tree Business for sale in Santa Barbara, California. Well established. For details write David Gosnell, P.O. Box 4396, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103 or call 805 963-2490.

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