Fifth Annual Show and Tell

TWENTY-THREE speakers discussed 25 subjects of interest with over 1000 golf course superintendents, sod growers and industry men at the 5th annual Ohio Turfgrass Conference and show in Cleveland in early December.

In what might be described as a technical short course and trade show, guest speakers detailed useful information on nearly every phase of turf nutrition, maintenance and turf protection. The conference brought together specialists from seven eastern and midwestern states.

While most topics presented dealt with practical management techniques or reported on research projects, Ohio State University dean of agriculture, Roy M. Rottman, presented a timely speech on “Rhetoric vs Reality.”

Speaking about ecology, pollution and quality of the environment, he said “it is regrettable that so many individuals who fancy themselves as environmentalists have just not had sufficient scientific training to know whereof they speak . . . . Those of us with educational background in the sciences have an obligation and a responsibility to expose the rhetoric of ‘environmental gloom and doom’ for what it really is and at the same time present as clearly and as forcefully as we possibly can such scientifically sound information as is available.”

On public concern about pesticides, he said the scientific community has done a good job of advising the public about the direct hazards of pesticides to humans, wildlife and animals. He also praised the research accomplished and the regulations enacted that prevent toxic residues in our food.

“The current controversy centers on the public concern of the possibility of environmental pollution of pesticides in the ecosystem,” he said.

The university dean told conference about a new Laboratory for Environmental Quality on the campus of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center. He said
If you need golf course equipment we have the machines, says this Toro representative. Their large exhibit area displayed the latest in turf mowers.

Soluble forms of nitrogen was also a topic. Nitrogen plays a key role in feeders of nitrogen; hence, on an annual basis more of this element must be supplied as fertilizer than phosphoric acid and potash."

He listed ammonium sulfate, ammonium nitrate, nitrate of soda and urea as the more commonly used inorganic or soluble forms of nitrogen. Ureaform, a combination of urea and formaldehyde contains both soluble and insoluble fractions.

"The total nitrogen requirement for the growing season must be balanced with the phosphorus and potash levels and, these in turn, balanced against the natural plant food supplies in the soil. The use of nitrogen, especially soluble forms, must be keyed to the prevailing climatic conditions and adjusted to conform to the growth rate of the turfgrass," he concluded.

Tree Removal Stirs Ire of Miami Citizen

The City of Miami set a precedent for South Florida when it recently passed an ordinance preventing cutting of trees without a permit. And, backing up the new law with a Tree Bank is a group of conservation minded men lead by Jonathan Seymour, a Miami landscape architect.

What triggered the long considered ordinance was an ambitious realtor’s stripping all growth from a wooded “hammock” area along Biscayne Bay. The large acreage is located along a mile of early-year mansions, with the growth too heavy to even glimpse the houses. Hundreds of virgin trees, including aged live oaks, Geiger trees, and a wealth of other rare tropical growth.

The bulldozed property, which extends from Brickell Avenue to Biscayne Bay is considered less attractive today because of its neighboring contrast. Explanation of the developer, who “had no idea” what the land would eventually be used for, was “the better to sell it.”

This instance climaxed years of protest against builders stripping every tree and twig from property when new homes and complexes were being built. However, this was softened some when the Metropolitan Government of Dade County passed an ordinance requiring X number of plantings for every foot of new building per property.

The Miami ordinance stipulates “woody perennial plants” with trunk diameters of three inches, three feet “above grade,” and a minimum of 15 feet, to come under the new law’s protection.

Also, the ordinance applies to all vacant and underdeveloped property; in all zoning classifications intended to be redeveloped and yard area of all developed property.

It declares that “no person, organization or corporation, or any representative thereof, shall cut down, destroy, remove or effectively destroy through damaging any trees situated on described property with-