

TURFGRASS — 1959 RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

A summary of activities by the Department of Horticulture, University of Illinois.

Activities of Dr. C. E. Ackerman

One hundred sixty-eight letters were written during the year - 51 pertained to soil tests, soil conditions, and soil improvement for turf and 117 were written as answers to questions on identification, use and culture of grasses.

Fifty-two days were also spent in the field consulting with district Illinois Highway landscape architects on roadside turf development problems. Two days were spent in the Peoria district, 8 days in the Effingham area and 42 days in the Chicago area.

Teaching activities consisted of supervision of two special problem courses for a senior student. Titles for the problems are as follows: 1. The effect of frequency and height of clipping upon total dry weight yield of six varieties of turfgrass in Flanagan silt loam. 2. The effect of frequency and height of clipping upon total dry weight yield of six varieties of turfgrass grown at four levels of nitrogen in Flanagan silt loam.

Activities of Dr. F. F. Weinard

Supervised operation of the Department of Horticulture soil testing laboratory. Four hundred fifty lawn soil tests were made and comments and suggestions were made on each soil test data sheet. Also, 200 additional queries were answered on lawns.

Teaching activities consisted of supervision of special problem courses for a graduate student. Titles of the problems are as follows: 1. Effects of different pH levels on growth rates of delta bluegrass. 2. Effects of different nutrient levels on growth rates of delta bluegrass. 3. Effects of different temperatures on the germination of five varieties of bluegrass.

Acted as leader for Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station research project No. 65-358 titled "Turf in Illinois." A copy of the annual project report is attached to this report.

Activities of H. R. Kemmerer

Several extension meetings on lawn construction and maintenance were conducted during the year. Also, lawns are one of the important facets of the extension landscape improvement project. Two hundred cooperators were enrolled in the project during 1959.

Other activities included: Answering queries on turfgrasses, serving as a member of the advisory committee for the Illinois highway research project (IHR-66) on grasses for roadside cover, and supervising the establishment of lawn grass demonstration plots at the Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station.

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