

# 1964 ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

Rain was predicted and rain came. One hundred and thirty brave but wet souls were on hand for the program.

## Turfgrass Program

Dr. J. B. Gartner, Head, Division of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, introduced those in the turfgrass program at the University of Illinois. Professor Gartner praised the cooperation between the departments and individuals in the program. He also mentioned that the six weeks short course in turfgrass management was receiving wide interest. Inquiries have been coming in from potential participants from coast to coast.

## Morning Tour

Several selective herbicides were used on Washington bentgrass at different times. Dr. Fred Slife mentioned that MCPP and Banvel D had caused no injury at the rates tested during the last two years. It was pointed out that with some herbicides there might be a varietal or plant tolerance difference, and that one test could not be relied upon to give all the answers with any one material. On the bentgrass both Betasan and Tupersan gave satisfactory crabgrass control. This was the first year that Tupersan was included in the test and the second year for Betasan.

In May an area which had just been seeded to Kentucky bluegrass was treated with various formulations and rates of chemicals for crabgrass control. In general, the grassy weeds were controlled when Tupersan was used. This was evident from the plots which had received no treatment. Other materials included in the test proved to be rather phytotoxic to the new grass. Similar plots put out in August had a reduction in certain broadleaf weeds where Tupersan was used.

Professor Slife, when commenting on perennial grassy weed (quackgrass, zoysia, etc.) thought mechanical sod lifting and the use of a non-selective herbicide such as dalapon offered good control possibilities. It was mentioned that many different pre-emergence crabgrass control materials had been put on, but on these plots crabgrass germination had been quite poor.

A study of disease transmittance, plant variability, etc., with Merion bluegrass was started this last spring. Nine thousand individual plants from 100 different seed lots had been planted onto fumigated soil. In a few of the lots, *Poa annua* was present, also occasionally other foreign grasses. There were a few Merion and other types that were not rusted and were quite noticeable.

Exceedingly high levels of N from different materials were being applied to Kentucky bluegrass. Difficulty often develops with grass maintained at such high levels of fertilization. It was pointed out that after three years even though 15 or 20 lbs. of N had been used per 1,000 that all treatments were still doing exceedingly well. These plots are to be maintained for several years. The University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University are cooperating on a long-term study of this problem at the Dixon Springs Station in an attempt to find some of the answers to this problem.

Some 20 different varieties of lawn grasses were

shown. These included several new varieties not yet introduced. The fact that the Bermudagrasses could not be kept confined in these plots was evident. It had been necessary to remove a large area of sod and treat with dalapon.

## Afternoon Tour

Rainfall increased. Afternoon session quite hurried. Some 20 different strains of bentgrass were under test. This past summer put a severe stress on these varieties. Generally the bents that have been popular during the past performed much better than most of the more recent selections.

The bent fertility trials showed very little difference at this time. It was mentioned that both materials and rates had given noticeable differences early in the season.

Several different fungicides and formulations were tested. It was quite evident from the density of the grass that some of the materials had given good control while others had not been nearly as successful. Also, some of the materials were phytotoxic. Several studies such as space plantings of Penncross and Seaside, P and K fertility trials, zoysia experiments, root zone studies, etc., were hurriedly reviewed.

With a sudden cloud burst and a promise of more thorough coverage of turfgrass research the meeting broke up. Research will be received in more detail at the Fifth Illinois Turfgrass Conference to be held on December 3 and 4 at Urbana.

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