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RUSSELL L. FISHMAN 321 Lambert Tree Road, Highland Park, Illinois



PROFESSIONAL SERVICE for the PROFESSIONAL TURF MANAGER

NATIONAL CHEMSEARCH

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NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

# **FALL OBSERVATIONS**

September 23, 1966

#### THE FUTURE UNCERTAIN

Our economy is certainly in a state of uncertainty where the ordinary phases of the business cycle cannot be anticipated. This results mainly from the condition of secrecy or censorship in our international affairs and to a great extent our domestic policy as well. Are we engaged in secret negotiations over ending the war in Viet Nam? Will the administration ask for an increase in taxes, balance the budget and curtail welfare expenses? The business community can only guess and individuals can profit or get hurt badly if they guess wrong.

Due to the labor squeeze, high taxes, prices on machinery are up for next season. Increases ranging from 5 - 10% have been announced by leading manufacturers. This means higher prices for mowers, tractors, sprayers and aerifiers. Most equipment depends on a number of prime manufacturers. The lead time on motors, castings, bearings etc., has become longer and longer. Place your orders early and take delivery when available.

Grass seed is down in price from 10 - 20%. Crops have been generally good. Sod has replaced lawn seed to a large extent. Quality of seed is constantly improving too. All grass seeds can be purchased 98% or better purity. This provides cleaner seed, earlier and faster germination.

On chemicals, plant foods, insecticides and fungicides no price changes are in the offing. Mercury prices have strengthened again. No immediate easing of mercurials is in sight. Competition among many manufacturers keeps the supply of fungicides as well as prices in balance.

The overall picture then on machinery and supplies is even up, the increase in machinery prices is offset by lower grass seed prices. Labor is something else again. This problem is so baffling it defies a ready solution. Your suppliers are having this problem too.

C. O. Borgmeier

From The Midwest Turf News Letter

# ATHLETIC FIELDS

Recent discussions with turf managers strongly suggest repeated overseeding of athletic fields before each home game. This permits some seedlings to germinate, then perhaps escape wear during the later games. It provides repeated chances for germination. It reduces the need for renovation at a later date and requires no special equipment.

Suggestions include using a knapsack or broadcast spreader to apply five pounds of a blend of bluegrasses to the heavy wear areas one to three days before each home game. Let the cleats do the planting. It is being done elsewhere already.