

COMING EVENTS

The ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FIELD DAY will be held earlier this year — August 9th, 1968. Time: 10:30 until 3:30. Place: Illinois University Turf Research Plots.

The ILLINOIS TURFGRASS CONFERENCE will be held Thursday, and Friday, December 5th & 6th in the Building Auditorium at the University of Illinois commencing at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday. The Banquet will be held Thursday night. The Conference will close at noon on Friday.

The ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION will conduct their annual meeting at 11:30 on Friday at the Ramada Inn, 1501 So. Neil Ave., Urbana. The Board of Directors will conduct their election of officers following the annual meeting.

All the events will be held in Urbana, Illinois.

HOW DO WE GET ORGANIC MATTER OR DEplete IT?

If it were not for the organic residue reduction or decay and decomposition or if Mother Nature would permit the accumulation of the residue of her creation, just imagine what this old world would look like. Here again we can see the infinite wisdom of the Creator and the Balance of Nature as these things are decayed and decomposed Nature does not only rid the surface of the earth of the debris but also provides food for the life in the soil resulting in foods for the plants and crops we grow.

Humus is made from lignin and cellulose by a process called humification. Under the best of these conditions there is only about 75 lbs. of humus made from 1000 lbs. of cellulose and lignin. One of the very important factors involved in the conversion of organic matter to humus is air, especially oxygen—this is a must—for the oxidization of various groups of complicated organic matter complexes in the soil. Here again we can see the need of a good tilth and structure in the soil. How can air get into your soil if it is water logged and tight? In such conditions where there is not enough air to support humification what happens then? The lignin and cellulose materials become carbonized then instead of humus peat is developed or even possibly coal. Is this what has happened when we plow up manure, straw, cornstalks that have been plowed down for a number of years and they are not decomposed rather seem hard and carbonized. When we see how hard and air tight some of our soil is, we should realize that humification has not taken place. How could oxygen have gotten through the hard compact soil?

We have mentioned how that the life in the soil dying and leaving their bodies to decay help to build

tons of organic matter. How are some of the ways we can destroy humus resulting in the loss of life—destroying life thereby preventing and/or destroying humus. One of the ways that seemingly destroys much humus is by constant tillage. By exposing to air and oxygen the masses of humus material we get mineralization. This increases the need of adding organic matter material to avoid depletion. Here again we can get one of those what we might call a chain reaction which happens so often in Nature. By over cultivation or exposing the humus to the air and failing to return additional organic matter to the soil, the mineralization process is speeded up and soon the soil will be well on its way to complete depletion and we have what we so often refer to as dead soil. Billions of life supporting micro-cells will be dead—the soil's buffering capacity and its plant protecting powers are gone as well as the farmer's profit making ability. In other words, we have a dead soil.

Knowing that we must have the life in the soil in order to have humus or as said before we must have the one to have the other I would like someone to explain to me how farmers can put all these salts, acids, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, etc. on their soil and not damage the life therein.

With these thoughts in mind we wonder when people talk about mining the soil perhaps we should think about mining the soil of its true life and health sustaining treasure the organic matter complex and learn to manage our soil so that we may increase its true balance and reserve of humus and macro and micro life and thereby provide a prosperity of greater wealth and optimum health.

EVERSPRAY CO.

• UNDERGROUND LAWN SPRINKLING SYSTEMS

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

GEORGE WELLEK

9250 GOLF ROAD
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS
296-5555

Nels J. Johnson, Tree Experts, Inc.

SINCE 1930

Complete, economical tree service for Private Estates, Parks, Municipalities, Golf Courses Cemeteries, Schools, Industrial Areas.

All phases of Arboriculture, Diagnosing, Pruning, Treating, Transplanting, Fertilization, Hydraulic and Mist Spraying, Removals, Stump Routing, Municipal Forestry.

— FULLY INSURED —

GRADUATE FORESTERS

• LICENSED ARBORISTS

MAIN OFFICE: 912 Pitner Avenue, Evanston, Illinois

Phones: GR eenleaf 5-1877 — GR 5-5255
Hinsdale, Illinois — FA 5-0970

THE SEQUESTERED FERTILIZERS



"Can't stop now, I have to get the cup in before this Fertil-Ade green closes the hole."

FERTIL-ADE and AQUA-SOL

For 15 years Golf Course Superintendents have relied on Fertil-Ade or Aqua-Sol for Better Greens that stay Better.

FERTIL-ADE LIQUID

No. 1 10-8-6

No. 2 10-8-6 with extra chelated iron.

No. 4 15-0-7½

No. 5 15-0-7½ with extra chelated iron.

INSTANT AQUA-SOL

25-10-20 This ratio of analysis scored "Most Likely for best growth of lawns, trees and flowers."

Distributed by: George A. Davis, Inc. - R. L. Ryerson

SMITH EQUIPMENT and SUPPLY CO.
1615-21 N. Central Ave. • Chicago 39, Illinois