

After harvest the seed is combined to separate the seed from the seed head while straw, dust and other inert debris are removed by cleaning machines. These cleaners utilize different size screens and air blowers to sift and separate the viable seed from weed seeds and undesirable elements. All seed is labeled by lot numbers designating the farmer and field in which the seed originated. All seed is tested by licensed laboratories for percent purity, germination, inert matter, and weeds. Seed not meeting strict quality standards as regulated by state and federal laws, can not be sold as certified seed.



After harvest, preparation has already begun for next year. One of the most critical field procedures conducted in an established field after harvest, is to burn the field stubble with fires set and controlled by the farmers. The field burning is necessary to rejuvenate the plants, encourage new plant growth, kill weed seeds, and temporarily kill surface soil pathogens. If not burned, the yield generally will decline in succeeding years.

The procedures described above have been generalized in some cases, and only the most important grass species utilized for fine and sports turf have been mentioned. However, I feel it is important for everyone interested in turfgrasses to have a basic understanding of seed production procedures.

CORRECTION:

Our apology to U.S.S. Agri-Chemicals for omitting their name in our list of advertisers that appeared with The President's Message in the April 1979 issue of "The South Florida Green".

ROUNDUP

Two major turf products — one an herbicide and one an improved turfgrass variety — have joined forces to provide professional turf managers with a new, effective program for renewing or renovating existing turf areas.

Roundup® herbicide by Monsanto and Pennfine Perennial Ryegrass have been teamed up in the "2-Step Turf Renewal Plan". Details of the plan are available in a new test kit that includes enough Roundup and Pennfine to renew approximately 200 sq. ft. of turf.

The one application of Roundup called for in the plan will destroy a variety of annual and perennial grasses and broadleaf weeds. Roundup is a foliant-applied herbicide that utilizes the biological process of "translocation" to spread its killing properties to all parts of treated plants. (Translocation is the means by which sugars and other materials are circulated throughout living plants.)

Roundup requires several days to be absorbed into the foliage and translocated throughout the entire plant and its network of below-ground roots and rhizomes. Because Roundup leaves no residual soil activity, Pennfine can be spread over the treated area in about seven days after the herbicide application.

Pennfine's agronomic characteristics make it the ideal variety for the turf renewal plan. Developed by Dr. Joe Duich at Pennsylvania State University, Pennfine germinates quickly and grows into a dense, full stand of grass. Pennfine has a proven wide area of adaptation, the ability to persist at moderate fertility levels, and it withstands drought conditions and soil compaction.

Pennfine's ability to take a clean, smooth cut is one of its most desirable characteristics. After mowing, Pennfine doesn't produce ragged, fibrous ends which quickly turn brown. In addition, it holds up well under heavy traffic conditions.

A free test kit containing usage instructions and enough Roundup and Pennfine to renew approximately 200 sq. ft. of turf is available to turf professionals by writing: Turf Renewal Plan, P.O., Box 923, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

