

Better specific and in-depth evaluations needed in national tests

By KEVIN MORRIS

The National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP), a cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Beltsville, Md., and the National Turfgrass Federation, Inc., was initiated in 1980 to evaluate turfgrass varieties and experimental selections in different locations and under various management situations throughout the United States and somewhat in Canada.

Since that first test of Kentucky bluegrass in 1980, almost all the major turfgrass species have been tested or are currently being tested. At present more than 550 cultivators



Kevin Morris

and experimental selections are included in 12 separate NTEP tests at anywhere from 15 to 50 locations nationwide. These tests are conducted mainly at university sites by university turfgrass scientists using a standard format for data collection and submission. Data is summarized annually and released as public information. Interpretation of the data is left to turfgrass scientist, extension personnel, seed companies

and consumers.

Many of the turfgrass species have benefitted from these nationwide evaluations. Perennial ryegrass probably has been improved more over the last decade than any other grass used in the United States. Saturn perennial ryegrass, ranked number one for turfgrass quality in testing from 1987-1990,

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Kevin Morris is director of the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, sponsored by the National Turfgrass Federation, Inc. and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and headquartered in Beltsville, Md.

Best Sand employee Neil dies from motorcycle crash

CHARDON, Ohio — John Neil, a 12-year employee of Best Sand Corp., died as a result of injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident June 17.

Neil, 29, was a sales representative for the company and worked primarily with the golf course and foundry industries.

Daughter Kallie, his parents, grandparents and two sisters survive.

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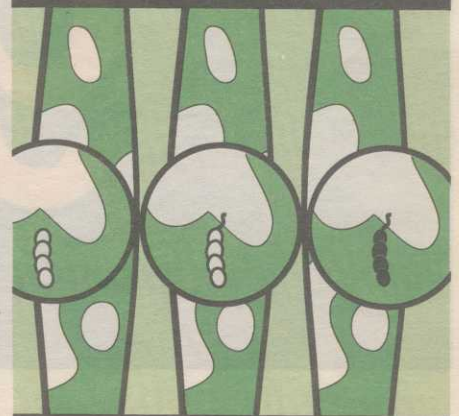
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