

News

FIELD DAYS

Demonstrations highlight ASPA meeting

The latest technology in turf seed and sod production was demonstrated to several hundred people during the 12th annual convention and field days of the American Sod Producers Association in Spokane, Wash., last month.

A tour through the Jacklin Seed Co.'s new headquarters in Post Falls, Idaho, and a trip to its turfgrass producing fields showed the sod producers the complete cycle of turfgrass seed growing and processing. Other demonstrations at the Thayer and Schneidmiller sod farms showed off new equipment and techniques. The sod growers naturally were interested in seeing the new sod harvesting equipment in action, as well as the laying of two types plastic netting for sod growing.

The first type, from Western Cascade, Inc., utilizes DuPont Vexar netting; the second, Conwed netting and a Robark layer.

Advantages of the netting are said to be a shorter production period and better tensile strength for sod. The same type of netting can also be used on golf courses to control erosion and hold soil and seed on embankments.

A unique irrigation system was displayed at the meeting and shown in an installation in a field; called Agri-Pop, its spray heads are placed 18 or more inches beneath the surface. The heads work their way up for sprinkling, then retract into the ground when the water goes off. The advantage is that the surface soil can be worked without damaging the sprinkler system.

Gang mowers were displayed and demonstrated by Brouwer, Toro, Roseman, and Pen-Gro Corp. The latter is American distributor of British-made Ransomes equipment and showed an impressively smooth and powerful gang mower based on a Massey-Ferguson tractor powered by a three-cylinder diesel engine. Brouwer demonstrated a new PTO mower available in five and seven-gang versions.



ABOVE LEFT: Doyle Jacklin, Jacklin Seed Co., chaired the ASPA convention and hosted a tour of his firm's new facility; 1977-78 president Glenn Rehbein sits next to him. ABOVE: British-built Ransomes gang mower, modified with wide turf tires, was impressively demonstrated by Pen-Gro Corp. LEFT: Brouwer Turf Equipment Ltd. showed its new gang mower.

All of the major seed companies had displays at the exhibit hall in the convention hotel. Next year's ASPA field days are set for Columbus, Ohio. The winter meeting will be held in Scottsdale, Ariz., in February 1979.

GOLF EQUIPMENT

Bad news from sales survey

A statistical report prepared annually for the National Sporting Goods Association, a trade association for sporting goods retailers, paints a gloomy picture of sales of golf equipment.

Out of two dozen categories of sporting goods included in the survey, golf equipment was one of just four which showed a decline in actual sales from 1976 to 1977 — and golf equipment was the only category which shows a decrease in projected sales for 1978

compared to 1977. The 1976-77 figures registered a 5 percent decrease in sale of golf equipment, with a similar decrease predicted for 1977-78.

Titled *The Sporting Goods Market in 1978*, the report is based on a survey of 32,000 American families. For further information, contact the NSGA at 717 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

TURF RESEARCH

Sod growers support Fusarium research

The Sod Growers Association of Mid-America has pledged \$5,000 per year for 3 years to Cornell University to support research on Fusarium blight. The association selected Cornell's Dr. Richard Smiley to conduct the research; his reports will be available to all participants. Contact: Dorothy Warren, 11020 S. Roberts Rd., Palos Hills, IL 60465.

LABOR

Save money by hiring welfare recipients

"Employers are literally losing money by not hiring persons on welfare or in the Work Incentive (WIN) program," Assistant Secretary of Labor Ernest G. Green pointed out recently.

"Too many employers do not seem to be aware," he explained, "that they can deduct 20 percent of the wages paid such persons on their payroll, subtracted directly from the total income tax they were prepared to pay."

Green's statement came with the launching of a nationwide campaign to inform employers of current eligibility rules. Originally, employers could qualify for the employment tax credit only if the new employee was registered with WIN, but that has been expanded to include employment of anyone who has been receiving Aid to

NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION BOX SCORE

January-June 1978		REGULATION COURSES	EXECUTIVE COURSES	PAR 3 COURSES	TOTAL
OPENED FOR PLAY	New	23	6	2	54
	Additions	19	4	0	
STARTED CONSTRUCTION	New	29	3	1	55
	Additions	19	2	1	
PROSPECTIVE		53	5	4	62

Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) continuously for at least 90 days prior to being hired.

Jobs must meet certain standards as well. They must be vacancies or new positions, not jobs created by a strike or layoff. They must also offer the same wages and benefits as similar jobs in the company and comply with all labor regulations, including federal minimum wage laws.

A government pamphlet is available which explains the tax credits. It is titled *Employment Tax Credits Can Reduce Your Income Taxes and Here's How* and is

available at local WIN programs, located in Job Service office of state employment service agencies.

OSHA

Followup inspection scheduling loosened

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has announced the liberalization, "because of work overloads," of scheduling requirements for

followup inspections to citations for serious violations.

The amendment to previous guidelines, sent as a directive to all OSHA field and national offices, now will allow area directors to determine that followup inspections are not required except in cases of "imminent danger, willful and repeated violations, and petitions for modification of abatement." Such inspections had been mandatory for all cited, serious violations.

The directive was effective June 22.

ethoprop. The product should not be used on bentgrasses, fine fescues, or ryegrasses.

For further information on this product or about *Ataenius spretulus*, contact a ProTurf technical representative or call Scotts collect at 513/644-0011.

Lower rates approved for insecticide

Proxol 80 SP, an insecticide product of the TUCO division of The Upjohn Co., has received label approval for reduced rates in the control of cut worms, sod web worms, and army worms.

The new low application rate is 1 1/2 ounces of Proxol per 1,000 square feet of turf. For greens, Proxol should be mixed in 5 to 10 gallons of water for uniform application. On fairways and other large areas, the product should be applied using sufficient water (not less than 10 gallons per acre) for complete coverage.

In addition to improved economy in spraying fairways and other large turf areas, the lower rate of application permits the programming of Proxol 80 SP with turf fungicides on an alternate weekly basis. Proxol is said to "control damage-causing insects without appreciably reducing beneficial insect populations."

SUPPLIERS

Jacklin moves to new Idaho facility

One of the world's largest producers and marketers of Kentucky bluegrass seed, Jacklin Seed Co., has moved into new headquarters in Idaho just 20 miles east of where the company's offices had been since 1935.

The 6,000-square-foot office facility shares a 22-acre site with a complex of warehouse and seed processing buildings. The new site gives the company room to grow, said General Manager Duane Jacklin, and "the location is more centrally located relative to the company's farms and those of our growers in northern Idaho."

Part of the Jacklin operation remains in Spokane and will be moved to the new Idaho location in about 2 years.

Jacklin can now be contacted at Route 2, Box 402, Post Falls, ID 83854 (phone 208/773-7581).

TURFGRASS SEED

Fescue receives variety certificate

The Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has awarded U.S. Plant Variety Protection Certificate No. 7500043 to Banner Chewings Fescue.

Developed at Rutgers University, Banner has been tested and evaluated throughout the country and has shown characteristics to recommend it for turf areas where abuse and minimum maintenance make turf management difficult. The fescue develops a dense, moderately low-growing turf. Sod is of high tensile strength. Banner is currently in production by E.F. Burlingham & Sons of Oregon, who hold exclusive rights for the variety. Adequate supplies are expected for 1978 seeding.

TURF CARE

Nematicide registered for *Ataenius* control

ProTurf Nematicide/Insecticide, a product of O.M. Scott & Sons, is now nationally registered for control of *Ataenius spretulus* larvae, a destructive beetle grub showing up on golf courses in many parts of the country.

This is a granular product for dry application. When watered into turf after spreading, it goes directly to the zone most vulnerable to *Ataenius* attack: the roots. ProTurf Nematicide/Insecticide controls a wide variety of nematodes and insects, and it can be applied anytime grasses are actively growing and insect damage is noted. Its active ingredient is

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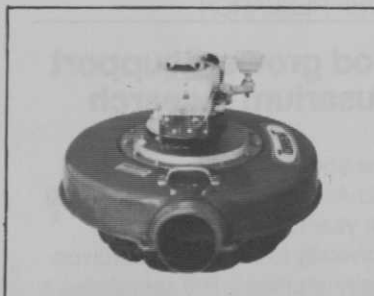
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