

## Calif. Sets Turf Trade Show

West Coast turfmen will have a chance to inspect products of more than 100 suppliers during the Official Turfgrass Industry Trade Show of California, to be held in Pasadena, Oct. 16-17.

Event is designed to bring together a variety of equipment and materials related to the turfgrass and nursery industries, for the benefit of professional members of the turf industry.

For more information on the trade show, write Gordon Lindsey, publicity director, Southern California Turfgrass Council, American Poultry Guano Corp., P.O. Box 332, Cucamonga, Calif.

## Turf Reseeding

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used for golf green winterseeding in Houston, usually in mixture, about 6-9 lbs./M (compared to 40 or 50 lbs. with ryegrass). Seedings at River Oaks Country Club were visible within a week, and none suffered so severely from the cold as did ryegrass. The finest Kentucky bluegrass putting green seen was at the Houston Country Club. Both Kentucky bluegrass and Pennlawn fescue seedings were made November 10, and the putting surface was perfect by February.

In Florida Dr. Prevatt has been successful with fine fescue-bluegrass and bentgrass combinations in the Lakeland area. Dr. Burt at the Plantation Experiment Station, and the University of Florida at Gainesville, have other winterseeding successes. One disadvantage found with *Poa trivialis*, both in Florida and Texas, is that this imported seed often brings with it troublesome rosette crucifer weeds.

Dr. Marvin Ferguson of the USGA Greens Section agrees that the winterseeding of southern golf greens is in a state of experimentation and flux. He is reluctant to advance firm recommendations until additional research can prove-up techniques and grass types. Mixtures of the grasses seem a way "to spread the risk"; if one species finds conditions adverse, another may not. A mixture of Highland bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and Oregon fine fescues supplies high-quality potential, — and *Poa*

*trivialis* might be included, too, if its yellowish color and tendency to bring in weeds is not objectionable. Most people prefer the darker green of the previous three grasses, although where *Poa annua* is an abundant weed, the yellowish color of *Poa trivialis* matches it pretty well.

## Commercial Properties and Homes

Lawns of homes and commercial properties offer tremendous potential. Attractive turf is especially important for motels during tourist season. The same holds for shopping malls, funeral homes, and other commercial properties. Given time and sufficient promotion, winterseeding may catch on more fully, too, for the home.

Conclusions voiced for golf courses apply generally to commercial properties and homes, although a winter stand is more easily achieved, because the pressure of intensive use is not quite so great. Recent tests at Mississippi State University indicate that greatest success with the bluegrass-fescue-bentgrass seed mixtures is obtained when the permanent grass is mowed  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch or less prior to overseeding in autumn. The University of Arizona notes that ryegrass needs more frequent mowing than bluegrass-fescue-bentgrass, and probably exhausts water supplies more completely. Highland bent offered little competition to revival of bermuda in 1961 tests.

## For the Future

Although quick knockdown and winterseeding are not thoroughly developed markets, their feasibility is well established. Chemicals, equipment, and seed are readily available for renovation, upgrading, and annual bolstering. But other potentialities shape up, too. Pesticide applicators might like to think about, perhaps experiment a bit with, (1) slurry seeding, and (2) de-thatching services.

Slurry seeding requires special power sprayers only recently widely available (viz. the Hydroseeder of the Finn Equipment Company, Cincinnati, or similar machines made by Bowie Machine Works, Bowie, Texas). The technique has been most widely developed for roadsides. For a number of years a slurry containing seed and fertilizer has been sprayed upon the roadside with the Hydro-

seeder, to be followed by straw mulch with asphalt tack. More recently, a mulch derived from wood pulp (Turfiber) has been included, making possible a seeding-feeding-mulching operation all in one. The mulch functions more effectively for soil holding than as a moisture barrier, but nonetheless it is intriguing to consider the possibility of a small Hydroseeder for seeding home yards (perhaps given preliminary knockdown chemical spray). The tie-in seems a natural for lawn spray services.

## De-thatching Has Possibilities

De-thatching, too, appears destined for future popularity. Heavy grass growth is an inevitable outcome of sophisticated lawn tending, the demand for better, more vigorous lawns. Need for occasional thinning is already widely accepted for elite turfs such as bentgrass. Trailing lawn-grasses of the South, or almost any grass urged to splendor by heavy feeding, tend to thatch.

Several lawn thinners or de-thatchers have been developed to remove the organic debris (thatch) which accumulates deep in the sod. With some grasses, such as zoysia, this can become persistent enough to hinder insoak of water. In almost all cases thatch prevents access of new seed to soil.

While many of the thinning machines tear the sod and disfigure the turf temporarily, at least one (the Thatch-O-Matic) has been developed to comb out the thatch without serious mutilation to the living leaves. The machines are not expensive, and one might surmise the extent to which they might serve a lawn-tending service. De-thatchers are just as impressive to a homeowner as are aerifying devices, however.

Thus, de-thatching would seem a logical preliminary to Hydroseeding or bolster seeding wherever appreciable thatch prevails. In fact, routine de-thatching and power sweeping prior to almost any lawn service (fertilization, weed control, bolster seeding) might make the operation more certain. Thatch can result in irregular penetration of materials, and hence imperfect performance, even though the sprayer gives perfect distribution.