

Patterson to Head New Mexico Turf Group; Conference Studies Turf Varieties, Mowing

A. S. Patterson of Albuquerque was named president of the New Mexico Turfgrass Association at the 10th annual Turfgrass Conference on the New Mexico State University campus at University Park, October 9.

Other officers named were Bernard Corley, El Paso, vice-president, and C. E. Watson, NMSU agronomist, secretary-treasurer. Bill Leftwich of Holloman Air Force Base, Julian Serna of Albuquerque, and Harvour Jones of Los Lunas, were named to the board of directors.

In a report on new developments in grasses, John A. Long of O. M. Scott Company of Marysville, Ohio, said Texturf 10, also known as T-47, and Tifway, two varieties of bermudagrass, are the best all-around warm-season grasses for lawns and play areas. Tifgreen is recommended for putting greens but not for general planting because of the extra care it requires.

Windsor, Park, and Newport varieties of bluegrass have shown more disease resistance than Merion or common Kentucky bluegrass of the cool-season grasses.

J. R. Watson of Toro Manufacturing Company, Minneapolis, Minn., in a report on mowing, said "growing grasses for lawns and turf defied the natural processes of the plants. The extreme mowing required for the neat-appearing lawn requires that everything else be ideal. Mowing removes the parts of the grass that manufacture food for the plants weakening them and if other conditions of moisture and fertility are not ideal the plants don't make it," he said.

Bunch-type grasses—ryegrass, tall fescue, and bluegrass—need higher mowing than the creeping grasses, Watson said, because the bunch grasses grow upright and more of each plant is removed in mowing.

Zoysia and bermuda can be

clipped closer because they naturally grow close to the soil and only occasionally send up shoots which are clipped by a mower.

A sharp mower is important to lawn appearance. A dull mower bruises the ends of the leaves as it cuts, leaving a burned appearance. A sharp mower cuts cleanly.

Marvin Ferguson, U.S. Golf Association, Green Section, College Station, Texas, said golf courses in recent years have too often been designed without regard to drainage, foot, and car traffic, and efficiency of watering systems. He reported an excessive number of golf courses are in trouble because these factors were not considered when the courses were laid out.

The two-day conference was attended by about 50 persons.

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prompted skilled turfman White to say he uses the Mott hammer knife back on the sod farm. He added that many commercial lawn companies, such as the ones gathered at the Pier 66, are now using the Ryan and the West Point machines. These were developed initially to prove them-

Two kinds of spray programs for lawn service companies were described by horticultural spraymen Larry Nipp (left) and Jack Cuthrell during the 1964 convention at Pier 66 Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale. Out-of-staters found the various programs offered by Florida industry men of particular interest.



New recreational areas management curriculum at New Mexico State University was explained by Arden Baltensperger (left), Head of the Department of Agronomy, and C. E. Watson, Associate Agronomist, at a meeting of the New Mexico Turfgrass Association. The new course is one of the few offered in the U.S. to specifically train superintendents for golf courses, parks, forest areas and to build a background for research in this area. The course is offered jointly by NMSU's departments of agronomy and horticulture.

selves on the fairways, but now they're keeping the nation's lawns green as well.

Smaller in number than usual, bigger than ever in ambition, and as cordial and warmhearted as always, the Florida 1964 convention was universally praised when it came time to wind up the note taking and step out to a banquet and dance on the last day. Officers promised to continue in the same fruitful spirit throughout the coming months as the national trade association takes its last wavering steps before striding full-fledged into the future of vegetation maintenance and control, a billion dollar business in America today.

