

## New Jersey Certified Sod Program Started; Will Establish High-Quality Producer

The first square foot of certified sod in New Jersey was harvested recently during a program arranged to celebrate the occasion. The top-quality sod received the admiring scrutiny of state officials, agricultural leaders and sod producers at the LaBarre and Schuch Sod Farm in Springfield, New Jersey, where it was produced.

The sod certification program was initiated in the spring of 1963. It is being conducted as a cooperative program between the College of Agriculture, Rutgers—The State University, and the Bureau of Seed Certification of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. The program is under the guidance of Dr. Henry W. Indyk, extension specialist in turf management, at the College of Agriculture. Inspections and all regulatory aspects of the program are under the supervision of William Cranstoun, chief of the Bureau of Seed Certification, New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

A number of factors have stimulated the initiation of a program of this nature. The use of sod in establishing lawns is rapidly increasing. A high de-

gree of variation in quality of sod available to the public exists. Certified sod will protect the customer investing in sod by guaranteeing genetic identity and a high quality product, Dr. Indyk says.

The producer as well as the customer stands to benefit from the program. It will provide the high quality producer the recognition he deserves for his efforts. Competitively, also, he will be in a better position, it is reported.

The procedure in certifying sod begins with preplanting field inspections to assure their acceptability in the program. Inspecting officials must approve the seed before it is planted. Throughout the growing period of the grass, fields are periodically inspected. A final inspection is conducted at the time of marketing before issuance of certification tags if the sod meets all standards of certified sod.

Producer interest in the program is rapidly increasing. A substantial acreage is enrolled in the program at the present time and the availability of certified sod to the public should increase substantially within the next year, Dr. Indyk told *Weeds Trees and Turf*.



Officials witnessing the harvesting of the first certified sod in New Jersey are presented with certified sod. On the left is William Cranstoun, chief of Bureau of Seed Certification presenting Frank Soraci, Director of Bureau of Plant Industry, both representing the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, with certified sod. On the far right is Dr. Henry W. Indyk, extension specialist in turf management, College of Agriculture, doing the honors for Dr. Leland G. Merrill, Jr., Dean of the College of Agriculture, Rutgers—The State University.

## Trimmings

**Up in the Air.** Speaking of varied services, there's an aerial operator in Gettysburg, Pa., whose direct mail pieces are indicative of what's happening today with those contract applicators who have taken to the air and who now offer an unusual panorama of custom spraying. Company is Agrotors, Inc., which offers rights-of-way spraying and similar service by helicopter. Agrotors' president is Dr. Carl M. Voss, and Charles M. Mark is vice president and chief pilot. Services offered include spraying of shade trees for canker worm and gypsy moth, weed control in field crops, utility brush control, etc. Now the company has branched out south, where "Ski" Bykowski heads the Lake Wales, Fla., operation. A modern and aggressive outfit, Agrotors, Inc. is jet-age example of industry advancement.

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**All's Fair.** In New York last week a member of our staff rode by the World's Fair site on his way into the city from the airport on Long Island. While the Fair has been closed for several weeks, it was refreshing to see the tiptop shape surrounding turf areas are being kept in, presumably to continue right up to snowtime! A good plug for the maintenance company which is keeping the fairgrounds ready for the crowds to come next spring.

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**Stose Away!** In our editorial on page 6 we talk about the "rounding out" of industry firms into more than one kind of vegetation maintenance and control, and we have a good case in point, a Pacific Northwest operator who's away and running with his thriving business of weed control, insecticide application, and tree pruning. He's Glenn L. Stose of Portland, Oregon. Glenn's calling card outlines the variety of his services, and adds that his company is licensed and bonded. Here's another of that active group of forward-thinking applicators who've done so much to upgrade the profession in the Northwest!

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**To the Notebooks.** Conference time is upon us. Checking our calendar of coming events, we see that hardly a week will go by from now until March without an important weed control, turf management, or tree maintenance seminar everywhere from New York City, where the Northeastern Weed Control Conference meets next month, to California, where the state weedmen are also congregating in January (details in Meeting Dates, p. 48). We again urge all our readers to take time out to attend one or more of these helpful technical sessions. The small cost of registration and transportation is nil compared to the worth of the great scientific brains one traditionally finds gathered at the conferences!