

Tips on Spring Dead Spot, Fertilizer Advice on Tap At Fifth Univ. of Missouri Lawn and Turf Conference

By DAVE MILLER, Assistant Agricultural Editor, University of Missouri, Columbia

"Fungicide put into the watering system may be one of the coming ways of treating spring dead spot in bermudagrass," according to Stan Frederiksen, Mallinckrodt Chemical Co.

Frederiksen, speaking at the fifth annual Lawn and Turf Conference at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Sept. 23-24, reported on fungicides that have shown good control of "spring dead spot."

Frederiksen said dead spot can be conquered by good maintenance practices, and treatment with fungicide, using exact treatment techniques. "The damage is caused in the fall. Nothing can be done when you see the spots in the spring. The time to prevent the disease is in August, September, or October," the Mallinckrodt turf expert affirmed.

During the day-and-a-half conference, speakers covered such topics as What Does a Soil Test Mean; Management Problems with Warm Season Grasses in Missouri; Care and Repair of Turf Equipment; Economics of Turf Disease Control; Fraudulent Fertilizers; and the Value of Proper Moisture Environment for Healthy Turf.

James Latham, agronomist



Early registrants Glenn N. Morris (left) and Jack Deck looked forward to an exciting program. Deck represents Collier Chemical Co.

with the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, noted that part of the reason bermudagrass sometimes grows poorly in Missouri is that not enough fertilizer was used in establishing it.

"Golf course turf planting is no time to save money," Latham said. "You are reducing the use of the grass by a month, and likewise losing a month's revenue.

"Berumuda thrives on aeration," Latham continued, "and

weed problems are reduced by aeration."

R. F. Eldred, Toro Manufacturing Co. reminded the group of the importance of selecting the right machine for the job you have to do.

You should consider usage of machine; your location; type of grass to be cut; size of area and terrain; degree of maintenance you can give; manpower, and time available.

He recommended a training period for operators before they run any machine, and definite checks every morning, with maintenance through the day as needed, and close familiarity with the operator's manual. In addition, a well-planned maintenance program of cleaning, painting, regular checks, and proper storage is needed. "A well maintained machine is a safe machine," he said.

Carry Enough Fungicide

Peter Wildermuth, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, began the afternoon program with a reminder that "turf pros should carry enough material (for disease control) to take care of any



Highly cultured golf course turf was of interest to all turf management personnel at the University of Missouri conference.

emergency." His theory is that if a disease hits one place it will also be somewhere else, creating a demand and possibly a scarcity of disease-fighting chemicals when they're most needed in an area.

He noted that in buying chemicals, several things should be considered: usage . . . amounts, etc., frequency of application, and how many diseases a product controls.

"Lawn Seed Sweepstakes" was the title of a talk by Dr. Robert W. Schery, director, The Lawn Institute, Marysville, Ohio. He noted that "what operators do has as much influence as what is planted," inferring the great influence management has on all grasses.

In discussing seed purity, Dr. Schery said, "The major difficulty is defining a weed. A weed to you might not be one to me. Many a pest in a field crop is of no consequence in a mowed turf, yet must be considered 'noxious' and appear unnecessarily alarming on the label.

"But other weeds can prove harmful in the lawn, though they escape mention in the laws because they are not agricultural pests.

"As to varieties," Schery stated, "most are good, at least for certain purposes or regions. Else they wouldn't have been selected, propagated, and brought to market.

In summing up, Dr. Schery said, "There's perhaps more to be accomplished in tending lawns correctly than in searching out new varieties. But with all seed you can know that the mechanical aspects of quality are tops."

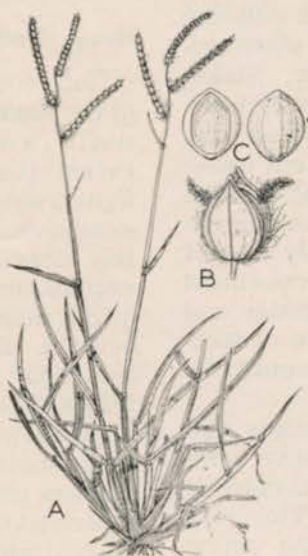
Gypsum Bad for Midwest

George Smith, Chairman of the Department of Soils at the University of Missouri, talked briefly about fertilizers, and the need to beware of such things as "secret ingredients, or claims that are not backed up by scientific evidence." He stated that there is no place for gypsum on midwest soils.

In tours of University of Missouri weed control plots, led by
(Continued on page 19)

Know Your Species

DALLISGRASS (*Paspalum dilatatum*)



Dallisgrass (A) is a tall perennial grass which grows from a bunched, knotted base. In the Southeast and irrigated Southwest where it thrives, it can grow 5 feet high. Although it is a perennial, it reproduces only by seeds formed each year. Individual plants survive year to year, however. It is found in moist soil, along roadsides, in fields, and meadows. It is a particular problem on lawns.

Alternating leaf blades are flat, 2 to 6 inches long. Three to five flower-bearing spikes top off the mainstem. The spikes are 1 to 3 inches long; they are also alternate. The small spikelets (B) or flowering parts grow only on one side of the spike branch.

Tiny flowers, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long, sit directly on the stem. At times the spike appears to have a purplish cast because of the purple-colored stigmas (female flower parts) which protrude from the individual flowers.

Dallisgrass produces a smooth, shiny, yellowish grain (C), which is just under $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long.

Selective control on turf has been developed for Dallisgrass. Disodium monomethylarsonate (DMA) broadcast repeatedly over the turf achieves satisfactory control. Manufacturers' recommended rates for such treatment must be carefully followed. Such overall treatments have to be repeated because of the light rate which is necessary for use on desirable turf.

Spot treatments with higher concentrations of DMA or AMA (ammonium methyl arsonate) will eliminate Dallisgrass faster. Treatment must be closely limited to the small areas because injury to adjacent desirable turf may occur if the turf is sprayed. Reseeding of the killed areas should follow before any other undesirable weeds invade the vacancies.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

(DRAWING FROM UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION CIRCULAR 265, TUCSON)

Pesticide Safety Is Subject Of New Film by Ortho

A new film, titled "Prescription for Safety," has been released by California Chemical Co. as part of the chemical industry's program to emphasize the need to follow precautions found on product labels.

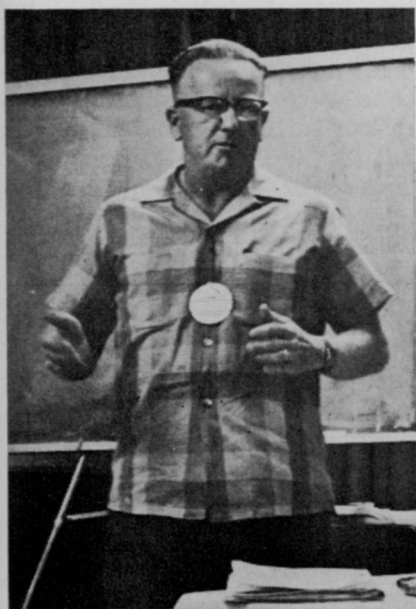
A noncommercial concept, the film features "Brand X" chemicals. According to L. F. Czufin, Calchem's advertising and public

Northwest Conference

(From page 13)

wives of the Pesticide Sprayers Assn. members of the Portland group planned an interesting two-day program for the "lady-bugs" attending the conference.

The realistic views presented by the speakers during the convention were reflected by the many serious conversations during the social hour and banquet that marked a successful end to the meetings. A definite air of responsibility and rededication prevailed—even into the fun and laughter that was a part of the closing program. As one guest said, "for the professional applicator, the future with pesticides can indeed be bright if we will just make it so."



More organizational suggestions were offered by Don Rasmussen, immediate past president of the Oregon Ground Sprayers Assn.

relations manager, any agricultural chemical company can adapt this safety film for its use and distribution by adding a film "leader" and "trailer" containing its firm's introduction and signature. Prints are being made available at cost.

The 18-minute film stresses commonsense practices portrayed by the lead character through a workday made safe by the proper mixing, application, and storing of pesticides. Destruction of chemical containers, hygienic care, and protective clothing are among the subjects treated.

The film may be obtained on free loan from the company by writing to L. F. Czufin, California Chemical Co., 571 Market St., San Francisco 20, Calif.

Missouri Turf Conference

(From page 15)

Delbert Hemphill, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Missouri, the group inspected results of herbicide testing. Hemphill pointed out that the University has had outstanding results with Tupersan for preemergence control of crabgrass in spring-seeded bluegrass and red fescue plantings. These turf grasses show high tolerance to this chemical even though it is applied immediately after seeding, according to Hemphill.

The second day of the Lawn and Turf Conference began with the large group dividing into two groups. One group was interested in lawns, parks, institutional grounds, athletic fields, etc., and discussed problems peculiar to them, while the second group was composed of people interested primarily in golf courses.

Each group held a problem-solving clinic, panelists being Earl Hornbuckle, Kansas City, and Charles Denny, Webster Groves, and members of the University of Missouri staff, for the first group; and for the golf group, James Latham, Tom Mascaro, Ed Shoemaker, and staff of the University of Missouri.



Said to develop pressures up to 100 psi, this knapsack-type sprayer is manually operated.

Manually Operated Sprayer Introduced by Root-Lowell

A lightweight, manually operated sprayer, said to develop pressures up to 100 psi, was recently introduced by the Root-Lowell Corp. Named the Spraymore Model 1773, this unit has a ventilated back for added comfort when carried as a knapsack.

Easy stroking of the pump handle actuates a dasher-type agitator said to keep sediment-bearing solutions correctly mixed during use. Discharge equipment includes a 5-ft. hose, rotatable shutoff, and 24-inch brass spray extension. A fully rotatable nozzle is adjustable to all spray patterns.

Interested spraymen can obtain complete details from Root-Lowell Corp., Lowell, Mich., 49331.



Weed control plots at the University of Missouri attracted delegates as U staffer Delbert Hemphill (right) explained experiments to touring group.