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.

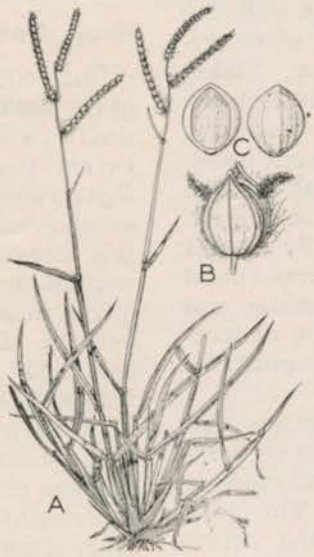
In tours of University of Missouri weed control plots, led by

(Continued on page 19)

Know Your Species

DALLISGRASS

(Paspalum dilatatum)



Dallisgrass (A) is a tall perennial grass which grows from a bunchy, 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, ⅛ 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 ⅛ 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)