

# Turf Industry Second Largest in State, Colo. Turfmen Hear at 11th Conference

More than 100 turf specialists, attending the 11th annual Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Conference, Oct. 5-7, heard Arthur G. Rydstrom predict that Colorado's booming turf industry will soon become the state's primary agricultural business. The three-day turf seminar met at the University of Colorado's Fort Collins campus.

"Turfgrass contributes an estimated \$300,000,000 annually to the state's economy," Rydstrom said, and added that if this estimate is accurate it places the turf industry second only to Colorado's cattle industry. This figure is based on a report by a Denver newspaper.

"Turfgrass is more important to more people in Colorado than any other cultivated plant," Rydstrom continued. All people are concerned with turfgrass, not only around their homes, but in public parks, grounds about large buildings, athletic fields, highway rights-of-way, golf courses, and other recreational areas."

Rydstrom, an Englewood investment consultant, presented figures based on a recent survey indicating that there are 150,000 acres of turfgrass in Colorado, not including campuses, school

grounds, or athletic fields. He further gave dollar-volume data based on 1963 turfgrass income in various segments of the industry.

## Statewide Council Urged

To hasten the advance of the turf industry in Colorado, Charles M. Drage, Colorado State University extension horticulturist, remarked that the state and the turfgrass industry could mutually benefit with the establishment of a statewide horticultural council.

Drage went on to say that a horticultural council could coordinate the efforts of the many regional and specialized groups to produce more effective results. Such results would include a greater awareness of ornamental horticulture in the state, enhancing natural beauty and making Colorado a better place to live in.

"There are several thousand members in various horticultural organizations across the state," Drage said. "The problem is getting these people together with professional horticulturists and suppliers to act as a coordinated group."

Cooperative action, such as a statewide organization, Drage believes, would offer opportunity



From the large display of equipment and supplies demonstrated at the 11th annual Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Conference, this lawn mower drew attention because it employs a unique vacuum operating principle. The rotary mower has no wheels, propels itself by "floating" one-quarter inch above the surface. Jerry Nelson, CSU junior in landscape design, demonstrates.

to carry out numerous programs and to project horticulture at school-level and in libraries, sponsor horticultural and garden clinics, and add effective support to legislation designed to improve horticultural standards.

## Bentgrass Control Offered

Gene Chamberlain, CSU plant physiologist, explained that an ammonium hydroxide solution, containing 24% ammonia, has shown the most promise for control of bentgrass in lawns. The solution is made by saturating tap water with commercial anhydrous ammonia.

The treatment must be used with caution, Chamberlain warned, since the fumes drift easily and will burn the green growing parts of all plants. Treating in the fall, and reseeding the bluegrass seven days later, have proven most successful in CSU tests.

George Beach, CSU horticulturist, said the perfect bluegrass has yet to be developed. New varieties have advantages but often are less resistant to insects and diseases. Choice of a lawn grass should be determined on the basis of how the turf is to be used, the area and climatic conditions, the appearance desired, and the amount of care it will



A \$1,000 check to finance a turfgrass research study on the problem of winter dry-grass injury to grass, was presented by Ted Rupel (right) to A. M. Binkley (left), head of the horticulture department at Colorado State University. Willard Lighty (center), graduate horticulture student at CSU, will do the actual research work. Rupel is golf superintendent at Cherry Hills Country Club, Denver; the money is a donation by the Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association which held its annual meeting at CSU in October.

be given. There are 1,100 native and introduced grass species in the U.S., Beach concluded.

Calling for more planning to handle the growing population and the resulting demands on turfgrass in the years ahead, Frank C. Stewart, of Hampden Memorial Estates, Denver, warned "The world is going to fall in on us in the form of population—an unplanned-for population. We need more basic research and study on turf," Stewart continued. "We'll need information on turf diseases which will be greater problems as metropolitan areas grow."

"If our population is doubled by 1980, we must prepare to care for larger areas of turf at lower unit costs and with the utmost water conservation, Stewart added. He concluded by urging the West to plan for additional parks and green belts in the city and increased development of private campgrounds in the mountains.

### Morrison Steel's Roly-House Can Solve Storage Problem

An all-steel building said to provide safe storage for chemicals, fuels, equipment, and for other uses, is announced by Morrison Steel Products, Inc.

The prefabricated building can be quickly assembled with screw driver and pliers, Morrison says. All holes are predrilled and cadmium hardware is provided. The unit may be set up on the ground, but best results and protection

are attained if setup is made on a concrete slab floor.

Further details are available from Morrison Steel Products, Inc., by writing to P.O. Box 549, Buffalo, N. Y. 14240.

### Mallinckrodt Has New Dead Spot and Crabgrass Controls

A new preventive control of spring dead spot in bermudagrass and a selective preemergence herbicide for crabgrass control is now available from Mallinckrodt Chemical Works. The products are named Spring-Bak and Pre-San, respectively.

Spring-Bak, a turf chemical for the prevention of spring dead spot, does its preventive work in the root-crown zones of the grass and is specially formulated to contain wetting and soil-penetrating agents. It is applied as a heavy spray after the chemical has been mixed with water.

Mallinckrodt reports that its new preemergence herbicide for crabgrass control is labeled for use with fine turf. Pre-San is also effective in control of goosegrass, poa annua, watergrass, lambsquarters, redroot, pigweed, shepherd's purse, and deadnettle for an entire season.

Pre-San, a liquid formulation, can be applied with standard spray equipment, the company says.

For complete details on these new products, interested readers may write to Industrial Chemicals Div., Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, St. Louis 47, Mo.

## WTT Mailbox

### Editorial Wins Nod

May I compliment you on your September editorial "Poor Judgment." This is a theme that needs to be repeated regularly.

Dr. Joseph E. Howland

Editor of *Lawn Care*  
Scotts  
New Canaan, Conn.

### Liked Shade Tree Article

I want to take this opportunity to tell you how much we appreciated your August issue of *Weeds Trees and Turf* in which you feature shade tree problems.

We were particularly interested in the article on noninfectious tree diseases by Dr. Richard Campana.

We are looking forward to Part II of this series.

A. R. Kurtz

Chief, Division of Plant Industry  
State Dept. of Agriculture  
Madison, Wis.

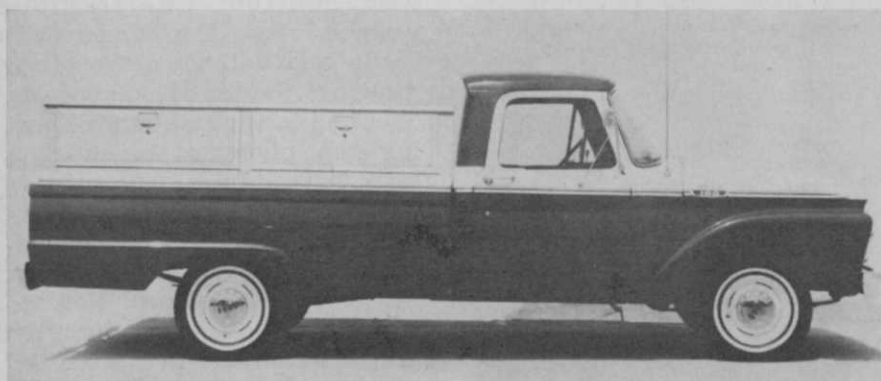
Part II will appear early in 1965.—Ed.

### Reprints Appreciated

Your reprints from the October, November, and December, 1963, issues on the "Biology and Identification of Aquatic Weeds," their control and information on equipment, techniques, etc., are most appreciated. Three of the four copies were mailed to our district offices for their reference. I have retained one for my field notebook. It will prove, I'm sure, to be a valuable source of information, for in Southern California water availability is usually critical.

Joseph P. Dion

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner  
Dept. of Agriculture  
San Diego, Calif.



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*Weeds Trees and Turf* welcomes expressions of opinions from its readers. Send ideas and comments briefly as possible to Charles D. Webb, Editor, *Weeds Trees and Turf*, 1900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115.