



## Trimmings

**Studios Couch.** Well-known turf disease expert Dr. Houston Couch, whose book on the subject is just about the last word, has left his Penn State professorial and research post to head the Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, a school already noted for its contributions to vegetation maintenance and control studies. Our congratulations to Dr. Couch on his new responsibility!

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**Sod a'Plenty!** In this issue of WTT we begin our first Sod Industry Section, so we were particularly pleased to have a chance to talk recently with Richard A. Plent, a Cleveland, Ohio, nurseryman and longtime reader of ours who also grows a little sod and sells a lot of it. He maintains a full acre of bentgrass, which he tends and harvests with his own staff, and also sells hundreds of thousands of square yards of Merion bluegrass from Michigan each year. Dick says he's been in the sod business for 40 years, and that he welcomes this new monthly feature of WTT.

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**Astrogass Periled.** The big Astrodome, Houston's skylit stadium, is posing some unusual problems. For one thing, the glare through the skylight is giving baseballers some trouble spotting flies, and when it was suggested an acrylic lacquer be used to paint the top and cut down on glare, a turfgrass manager suggested this may possibly harm the bermudagrass in the outfield. Somebody else suggested the grassy outfield be replaced with a type of dirt, a suggestion which most turf lovers will probably not favor!

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**Western Treemen Unlimber.** We understand last month's meeting of the International Shade Tree Conference Western Convention in Santa Barbara was a howling success, both from a standpoint of lectures and discussions, and from the social angle! There were dinners, social hours, and side trips, and we imagine much of the delegates' gratitude went to local arrangements chairman William J. Griffin, who took charge of the affair this year. He runs Griffin Tree & Landscape Co. in Santa Barbara. Watch WTT next month for a write-up of the convention program.

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**To Each His Owen.** Had a call recently from Bill Owen of the Pesticide Sprayers Association of Portland, Oregon, who phoned to tell us about the formation of a regional group of contract applicators called the Pacific Northwest Regional Sprayers Association. Bill, who runs General Spray Service in Portland, has been active in various groups in his area for a long time, and has been most helpful in giving WTT advance news about events in the Pacific Northwest. We'll have more information about the new regional association and its activities in forthcoming issues. Meanwhile, congratulations again to Bill for helping get this project launched!

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