

of carrying each crop through at least one dormant winter season. Only one problem, quackgrass, still plagues the company, but since it only affects a small part of the crop, Green Valley officials are not overly concerned with it now.

Colorado's semi-arid climate poses special problems for the sodman. Constant heavy irrigation is needed, which makes the venture prohibitive to many potential sod growers. Green Valley, using water from river-bottom wells, irrigates up to 2.2 million gallons daily through a network of some 35 miles of light-weight aluminum pipe which feeds about 6,000 rotating Rainbird sprinklers, all automatically sequenced by time-control valves. This elaborate water system also provides the route for closely controlled fertilization.

Good transportation equipment and materials-handling devices are of essence, Green Valley Secretary-Treasurer V. Nelson Shurts points out. "The company's management is involved

in a never-ending search and re-search for materials handling equipment," he told WTT. To date the most successful method they have found is the palletizing of nine-foot-square rolls. Mechanical conveyers of various sizes and purposes are also utilized wherever possible.

Mowing is done twice weekly during summer months by a combination of two flail mowers, one large diesel-powered seven-gang mower and one custom-built rotary mower. The latter is designed for use under irrigation pipes.

Seven tractors with plows, discs, roto-tillers, land levelers, and rollers ease bulk work. Other equipment includes a power sprayer, a rock picker, three sod cutters, miscellaneous small mowers, sweepers, two on-farm trucks, and three highway trucks (including trailers and special four-dual-wheeled dolly with a fifth wheel to handle semi-trailers in the field). Supervisory personnel find an electric powered golf cart especially useful in moving quickly and softly

over turf and delicate aluminum irrigation pipe. The company maintains a complete repair shop tooled with everything from a blacksmith's forge to modern welding equipment to service this array of equipment.

Green Valley holds membership in the Rocky Mountain Turf-grass Association and in the Mid-America Sod Producers Association. Other company officers include Vice President J. Russell Wilkins and General Superintendent Jim L. Jones. Green Valley headquarters are at 7951 South Santa Fe Drive in suburban Littleton, Colo.

MSU Names S. H. Wittwer Director of Ag Station

Dr. Sylvan H. Wittwer, professor of horticulture at Michigan State University, has been named director of the university's agricultural experiment station, with the title of Assistant Dean in MSU's College of Agriculture.

Wittwer joined MSU's agricultural research division in 1946.

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