

"No-Mow" is Hit of Texas A&M Turfgrass Day, July 6

"No-Mow," a low-light tolerating bermudagrass variety was hit of the show as some 125 turf managers gathered for Texas A&M University's annual turf field day, July 6. "No-Mow" has exhibited exceptional tolerance to low light intensity," Dr. George G. McBee, of the school's soil and crop sciences department, said. Other grasses tested, including Pensacola bahiagrass, Meyer zoysia, and two Bermuda varieties, performed unsatisfactorily in shade. Only T-135, another Bermuda selection, showed some shade tolerance.

Visitors to test plots at the Agronomy Field Laboratory also saw a test of weed control using organic arsenicals. AMA, MSMA, Malgon, CAMA, and DSMA controlled annual weedy grasses with a single application, though several applications were necessary to kill such perennials as nutgrass. Fineleaf Bermudas

were described as "sensitive but tolerant" to arsenicals.

Of more than 80 new grasses, several Bermuda-related types were top performers in the Texas

tests. These were *Cynodon hirsutus*, *Cynodon barberi*, and *Cynodon dactylon*.

Other plots showed weed control experiments on Tifgreen, said to be safe for such herbicides as 2,4-D as long as the temperature is not too high; clipping-height experiments; and establishment studies, where



Visitors register for the Turfgrass Field Day, held at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, July 6. On the horn, right, is Dr. George G. McBee, soil and crop scientist.

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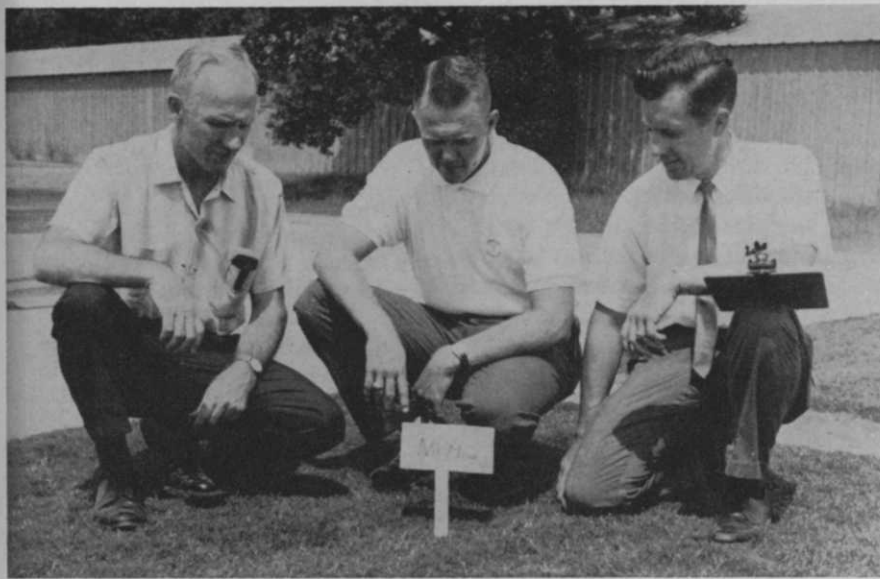
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Qualities of "No-Mow" bermudagrass variety are explained to Quinton A. Johnson, president, Texas Turfgrass Assn., by Dr. E. C. Holt, left, and Dr. George G. McBee, right, of Texas A&M.

broadcast sprigging gave fastest and most uniform growth of zoysia, St. Augustine, and Bermuda varieties tested.

Special plant growth chambers and nematode studies were explained on a tour of Texas A&M's laboratories. Talks on turf heating, soil aeration, and

miscellaneous turf experiments highlighted the field day's afternoon session.

Explaining Texas studies to visitors were Dr. Walter Thames, Dr. Wendell Horne, Al Novosad, Dr. Neal Pratt, Cecil Brooks, Ken Beerwinkle, Alvin Zemanek, and Wallace Menn, all of Texas A&M.

Avoid Nitrogen Overuse

Some newspaper articles published recently have been advocating what some consider extremely high rates of nitrogen for lawns, according to Dr. Elwyn E. Deal, extension turf specialist at the University of Maryland. Rates as high as 6 to 8 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. for common Kentucky bluegrass, and 8 to 10 pounds for Merion Kentucky bluegrass have been suggested, Deal reports.

Current recommendations from most experiment stations suggest 3 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. per year for common Kentucky bluegrass and 4 to 6 pounds for Merion, Deal says. Roughly one-half of two-thirds of this amount can be applied in September and October, and the rest in March. With Merion, another light application may be made in May.

Severe disease problems, heat, and drought injury during summer often result when nitrogen is applied at high rates to cool-season grasses in the Maryland area, Dr. Deal cautions.

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