



Dr. Granville C. Horn, Associate Turf Technologist at the University of Florida leads conference participants in tours and discussions of turf research at the University.

Inez Fails to Dampen Interest at 14th Florida Turfgrass Conference

Paying little heed to Hurricane Inez slapping at Florida's southeastern coast, Florida turf professionals gathered, Oct. 4 to 6, in Gainesville for the 14th Annual University of Florida Turfgrass Management Conference. Though attendance was somewhat lower than anticipated due to the hurricane, 400 registrants were at the opening session which concentrated on turf fertilizers and soils.

"Application of soluble fertilizers in irrigation water is an acceptable practice *provided that the irrigation system is such that it gives uniform distribution*," Dr. G. M. Volk, of the University of Florida, told the group while he discussed the great increase in the use of liquid fertilizers. "However," he cautioned, "this is usually the exception in practical watering systems."

Volk listed widely used types of liquid fertilizers in order of their popularity, potential value to turf: ammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrate-urea, complete solutions from common materials, ammonium polyphosphates, liquid clay suspensions, anhydrous ammonia, aqua ammonia, and urea formaldehyde solutions. "The usage of fertilizers in solution is entirely practical, and will give results equivalent to dry materials if certain practices are followed," Volk summarized. He

included mowing of grass prior to application, and irrigation immediately afterwards, among the necessary steps to be taken.

Within the next five years, all professionals supervising large turf areas "will go almost entirely to bulk fertilizer deliveries," Leroy Fortner, of Superior Fertilizer Co., predicted. This will result in lower labor cost, less storage problem, and less time required for distribution, Fortner said in his talk on "Bag vs. Bulk Fertilizers."

Basic information needed by Florida turf professionals on soils and soil-fertilizer relationships was stressed at this session which also included a close look at the contents of a fertilizer bag. William Heflin, Armour Agricultural Chemical Co., outlined methods of preparing mixed and straight fertilizers, and the meaning of formulations in terms of plant growth.

Golf Workshop Evaluates Tifdwarf

Second day of the meet saw four professional management workshops conducted concurrently. One of the workshop highlights occurred in the golf course section where a panel of Florida superintendents discussed their evaluations of the recently released Tifdwarf bermudagrass. "It will become the most popular greens grass in Florida," Paul L. Frank, of the

Hole-In-The-Wall Golf Course, Naples, forecast.

Frank, who has worked with Tifdwarf for seven months and has planted nine holes with the grass, evaluated it as excellent for tees and greens, with a putting quality much superior to that of 328 bermudagrass. He pointed out that Tifdwarf shows a more rapid recovery from verticutting (20% to 30% faster than 328), but added that he would like to give more study to fairway plantings before confirming an opinion that the lack of vertical growth is a detriment from the golfer's viewpoint.

Stanley E. Clarke, of LaGorce Country Club, Miami, agreed that Tifdwarf has shown superior qualities. After a year and a half's experience with the grass, he concluded that it has less grain, requires less verticutting, and has less weed infestation due to its close growth. Clarke endorsed the new variety by noting that, if he owned a golf course, he would not hesitate to plant it on his own greens.

Held at the same time were workshops for horticultural spraymen and lawn service agencies; retail dealers and garden suppliers; and turf managers working with industrial sites, athletic fields, parks, cemeteries, and sod growers.

Rudy Tomasello, a member of the Florida Pest Control Commission, from West Palm Beach, challenged participants in the spraymen's workshop to become more familiar, not only with chemicals, insects, and plant life, but also with ways of becoming better businessmen. Pointing to the keen competition developing in the ornamental spray industry, he stressed the immediate need for an operational analysis of industry methods. Tomasello also outlined requirements and techniques for "Costing a Job" in the spray business.

1967 Officers Named

Named as officers of the Florida Turfgrass Association for second year terms were James L. Blackledge, Rainy Sprinkler Sales, Lake Worth, president; L. N. Clark, Director of Parks, Jacksonville Beach, vice presi-

dent and president-elect; and James E. Ousley, Sr., Ousley Sod Co., Pompano Beach, secretary-treasurer.

Directors, chosen in contested elections for the first time in the association's 14 years, will be: J. Leroy Fortner, Superior Fertilizer Co., Sarasota; William Colburn, Bay Hill Club, Orlando; Carl Dilsaver, Miami Shores Golf Club, Miami; Robert A. Lagasse, agronomist, Patrick Air Force Base; Charles L. Quandt, Seminole Lake Country Club, St. Petersburg; Ronald W. Collins, Collins Spray Service, Satellite Beach; Harold E. Jenkins, Jenkins Landscape Co., Hobe Sound; and Robert L. Johnson, Johnson and Faris Garden Supply, Gainesville.

Other activities of the three-day meet included tours of research projects underway at the University of Florida's horticultural unit, a suppliers' party and reception, and the 14th annual FT-GA banquet, which was attended by several hundred members and University of Florida guests. Dr. Granville C. Horn, Associate Turf Technologist at the University of Florida, was honored at the banquet for his "outstanding research contributions to the Florida turfgrass industry."

Also honored for his years of service to the industry was former FT-GA director, Wayne A.

Hibbs, Sarasota garden supply dealer. David M. Filipek, Gainesville, was named at the banquet as winner of the association's Scholarship and Research Foundation 1966 scholarship of \$500. Filipek, a senior in turf management, plans to become a golf course superintendent. Seventy-three firms, individuals, and affiliated associations were cited for their contributions to the Foundation during its first year, just ended.

The Florida Turfgrass Management Conference is co-sponsored by the Florida Turfgrass Association and the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Coordinators for the conference were Dr. Granville C. Horn, University of Florida, and Walter D. Anderson, executive secretary of the turfgrass association.

Ornamentals Open House Set

"Escalating Ornamentals" is theme for the '67 Ornamentals Open House sponsored by the Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, USDA. There will be a program for florists on Jan. 12, and another for nurserymen on Feb. 1. Both will take place at the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., and each will feature presentations on culture and control, as well as research greenhouse tours.



Members of the Florida TGA crowded back to revote in the first contested election the association has held, reelecting officers and naming eight directors.

Meeting Dates



- Connecticut Nurserymen's Assn., Annual Meeting**, Hotel Park-Plaza, New Haven, Dec. 28.
- North Carolina Association of Nurserymen, Short Course and Trade Fair** North Carolina State University, Raleigh, Jan. 1-3, 1967.
- Northeastern Weed Control Conference**, Commodore Hotel, New York, N.Y., Jan. 4-6.
- Indiana Arborist Assn., Annual Meeting**, Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Jan. 4-6.
- Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter, International Shade Tree Conference, Annual Meeting**, Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, Pa., Jan. 10-12.
- Illinois Nurserymen's Assn., Annual Convention and Trade Show**, Hotel LaSalle, Chicago, Jan. 15-17.
- Virginia Nurserymen's Assn., Annual Convention**, Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Jan. 15-17.
- New York State Arborist's Assn., The Concord Hotel**, Kiamasha Lake, N. Y., Jan. 15-17.
- Rutgers Lawn and Utility Turf Course**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., Jan. 16-17.
- Maryland Nurserymen's Assn., Annual Meeting**, Washington Country Club, Gaithersburg, Jan. 17-18.
- Rutgers Golf and Fine Turf Course**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., Jan. 18-20.
- Ohio Chapter, ITC, Annual Meeting; Ohio Nurserymen's Assn., Winter Meeting; and Ohio State University Short Course for Arborists, Turf Managers, Landscape Contractors, and Nurserymen**, Sheraton Hotel, Columbus, Jan. 23-26.
- Virginia Turfgrass Council**, Hotel John Marshall, Richmond, Jan. 24-25.
- California Weed Conference**, Hilton Inn, San Diego, Jan. 24-26.
- Southern Weed Conference**, Jung Hotel, New Orleans, La., Jan. 24-26.
- Illinois Custom Spray Operator's Training School**, University of Illinois, Urbana, Jan. 25-26.
- Associated Landscape Contractors of America Annual Convention**, Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas, Tex., Feb. 1-4.
- International Turfgrass Conference and Show**, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., Feb. 5-10.