

timing. An understanding of plant growth habits is essential, Eugene Heikes said when attention was directed to weed control. Keeping ahead of weeds is the key to success of a good lawn, and is the hardest job. Most weeds can be controlled with chemicals, except for coarse grasses, Heikes continued, but chemicals should be supplemented with good management practices.

It takes 4 to 6 years of testing after a new variety of grass is developed to determine its disease resistance, Dr. Jack Altman, plant pathologist, said in discussing turf diseases. Studies by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that single strains of bluegrass, such as Newport and Merion, make a better appearing lawn in the first 3 to 4 years. However, after 4 years the common Kentucky bluegrass has the best appearance when disease problems develop in the single strain.

Merion bluegrass still appears to produce the best quality lawn in Colorado, Jack May reported. He reviewed findings of a study with 20 grass varieties at Fort Collins.

"But we may not have the whole story yet, in view of USDA findings," May cautioned. "The CSU plots have been established since 1962 to study effects of herbicides in different varieties." In describing favorable characteristics of several desirable

grasses, May reported Merion bluegrass to be the best quality turf which can stand shorter mowing, offers strong competition against weeds, and has a dark color. It is susceptible to rust, but rust is not a major problem in the Rocky Mountain region.

Ryan "Mole" Goes Underground

"Mole," a new, inexpensive tube-laying device, chews through ground as deep as 7 inches but does not disturb the surface turf as it installs flexible or semi-flexible tubes, pipes or cables, according to its manufacturer, Ryan Equipment Co. "Mole's" uses are said to include fast, one-man installation of underground sprinkling systems, gas lines for yard lights and other purposes and telephone and electrical cables.

"Mole" consists of a vertical cutter blade with a bullet-like terminal to which tubing, piping or cable up to 1¼ inches in diameter is chain-attached. The Sod Cutter then pulls the tubing beneath the surface and through the ground at speeds up to 100 feet per minute. A slit in the turf which soon disappears is the only visible evidence of the installation. Radii as tight as 2 feet are possible.

Complete information about "Mole" is available from Ryan Equipment Co., 2055 White Bear Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55109.

"Mole" leaves only a narrow slit in the turf as proof of its work. The slit quickly disappears, though, and there is no trace that Ryan's "Mole" has installed underground pipes, cables or tubes.



Meeting Dates

- Western Weed Control Conference, Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, Ariz., Mar. 15-17.
- 36th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference, Kellogg Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mar. 16-17.
- Conference on Community Development, on campus, University of Iowa, Ames, Mar. 18-19.
- Wisconsin Turfgrass Conference, Wisconsin Center, Madison, March 22-23.
- Wisconsin Park & Recreation Assn. Annual Meeting, Hotel Eau Claire, Eau Claire, March 23-25.
- West Virginia Weed Control Assn., First Annual Conference, Daniel Boone Hotel, Charleston, March 30-31.
- Northern California Turfgrass Council, 2nd Annual Turfgrass Exposition, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose, March 31-April 1.
- New Jersey Society of Certified Tree Experts, Meeting, Andrew Wilson Co., Springfield, April 18.
- New Jersey Society of Certified Tree Experts, Annual Dinner, Rock Spring Corral Inn, West Orange, April 12.
- 5th Annual Florida Turf-Grass Trade Show, Plantation Field Research Laboratory, Ft. Lauderdale, April 28-29.
- Florida Nurserymen and Growers Assn., Convention, Sheraton's British Colonial Hotel, Nassau, May 12-14.
- 18th Annual Nurseryman's Refresher Course, Cal-Poly College, San Luis Obispo, Calif., June 7-8.
- International Shade Tree Conference, Western Chapter, Annual Meeting, Miramar Hotel, Santa Barbara, Calif., June 20-23.
- New Jersey Society of Certified Tree Experts, Meeting, Essex County Highway Dept., Verona, June 20.
- American Association of Nurserymen, 91st Annual Convention, Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., July 16-20.
- Midwest Turf Field Days, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., Aug. 15-16.
- Texas Assn. of Nurserymen, Annual Convention, Nursery and Garden Supply Show, Dallas Memorial Auditorium, Dallas, Aug. 21-24.
- Penna. Grassland Council, Materials Handling Field Day, John Rodgers (Plum Bottom) Farm, Belleville, Aug. 26.
- Hawaiian Turfgrass Management Conference, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Aug. 25-26.
- International Shade Tree Conference, 42nd Annual Convention, Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 28-Sept. 2.