



Ryan Equipment Company's new tractor-mounted sod roller is demonstrated by Jerry Ogren, of the company's St. Paul, Minn., office, to American Sod Association Field Day crowd.

American Sod Association Stages First Field Day

demonstration tour held
in conjunction with
Michigan State University
Turfgrass Field Day

A NEW national group, the American Sod Producers Association, staged their first major event July 12 with a demonstration tour of sod production and equipment. The new group, officially organized the night of July 11, received a big assist from the staff of Michigan State University. Wayne County Agent Donald D. Juchartz with

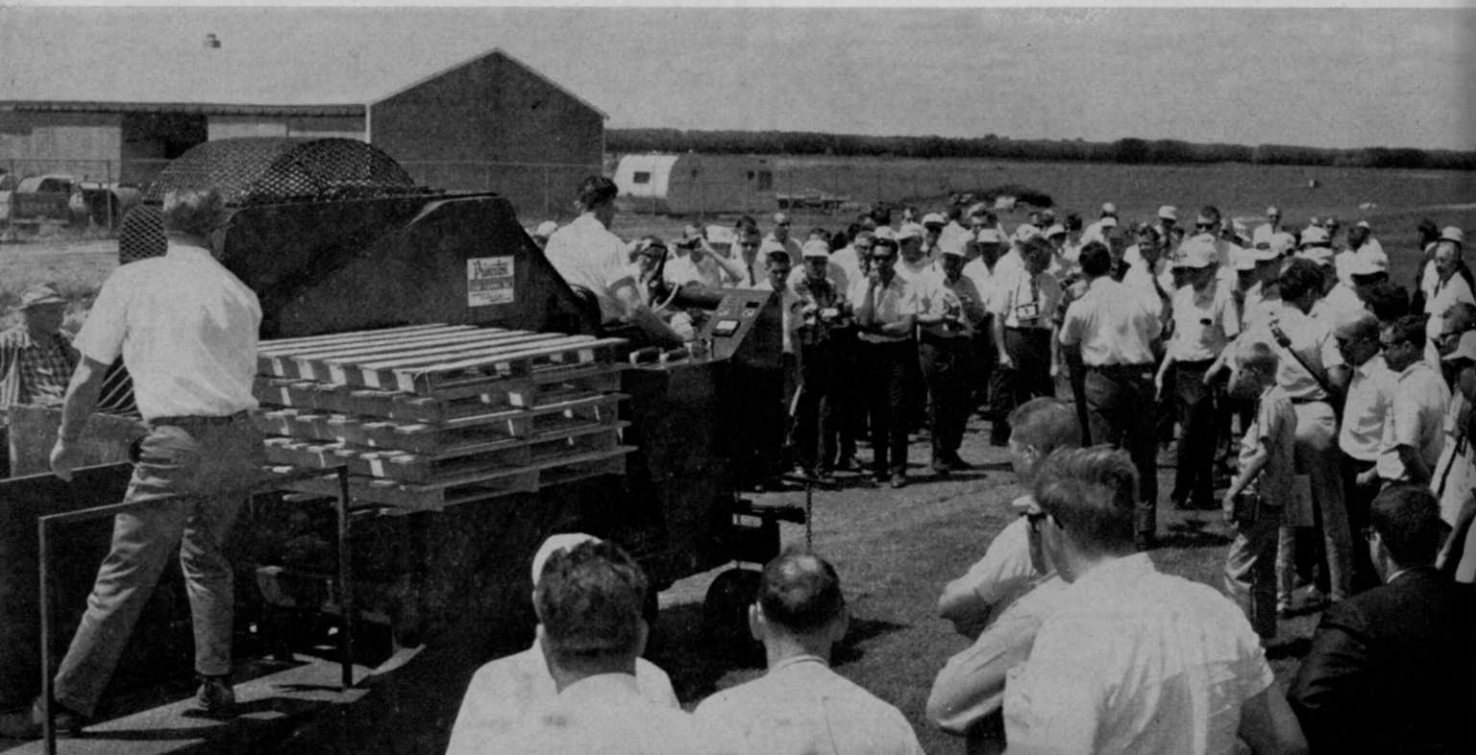
less than one month's notice contacted equipment manufacturers and sod producers, at the same time working closely with Dr. James B. Beard and Dr. Paul Rieke, staff members at M.S.U.

Drs. Beard and Rieke staged their annual Turfgrass Field Day at M.S.U. June 11. Despite rain in the surrounding area, their expected crowd of 500 to

visit turf research amounted to 350. And some 200 stayed over or returned for the Sod Field Day.

Sod Field Day activities started with a morning session at Emerald Valley Turf Nurseries, Inc., which is located just off Interstate 96 in southwestern Livingston County, Mich. Bob Daymon, president of Emerald

Field Day crowd, numbering about 200, closes in on equipment for start of equipment demonstration which featured the Princeton sod harvester.



Valley, served as host to sod producers and equipment makers from throughout the country.

Daymon demonstrated equipment developed and built at the farm and toured the group over the 700-acre Merion bluegrass sod producing area. Visitors were shown the solid set irrigation system, aerial application, sod production and the office and shop at the farm. Following a lunch period, chartered busses were used by the group to move to the Halmick Sod Nursery on the outskirts of East Lansing, Mich. Here again, sod harvesting was featured. After touring the Halmick harvesting, equipment manufacturers who had their equipment on display at this location started the field demonstration.

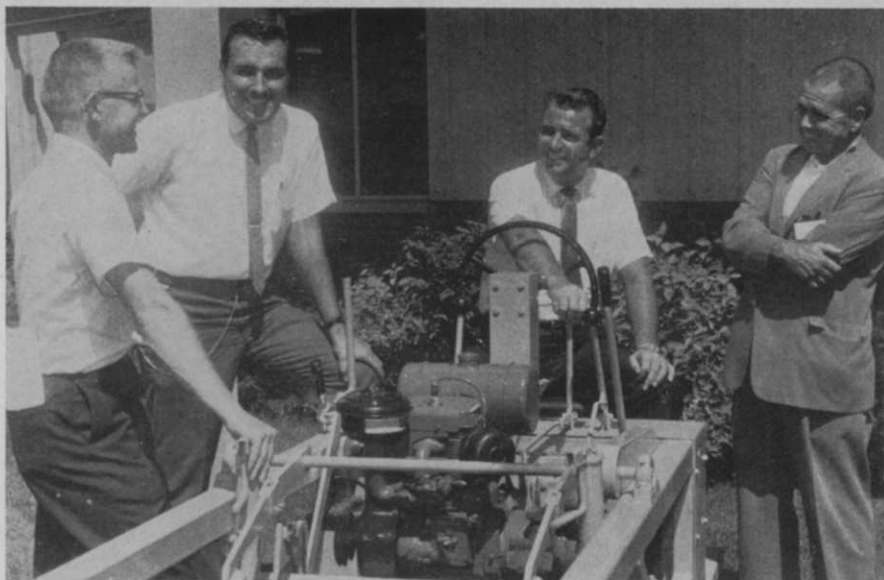
This field demonstration likely featured the greatest array of sod harvesting and handling equipment anywhere to date. Veterans in the industry could recall no prior event where as many different type units for cutting and rolling sod had been assembled for exhibit.

Prior to the American Sod Producers Field Day, Michigan State University on the previous day had sponsored a tour and field day of continuing research which is dedicated to helping the industry develop.

Dr. Beard, in reviewing Michigan's turf year, commented on extensive damage from *Helminthosporium* leafspot which was a month or more early in 1967. He said that reports of *Fusarium* blight activity are also increasing. The disease was first observed in Michigan last year. Concern is great because no effective fungicide is yet available.

Bentgrass plots showed that Cohansey and Toronto creeping bentgrasses continue to rank high in overall turf quality. Penncross seems to be the top seeded bentgrass in the Michigan trials.

In a study of growth reduction caused by hot weather, Harlan Stoin, of the M.S.U. research staff, related that tests show an overall increase in the soluble nitrogen content of grasses grown under high temperatures. There is a possibility, he re-



Daymon Sod Roller operation is explained by Bob Daymon, on driver's seat, during tour of Daymon's Emerald Valley sod farm, to Duane Girbach, Livingston County, Mich., county agent, left, and Donald Juchartz, Wayne County, Mich., county agent. To right is Ben O. Warren, Warren's Turf Nursery, Palos Park, Ill.



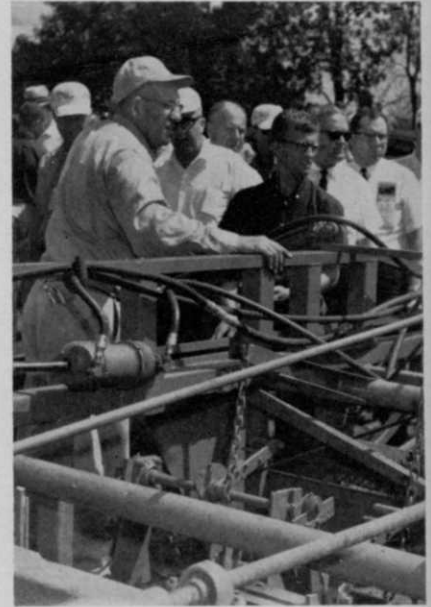
Nunes Sod Harvester is demonstrated by John Nunes of Cal-Turf Farms. Nunes reported unit will lift, roll, and palletize up to 1200 square yards per hour.

Hadfield Sod Roller, designed to fit on Ryan sod cutter, was among new equipment demonstrated. Hadfield reports unit operates strictly as 1-man operation and is particularly well adapted to smaller sod farm. Roller is manufactured by Hadfield at Oxford, Mich.

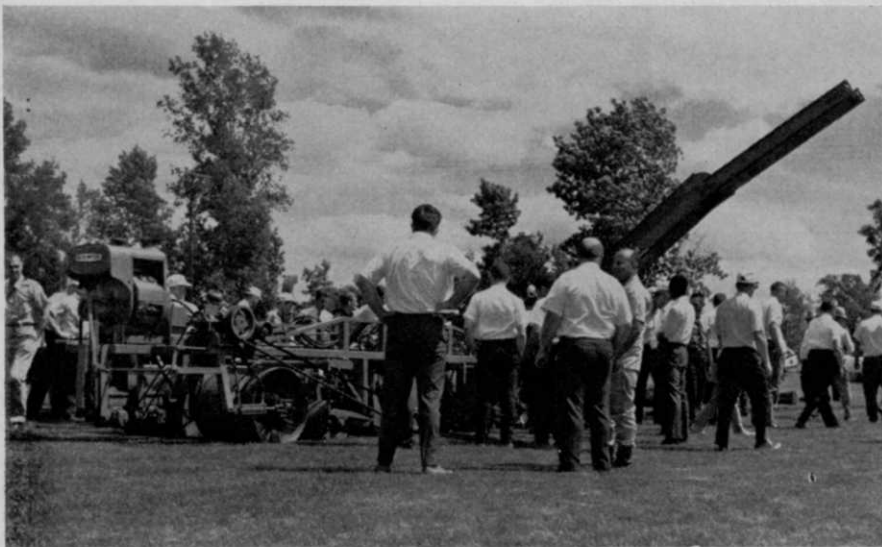




Halmick Sod Nursery sod being loaded on Halmick truck during demonstration. Brand name is that promoted for Merion bluegrass which is sold in Cleveland, O., area. Loader was built on Halmick farm.



Cliff Wetzel, sod producer at Ithaca, Mich., above, explains new sod harvester which he demonstrated for first time at sod association's field day. Harvester, left, is designed to handle three roll widths of sod at one time.



ported, of turfgrasses being affected by ammonium toxicity during hot weather.

Dr. Paul Rieke reported that a nitrogen and potassium balance increases winter hardiness of common Kentucky bluegrass. Maximum survival occurred when the ratio was 2 or 3 parts of nitrogen to 1 of potassium, even under high nitrogen levels.

Twenty-four varieties of red fescue are being evaluated according to a report by Extension Specialist Stuart Hildebrand. Pennlawn and Rainier, he said, are the top ranking commercially available creeping red fescues. Pennlawn is preferred because of its drought and cold weather tolerances.

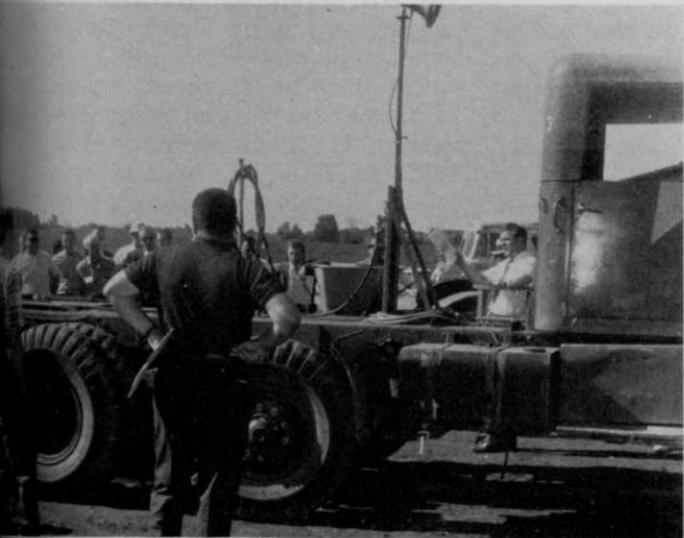
Rogers Turf Sweeper was demonstrated by Clarke H. Staples, right. Unit has 5-foot sweeping width with 5-cubic yard hopper, also is equipped with thatcher-thinner attachment.



Giant-Trail Vac thatcher and pickup unit at right was field demonstrated. Unit here featured all-steel trailer 5' x 3½' x 4'. Wide 16-inch flotation wheels are used on rear with 10-inch pneumatic swivel casters in front. Hitches on all Giant Vac equipment vary and must be ordered for specific tractor unit. Besides customized Giant-Vac units below, company displayed blower and self-propelled equipment.



Developed at Emerald Valley Turf Nurseries, this 18-wheel truck-tractor pulls load of up to 1700 square yards of sod at a time, to and from fields. Speaker is for furnishing music to crew, preferably "fast" music, according to Bob Daymon, right.



Princeton Turf Farms' Sod Harvester is capable of handling up to 10,000 square feet of cut and palletized sod per hour, based on report during field day demonstration. Wiley Miner, president of Princeton Turf Farms, on hand for the field day, was instrumental in development of the machine which operates with 3 men and produces uniform pads of folded sod, stacked on pallets.

Prominent at Field Day and Michigan Turfgrass session at Michigan State University were: left to right, Donald Juchartz, Wayne County agent, Mich.; Dick Gorrell, Emerald Valley farm manager; Bob Daymon, Emerald Valley president; Dr. James B. Beard, Michigan State University; Duane Girbach, Livingston County agent, Mich.; K. T. Payne, M.S.U.; Dr. Bob Lucas, M.S.U. Extension specialist; and Dr. Paul Rieke, M.S.U.

