

**Approves of Sod Editorial**

Your September editorial, Law Aids Sod Certification, was reviewed by this Department with sincere appreciation. It appears that your philosophy on how sod certification can assist the producer and consumer parallels our own thoughts. Sod certification programs will not be easy to establish. An entirely new group of purchasers will have to be educated in what certification means and how it will work in a marketing program.

It is gratifying that many other states feel certification can assist their sod industry and establish a grade of known quality. The one point we most strongly agree on is that sod certification will never succeed unless it is strictly enforced and relates a meaningful factor of quality to its product.

Your publication is most informative and well prepared, and is reviewed by many of my staff members.

Phillip Alampi

Secretary  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Agriculture

**Boosts Penngift Crownvetch**

Mr. Cott's excellent article on "Turfgrasses and Ground Covers" in your September issue was especially interesting to us because it mentioned crownvetch, which we have been studying since 1935, and which we were the first to produce in commercial quantities.

While Mr. Cott's loyalty to the Emerald variety developed at Iowa State University is quite understandable, you probably would like to mention to your readers that the Penngift variety is also performing well in Iowa and Nebraska, as well as in its native Pennsylvania and all across the country.

Whatever variety is used, crownvetch is serving well to hold soil in place; to revitalize unproductive land, to beautify roadsides, medians, rocky banks, slopes, and many other problem areas. It is gratifying to see our project come of age, and to find

crownvetch named among other useful plants.

Mrs. Fred V. Grau  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Grasslyn, Inc.  
College Park, Md.

**A Knotty Problem**

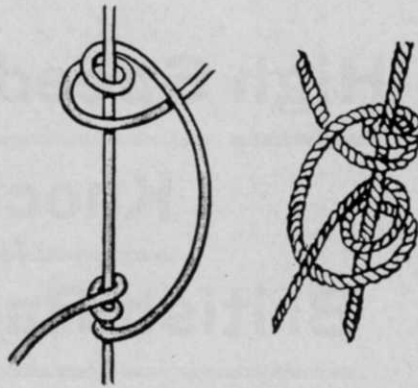
In your October issue, Mr. James W. Taylor brought out the fact that Mr. Bryan's climbing knot was tied wrong in the picture in your August issue. Mr. Taylor's knot is just as wrong. Attached is a picture of the correct way to tie a taut-line hitch. (Left in illustration below).

Noah J. Green

Green's Tree Service  
Savannah, Ga.

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Reading through your October "Mailbox," the picture of the taut-line hitch caught my eye be-



cause, instead of showing the correct method of tying this hitch, it illustrates clearly the results of improper tying. Enclosed is a copy of the taut-line hitch as published by the National Arborist Assn. in its safety booklet. (Right in illustration above).

Ellis N. Allen

President  
Massachusetts Arborists Assn.

We asked the advice of Dr. Paul Tilford, veteran tree expert, on this knotty problem. He replied:

I refer you to "Rope, Knots and Climbing," Tree Preservation Bulletin No. 7, National Park Service, for information on the taut-line hitch or tree climber's knot:

"The short end of rope protruding from the bowline-on-a-bight is then tied into a taut-line hitch around the ground rope . . . as follows: About 6 in. from the

bowline knot, wrap the short end counterclockwise twice around the ground rope, making the secondary wrap below the first. Then, continuing in the same direction around the rope, make 2 turns above the first 2, feeding the end under the short cross rope. When completed, the wraps should be—with reference to the time of wrapping—No. 3 on top, No. 4 next, No. 1 next, and No. 2 at the bottom. With the knot tied and tightened, the sling should be tested before swinging free. Always tie a figure-of-eight knot in the ground end of the safety rope to prevent the end from being pulled accidentally through the taut-line hitch."

The taut-line hitch illustrated in the National Arborist Association booklet, "Safe Practices for Arborists" is tied in this manner, and I am sure this is the generally accepted method.

**Organizing New Spray Group**

In your October issue, I read with interest reports concerning activities of spraymen's associations.

Several professional spraymen, including myself, have been working for the past three years to set up a local association here in Cincinnati. We feel there is finally sufficient interest to start things actively moving, and will soon be calling a meeting to organize.

I am happy to see that progressive individuals and groups within our field are starting educational programs so that spraymen become fully aware of the importance of exercising rigid safety precautions when mixing and applying chemicals, and the need for keeping up-to-date on new methods and safer chemicals.

Congratulations on the excellence of your highly informative magazine.

Ted M. Daalhuizen

The Gro-Green Spraying Co.  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Weeds Trees and Turf welcomes expressions of opinions from its readers. Send ideas and comments briefly as possible to James A. Nelson, Editor, Weeds Trees and Turf, 1900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115.