

Princeton Turf Unveils Production Sod Harvester

A new production model sod harvester, developed by Princeton Turf Farms and tested in its own sod growing operation, was recently unveiled. Requiring three men to operate, the harvester runs on flotation tires to protect grass crops from damage, even in wet weather. Princeton's cutter, guided by the driver, pulls sod up a conveyor in a continuous strip, which can be automatically knifed into any length.

Excess soil and stones are removed from sod by a high-speed flail, which is said to produce a sod pad of uniform thickness no matter what variations occur at the cutting head through changes in land contour. Pads are automatically folded, grass to grass, and conveyed to the rear of the machine, where stackers on each side place them on pallets. The stacking mechanism lowers with each added layer of sod, and when full (as shown by an automatic counter) slides to the field for pickup.

Capability of the harvester extends up to 10,000 sq. ft. of cut and palletized sod per hour, Princeton says. Summarizing the advantages of mechanized sod harvesting, Wiley Miner, president of Princeton Turf Farms, points to the capacity to cut grass fields hour after hour, with three men producing pads of

uniform length, width, and depth, automatically folded and stacked on pallets for delivery. Further details on this development can be obtained from Princeton Turf Farms, Inc., Box 392, Cranbury, N.J.

Fla. Turfmen Plan Benefit Golf, Management Counsel

Two unique features of this year's Florida Turfgrass Trade Show, set for April 27 to 29 at the Diplomat Hotel, Hollywood by the Sea, will be a benefit golf tournament and a clinic conducted by a leading management counsel for turfmen.

FTGA's first annual golf tournament, to be held at the Diplomat Country Club, will boost the association's Scholarship and Research Foundation. All entrance fees will be used for future scholarships and grants, which in the past two years, have totaled more than \$2,500. Presiding over the management clinic will be Jerome Barnum, international consultant, who will discuss management problems as they relate to the small businessman and the turf industry in particular, and will be available to help with individual or group problems.

More information can be obtained from FTGA executive secretary Walter Anderson, 4065 University Boulevard North, Jacksonville, Fla. 32211.

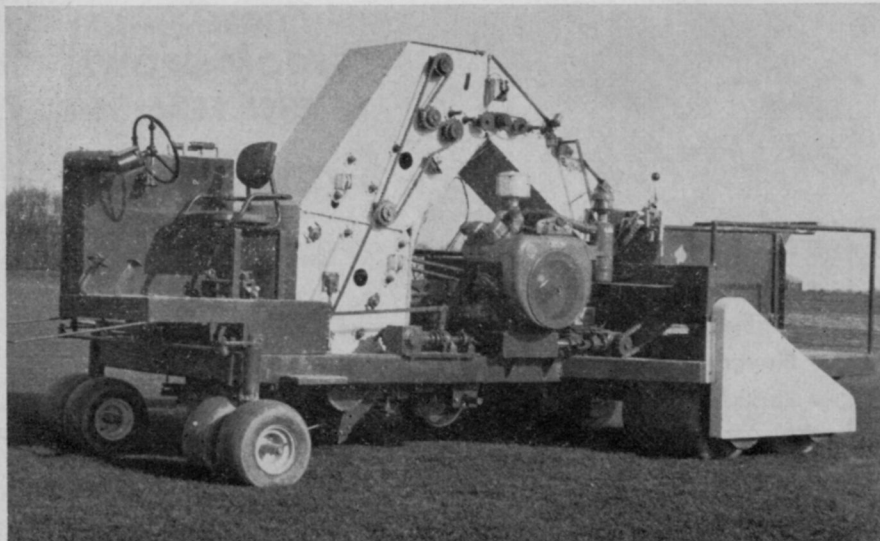
Trimmings

Same sodmen. The recent sod producers' session held at the International Turf Conference began with a nearly empty room. By the time the meeting was over and assembled sod pros had decided to take the big step toward a national producers' organization, the room was respectably full, if not exactly packed. Yet, glancing around us (we're inveterate glancers around), we couldn't help thinking that only a very few sod producers were represented at this important meeting. Of course, organization is not every man's cup of tea, and we can recall talking with growers to whom any organization is an inconvenience, if not a conspiracy, to be assiduously avoided. Nor did growers gathered in Washington leave any doubt that they were, and expected to stay, a minority party. But the fact remains that, the larger the minority, the more productive the party. And if sodmen are to gain the most from organizing, the relatively few growers who have supported a yearly sod session and who have been active in getting the ball rolling will have to be joined by others equally interested in having a say. Hope to see some new faces next time we have the chance to attend a national sod forum.

Sorry Gov'nor. Speaking of sod growers and organizations brings to mind a clipping recently received from Busch country — St. Louis. While truckloads of sod from Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller's farm stood by (sod is not very good about standing by), competing unions were arguing over which was entitled to resod Bush Stadium's field, a complete turf replacement having become necessary after one year of use. We don't know how the dispute has been settled, but we do know this is the sort of organizational snafu that accomplishes little, costs a lot, and brings a good deal of blood to the boiling point. We wonder if the Governor sent anyone up to picket the picketing union and rescue his sod from its truck bed?

Good for contractors. We're still adding to our list of cities passing get-tough weed ordinances. Latest to join the list is Dallas, Tex., which offers residents 10 days to get rid of high weed stands before city workers or private contractors are sent to do the job.

Nothing to crow about. A crow's life is not, perhaps, all it's cracked up to be. According to estimates of the redoubtable Society for the Preservation of the Crow, there are but 600,000 crows flying as crows fly about the U.S. For shame, says the SPC. "The indomitable crow" is the enemy of grubs, cutworms, beetles, and so forth. More are desperately needed; overwork is the lot of the poor crow. We suspect the SPC may be concealing something. Nevertheless, we urge patience toward the overworked crow. That mouthful of grass seed may really be a grub, and we don't want to have to "eat crow."



Princeton Turf Farms' sod harvester has been through several revisions before the production model was perfected and put through its paces on the Princeton turf. Now available, harvester is shown above without protective chain guards.