



Virginia sod producers organize. Virginia Cultivated Turfgrass Association is name chosen by new organization meeting recently at Middleburg, Va. Discussing Virginia's new sod law with group is Dennis E. Brown, Richmond, supervisor of state's Seed Regulatory Services, Department of Agriculture.

Turf Producers Form the Virginia Cultivated Turfgrass Association

Sod growers hope to improve the quality of turf sold in Virginia. They believe this is the nationwide trend. With this in mind they have formed a state association to be known as Virginia Cultivated Turfgrass Association.

Approximately 50 growers who gathered March 3 and formally organized believe this to be the opportune time to band together for purposes of building their industry. Virginia's General Assembly passed a sod law last year and the state Crop Improvement Association has recently put into operation a program for certifying and approving sod.

Under the existing Virginia Crop Improvement Association program, sods meeting standards set by the Association can be sold as approved sods.

John F. Shoulders, associate Extension agronomist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, reports that the institution and Crop Improvement Association plan to work closely with the new organization. Shoulders, along with personnel of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, worked with growers in getting the new sod group organized. They feel it will be beneficial to growers in developing improved methods of sod production, marketing, and installation. Because

Virginia is located near the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area, as well as other major eastern cities, Shoulders thinks the group can profitably coordinate its activities closely with Maryland and other nearby states which supply sod to the region. Both Maryland and New Jersey have state associations, and the national association headquarters is at Washington, D. C.

Temporary officers elected by charter members of the group are: George C. Calder, Clifton, president; Frank D. Cox, Manassas, vice-president; and Sheldon Betterly, Centerville, secretary. President Calder has announced that membership is open to persons and organizations actively engaged in production, marketing, and installation of sod.

Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Book Planned

A how-to-do-it book on right-of-way vegetation management is being planned by The Smithsonian Institution Office of Ecology. It is being written specifically for engineers and managers of the North American right-of-way domain.

Included is vegetation-covered land of highways, railroads, and electric power and pipeline companies. Goal of the book is

to provide sound scientific vegetation management practices aimed at low cost combined with high conservation of science and natural resources, and at the same time to keep within the specific engineering needs of the administering agency.

Dr. Frank E. Egler, Aton Forest, Norfolk, Conn., 06058, is authoring the book. He plans to include factual botanical specifications for various vegetation regions of the continent, preferably based on sound management programs already in progress. He reports he would appreciate any correspondence from managers, scientists, naturalists, agencies, societies, and corporations. Those who respond will be asked to prepare brief vegetation descriptions from actual localities, to later appear in the book over the names of their authors. Contributions are to be similar in form to the 4-page Old Saybrook paper, a copy of which Dr. Egler will provide.

I.S.T.C. Convention Moves to Motel

Visitors to the 1967 International Shade Tree Conference convention will meet in a motel for the first time. Richard Flynn, chairman of the group's public relations committee, says the Marriott Motor Hotel at Philadelphia, Pa., was chosen because of its size and location.

Because it is smaller than the large hotels where the convention has been held previously, the committee feels that convention-goers, Aug. 27-31, will be better able to coordinate their activities. Quality of service should be superior since the Motel is of such a size that the entire staff and facilities will be available for meeting needs of I.S.T.C. members.

The Marriott is a new motel with 450 rooms and 4 restaurants. It is located 10 minutes from downtown Philadelphia by expressway and shuttle service will be available for sight-seeing and shopping. For those who drive, the parking problem will be eliminated. Flynn reports that program details will be announced shortly.