



Frederick L. Witt, landscape architect, Catholic Cemeteries Association, Cleveland, O., left, discusses conference topics with Dr. Richard R. Davis, agronomist, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, O.



Prominent at the first Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show were, left to right: Cecil F. Kerr, Chipman Chemical Div., Rhodia, Inc.; Robert W. Miller, agronomist, Ohio State University, and executive-secretary of the Ohio group; and Harry Murray Jr., Warren Turf Nurseries, Akron, O., president of the group.

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Stages Major Conference and Show for the Industry

Industry members, 870 strong, gathered recently at Cleveland, O., for what promises to become an important yearly event for turfmen.

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation staged a major show and conference of national interest. Feeling that there was a need for an industry show coupled with a meaty educational program, the Ohio group chose to gamble that turfmen and suppliers on a nationwide basis would participate.

Results bear out the logic of their thinking. Turfmen from 25 states and Canada attended. Suppliers, 54 in all, purchased the entire 100 booth spaces which were available. The educational program, which was attended almost en masse by the group, featured the most prominent turf specialists and researchers in the nation. These program participants represented every section of the U.S.

Organization this first year naturally required cooperation

and the utmost effort on the part of the Foundation members, particularly those charged with committee assignments. Harry Murray, Jr., president of the host group, and a representative of Warren's Turf Nursery, Akron, O., was officially thanked by the organization for his work in staging the event, particularly in lining up the exhibit area at the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, and for his work with exhibitors. Professor Robert W. Miller, executive secretary of the Ohio group, and Extension agronomist at Ohio State University, Columbus, O., was largely responsible for the educational program.

Discussing his 30 years of experience in growing commercial sod, Ben Warren, Warren's Turf Nursery, Palos Park, Ill., told the group that the company presently had 360 different strains of bluegrass in evaluation plots at the Palos Park, Ill., headquarters of the company. Commercial sod grown and sold by the company is being produced in New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and California, he said.

Warren reported that the company is not completely satisfied



Enthusiastic discussions proved to be a highlight of the Ohio event. Engaged here are Jim Olinger, Warren Turf Nurseries, Plymouth, O., left, John Spodnik, Westfield Country Club, Leroy, O., center, and William Lyons, Sr., Lyons Den Club, Canal Fulton, O.



On the program which featured turfgrass management were: Dr. Edward W. Stroube, agronomist, Ohio State University, Columbus, O., left, Dr. Houston B. Couch, plant pathologist and physiologist, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va., and Dr. William H. Daniel, agronomist, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.



Past Presidents of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation were honored by members. Left to right are: Harry Murray, Jr., Akron, O.; Curtis Overson, Columbus, O.; George Hammond, Columbus, O.; and Roy Haney, Troy, Mich. Unable to be present for the conference this year was Past-President Dick Weaver, Cleveland, O.

with any bluegrass which is available today. His remarks indicated that as a result of testing by his company, commercial bluegrasses will become important in the market.

New Varieties Compared To Merion Bluegrass

Before Merion bluegrass was available, Warren said that the biggest problem faced was Helminthosporium leaf spot. Since Merion is resistant to this disease, every new selection of bluegrass has had to match or beat the resistance of Merion. A new grass must also excel in the areas where Merion is weak. These areas are primarily susceptibility to stripe smut, Fusarium roseum, powdery mildew and stem rust.

Warren said his company now has about 40 selections which have leaf spot resistance equal to Merion. He mentioned Warren's A-20 bluegrass as outstanding, and reported that in 7 years of observation, no leaf spot, stripe smut, mildew nor stem rust had been detected. Another Warren selection, A-10, has avoided Fusarium roseum completely. Because of this and other resistances, he feels it may allow the southern range of bluegrass adaptability to be extended. Another Warren selection which he rates very high is known as A-34. It has proved to be very good in shaded areas.

Effective irrigation systems do

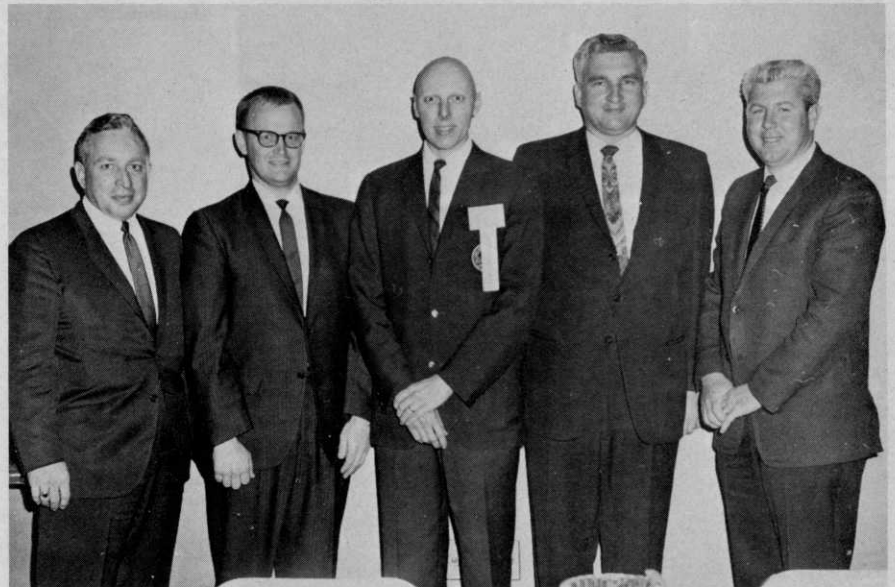
not just happen. They require many stages of design, building and trial use before they can be considered "happy" systems. Such is the thinking of Walter J. Wilkie, March Irrigation, Muskegan, Mich. Discussing irrigation system design with turfmen, Wilkie defined a so-called "happy" system as one which is useful and effective, and which fits the specific requirements of the user.

Because an irrigation system often represents one of the greatest capital expenditures within the turf industry, Wilkie cau-

tioned turfmen against gambling or becoming a guinea pig for an untried system. He urged buyers of systems to investigate and research every possible type of system available. He believes the prospective buyer must become knowledgeable and, above all, must know his specific needs. Wilkie discussed his experience during the planning and construction of Cleveland's Oakwood Country Club system.

The Oakwood Club system, Wilkie said, involved a 5-part process. He listed the parts as follows: (1) information gather-

Officers for 1968 and the two newly named directors are, left to right: Robert O'Brien, Century Toro Distributor, Toledo, O., a new director; Gene Probasco, Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Co., Columbus, O., treasurer; Charles Tadge, Mayfield Country Club, South Euclid, O., president; Richard Craig, Chemargo Country Club, Cincinnati, O., 2nd vice-president; and Paul Morgan, Browns Run Country Club, Middletown, O., new director. First vice-president Robert Rieman, Woodville, O., was not present for the picture.

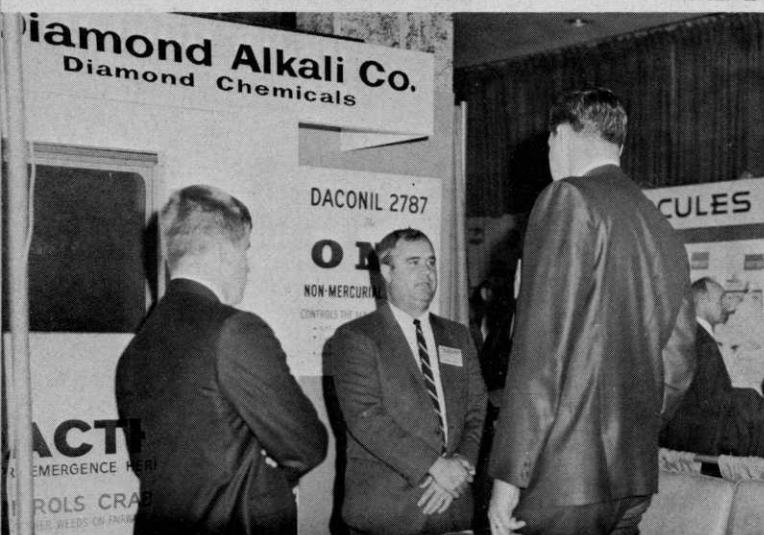




Hercules, Inc., representatives, Charles K. Mruk, left, and R. E. Gorfowski, center, talk shop with Dean Peterson, Lakeshore Equipment Co., Cleveland, O.



Russell E. Rose, Ryan Equipment Co., St. Paul, Minn., mans Ryan's booth which was one of 100 among 54 exhibitors at the show.



Diamond Alkali which has now been announced as Diamond Shamrock Corporation exhibited the full line of Diamond chemicals.



Busy at the Toro booth are, left to right: Frank Petranek, mayor of Garfield Heights, O., Tom Steers, Toro, Dr. James Watson, Toro, J. G. Dunbar, Toro, and Jack Brantl, Century Toro Distributor.

ing stage; (2) design stage; (3) construction stage; (4) balancing and adjusting stage; and (5) happy usage stage. By this approach, Wilkie says, a system doesn't just happen. It unfolds. It comes about by direct and deliberate planning. Through every stage, questions evolve and are answered. Among the questions answered as the various stages unfold are the following, which are typical concerns of the turfmen contemplating an irrigation system: (1) what type turf are we watering; (2) how much water does it require; (3) how fast will the soil take the water; (4) are there any extreme dry or wet spots within the given soil structure; (5) where do we get our water; (6) how much water is available; (7) how much time can we have in a given day to apply the water; (8) whose equipment should we use; (9) what type of pipe should we use; and (10) how much money can be spent on the system.

Most Questions Answered As System Plans Unfold

As the system design and construction unfolds, these and other questions, Wilkie believes, can be answered and incorporated into the master plan. He points out that it is a tedious and time consuming process. But he stresses that a "happy" system is worth the effort.

William E. Lyons, Lyons Den Golf, Inc., Canal Fulton, O., told conferees that there is a fine distinction between liming turf areas and liming regular soils. Mixing lime with turf, based on a mixed sample of the top 6"-8" can be very misleading, he says. In agriculture seedbed preparation, this may well be the best method. But with turfgrass, Lyons made the point that lime moves downward and turfgrass soil mixtures tend to be much more alkaline in the lower zones. Yet the mat and the upper layers may be quite acid. He believes this comes about as a result of heavy watering and nitrogen use which is necessary and common on golf greens.

Lyons takes soil samples by

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using a home made golf shaft plugger. He lifts a sample of the mat without soil, then a surface sample. Next he takes sample chips at succeeding half-inch depths. Each sample is saturated with Reagent #2 from the Purdue University soil test lab. Color changes are matched on the color chart to determine the alkalinity or acidity of each zone and lime is applied accordingly.

If only the mat is highly acid, Lyons suggests applying only 2 pounds of hydrated lime per green or per 1000 square feet. When both mat and surface area are acid, he applies 25 pounds of superfine dolomite lime per 1000 square feet. In eastern Ohio, Lyons said, it is safe to apply 25 pounds of superfine lime of heavier applications of agri-slag per 1000 square feet every spring.

Dr. Edward W. Strouble, Ohio State University agronomist, presented an in-depth paper on weed control in turf. He said that a dense, healthy stand of turfgrass is the best method of controlling weeds. But, he also stressed that herbicides must be used to develop completely weed-free turf.

Dr. Strouble emphasized that the important facet in weed control is to get uniform distribution of the correct amounts of chemical. There are many formulations of herbicides, and many types of equipment with which to apply them. When the proper active ingredient is present in the herbicide and it is applied properly it will help produce desirable, weed-free turfgrass.

Dr. Strouble said the simplest way to apply the desired amount of material as a spray is to add the amount required for a given area to a relatively large quantity of water. He suggested one gallon of water for each 200 to 300 square feet of area. Then the measured lawn area can be covered repeatedly until all the solution is used. After the first coverage, he believes it is best

to go crosswise to the previous spray pattern each time.

When applying granular herbicides, Dr. Strouble said that the setting with one of the smallest openings is often required. To be sure the setting is correct, he suggests applying a given amount of granules to a small measured area before treating an entire turf area.

Dr. Robert W. Miller, executive-secretary of the Foundation, was awarded the first "Man of the Year" honor. Harry Murray, Jr., president of the group, in presenting the award pointed out that among Dr. Miller's accomplishments this past year were helping organize this first Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, advising and teaching Ohio turfgrass students, and developing a new field research area at Ohio State for evaluation of grass species and varieties, fertility studies, ecology research, and weed control tests.

Officers elected for 1968 are as follows: Charles Tadge, Mayfield Country Club, South Euclid, O., president; Robert Riegan, Ohio Lime Co., Woodville, O., 1st vice-president; Richard Craig, Chemargo Country Club, Cincinnati, O., 2nd vice-president; Gene Probasco, Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Co., Columbus, O., treasurer; and Dr. Robert W. Miller, Ohio State University extension agronomist, Columbus, O., executive-secretary.

Thiodan Registered For Spruce Gall Aphid Control

Spruce gall aphid infestations can now be combatted with Thiodan. This chemical has recently been granted registration by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Produced by the Niagara Chemical Division, FMC Corporation, Middleport, N. Y., Thiodan is an insecticide especially valuable for use on spruce trees.

For 100 gallons of water, the label calls for 0.5 lb. of actual Thiodan in emulsifiable concentrate form. Application, according to Niagara, needs to be made in late April or early May when aphids are present, but before galls are formed.

Trimmings

Insist On Seeing the Label. Turf specialist Dr. Elwyn Deal at the University of Maryland tells of a homeowner caller who related that he had purchased 5 pounds of "Kentucky bluegrass" seed at 95¢ per pound. His first-class soil preparation and seeding job netted him a good stand in just 6 days. But a check with the state seed lab showed he had actually received annual ryegrass for his 95¢ per pound price. He admitted that he had bought the seed in bulk without seeing either the label or the container from which it came. We have bought seed like this ourselves but we are sure that professional turfmen wouldn't buy seed from an open barrel without seeing the label, even if it looked good.

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Trees Can Be Hurt By Winter Drought. Long periods of freezing weather without snow cover can lead to winter drought damage on trees. President of Bartlett Tree Experts, Robert A. Bartlett, says even though frozen soils contain some moisture it may be locked up. He suggests watching for winter injury early in the spring. If it exists, feed trees amply and give continuous care by pruning, spraying, and watering. Winter damaged trees usually put forth only half the normal foliage, fruit heavily, then die during the growing season. Street trees are particularly susceptible.

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Giant Red Pine Located. A 120-foot Red Pine has been located in Itasca State Park, Minn., by University foresters. They estimate the tree is 300 years old. It shows evidence of fire scars from at least 6 forest fires. The tree is 37 inches in diameter, 115 inches in circumference, and has a crown spread of 36 feet. Officials are particularly happy with the find since this is Minnesota's official state tree. Also, the previously largest known Red Pine was a 98-footer in Wisconsin. Certification of the new record has been registered with the American Forestry Association which records American "Big Trees."

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Industries Need Spray Service. More spraymen to do custom weed control work are needed by industry. Many factories and warehouse areas are troubled by weed problems, especially in little used areas. Plant managers don't have the personnel or know-how and are not aware that such service is available, even to a limited extent. We discussed this with John Veatch, Veatch Chemical Company, at St. Louis this past week. He feels as we do, that Pest Control Operators can easily move into this area. They have the equipment and the personnel who know how to handle chemicals. Training should be minimal. Tree care companies are also doing some of this type work but the word isn't general among industries needing the service, Veatch says.