

San Antonio's Hemisfair Will Feature Native Trees

When San Antonio's Hemisfair '68 opens to visitors April 6, one of the features will be almost 2000 native specimen trees. Budget for landscaping at this world's fair is \$800,000. Of this, more than \$250,000 will be spent for pruning, planting and caring for trees and ground cover.

The 92.6-acre site of the 1968 world's fair, in the heart of downtown San Antonio, was once a desirable residential area. In later years it had become crowded with one, two and three story homes. Here, too, were nearly 2,000 native trees, including pecan, hackberry, liveoak, elm, lemon, orange and avocado.

Some of the striking old homes will be restored by Hemisfair for use during the fair. Preserving the trees is the job of Robert Copeland, landscape architect for Hemisfair.

Before bulldozers started razing the site, Copeland spent many hours studying the grounds. Each tree was numbered and tagged for preservation or removal. In the end, more than 1,300 trees were left standing.

To save some especially old or beautiful tree, concessions were made in the design of the structures to come. For example, part of the mile-long artificial waterway at the fair was dog-legged around a majestic old 60-foot tree.

To provide shade where there is none, approximately 400 large trees, each 25 to 40 feet tall, are being transplanted on the site. Native oak and elm are being trucked from the "hill country" north of San Antonio. The topsoil here goes down less than three feet before bedrock is reached. Root structure spreads laterally over the rock, making the job of lifting the trees relatively easy.

Some 100,000 square feet of sod, most of it zoysia grass and St. Augustinegrass, will be planted.

Trees already growing on the site have been barricaded to prevent damage by trucks, bulldozers and other heavy construction

equipment. Each tree has been given a value tag, ranging from \$200 to \$2,000, according to size and type. Any contractor who destroys one unnecessarily must pay the fair corporation for a replacement.

Activated Charcoal Helps Nullify Herbicide Residue

Activated charcoal has been used to nullify the harmful effects of herbicide residues on turf. Research at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I., by John A. Jagschitz shows that this product will absorb the molecules of harmful residues.

Discussing this at the Northeastern Weed Control Conference at New York City last month, Jagschitz pointed out that weed control chemicals used on turf leave a residue in the soil which prevents establishment of new turfgrass from seed. Such residues may last from several weeks to several months, he said. Some herbicides require a level which proves harmful for the entire season. This creates a problem in establishing new seedings.

Jagschitz said that activated charcoal mixed with soil at the time of seeding eliminated the harmful effects of such broadleaf

weed killers as 2,4-D, Banvel D, MCP, Tordon, and Silvex. Successful seedings in the Rhode Island experiments, he said, were also made in soils previously treated with preemergence crabgrass chemicals such as Azak, Bandane, Betasan, Dacthal, and Planavin.

Activated charcoal, a powdery carbon substance, is one of the most efficient adsorbents. It has an extremely large surface area in comparison to its volume.

Siduron was the only chemical used which did not inhibit turfgrass establishment.

Southern Cal Turf Council Elects Officers For 1968

Officers and directors for the Southern California Turfgrass Council were elected at the January membership meeting at Los Angeles, Calif. President for the new year will be Robert Scofield, Robinson Fertilizer Co., and vice-president in charge of programs is Hugh McKay, Moist-O-Matic Division, Pacific Toro Company.

William E. Howlett, Cal-Turf, Inc., was elected vice-president in charge of membership; Paul Adams, City of Burbank, secretary; and Dr. H. Hamilton Williams, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, treasurer.



Orville G. Bentley, dean of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, center, looks over the program for the 8th Illinois Turfgrass Conference with 4 of the 200 people who attended. They are, from left: Peter Vandercook, Orland Park; Francis Hinricks, Racine, Wisconsin; Bentley; C. M. Hunt, Keokuk, Iowa; and Wayne Trometer, Orland Park. U. of I. turf specialists reported the latest turf research at the December 7-8 meeting.