



Dr. W. Wayne Allen, agricultural consultant, College Station, Tex., left, and Dr. John Long, director, Biochemistry Research, O. M. Scott and Sons Co., Marysville, O., discuss growth inhibitors at Texas turf session. Dr. Allen serves as executive secretary of the Texas Turfgrass Association.

for the protection of the user.

Athletic field care continues to challenge the personnel responsible for maintaining appearance and utility at the same time the area is being heavily used. This is particularly true of football fields. Dr. J. R. Watson, Toro Manufacturing Corporation, Minneapolis, Minn., discussed some of the problems in this type management. He said proper management of football fields can be a great aid in keeping down injuries, particularly among elementary and high school players.

Dr. Watson pointed out that footing for the athlete is usually good if the grass is in good condition. This requires proper fertilizer balance. When the field is properly fertilized, turf is less likely to be torn by cleats. He went on to say that bermudagrass is the best and most popular football field grass for Texas, though some selections can do a better job with proper management. Ryegrass, Dr. Watson said, is strong and competitive, and can be seeded just prior to the season. It can also be reseeded. Common bermuda can be used, particularly if it is overseeded early in the season, and reseeded lightly through the season. This reseeded, Dr. Watson said, serves to introduce

Texas Turfgrass Conference Features Intensive 3-Day Technical Training

TURFGRASS in Texas is big business. Yearly cost of turf maintenance in the state is set at more than \$211 million. This adds up to 1/7 of the total value of all agricultural crops.

Grass varieties are primarily bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass. Bermudagrass accounts for 41% of that used on home lawns, St. Augustinegrass for 56%. Miscellaneous varieties make up the other 3%. These are also the primary grasses which concern professional personnel who are responsible for turf maintenance, though specialty types are used as needed. Most of these and their care were key topics at the 3-day Texas Turfgrass Conference, Dec. 4-6.

Dr. W. Wayne Allen, agricultural consultant, College Station, Tex., and executive-secretary of the group said that those attending the Conference were largely concerned with golf courses, parks, cemeteries, institutions, schools, industrial areas, and rights-of-way maintenance on highways, utility lines, and railroads.

In discussing disease control

with the group, Dr. Bob Miller, E. I. du Pont and Co., Wilmington, Del., pointed out that chemicals are for aid in solving problems. They are not intended, he said, to replace the man in management. He urged turf specialists to read and then heed the labels. These, he stressed, are

New officers of the Texas Turfgrass Association, elected for 1968 at the Texas Turfgrass Conference are: Jim Holub, golf superintendent, River Oaks Country Club, Houston, Tex., president, left; and Phil Huey, superintendent, Parks Department, Dallas, Tex., vice-president.



young healthy plants into the mature turf.

Topdressing athletic fields helps to level out turf and improve footing. And topdressing will also aid thatch control, according to Dr. Watson. He suggested a topdressing of organic matter gained by use of peat, cobs, sawdust and possibly other materials in compost form.

Growth Inhibitors May Become Turf Help

Growth inhibitors are relatively new and promise to become a management factor in turf care during the coming years. Dr. John Long, director, Biochemistry Research, O. M. Scott and Sons Company, Marysville, O., discussed his work with a number of experimental chemicals. His evaluation of growth inhibitors for use on turf is that too many limitations exist at the present time.

Performance of turf treated by a growth inhibitor can be predicted fairly accurately, according to Dr. Long. While types and varieties of grasses react differently to the several types of inhibitors he has used, all grasses will show a less intense color level after treatment. Less dense areas of turf fill in more slowly. Any mechanical damage to turf is much slower to recover. There is a greater than normal growth of grass when the inhibitor dissipates.

For the specialist who plans to use a growth inhibitor on turf, Dr. Long specified the optimum conditions of grass for treatment. First, he said that grass should be in an active growth stage. High turf density is needed, along with an adequate fertilizer level. An adequate soil moisture level is mandatory. Pest control is also necessary.

More than 250 turf specialists attended the Conference which was held at Texas A&M University and co-sponsored by the Texas Turfgrass Association and the University. Jim Holub, golf superintendent, River Oaks Country Club, Houston, Tex., was elected president. The group named Phil Huey, superintendent, Parks Department,

Dallas, Tex., as vice-president, and Dr. W. Wayne Allen, agricultural consultant, College Station, Tex., as executive secretary. The 1968 Conference will be held December 2-4.

Roadside Management On New England Chemical Conference Agenda

Turfgrass is a valuable asset for roadside rights-of-way. But maintaining all roadsides in turf is an expensive factor in highway maintenance. R. B. Thorton, manager of the U.S. National Plant Materials Center, Beltsville, Md., says that some use of other covers in selected areas can reduce maintenance costs. Thorton, speaking to 150 delegates at the recent New England Chemical Conference, Concord, N. H., believes that use of crown vetch, low growing lespedezas and similar plants could be increased. He suggested using woody plants for screen effects, beauty spots and for erosion control.

W. J. Garmhausen, chief landscape architect for the Ohio Department of Highways, pointed out that necessity and economics have often dictated development of land transportation systems. Today, he said, highway systems are so complex that specialists in all areas are demanded. But to the usual engineering and other speciality areas must be added aesthetics, pleasure and recreation. Views and vistas, Garm-



Roadside development today is no longer an embellishment, but is planned for the needs of citizens, according to Conference speaker W. L. Hottenstein, above, U.S. Department of Interior.

hausen said, are as important now as grades and curves.

J. A. Dietrich concluded, however, that beautification without maintenance could well lead to ugly dilapidation. Dietrich, Superintendent of Parks and Trees for Greenwich, Connecticut, and also past president of the Natural Shade Tree Association, told the delegates that "one of the most pressing challenges for the individual is the depression and the tension resulting from existence in a world which is increasingly less pleasing to the eye". He went on, however, to show how "beauty can become a reality in any community if properly controlled and organized and our nation will become a more delight-

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W. I. Boyd, E.I. du Pont de Nemours Chemical Co., left, and Dr. H. E. Wave, University of Maine, discuss New England Chemical Conference program. Boyd discussed highway brush control with group. Dr. Wave served as the Conference chairman.

