



Scene from the first ASPA national field day demonstration in July, 1967, at Halmich Sod Nurseries, Lansing, Mich. Action is expected to be repeated this year with more equipment and a bigger percent of the nation's sod producers on hand.

American Sod Producers Association To Stage 2nd Nat'l. Field Day On July 30

"Calling all sod growers!" That's the gist of efforts this month by George B. Hammond, executive-secretary of the American Sod Producers Association. Hammond who lives at Columbus, O., and operates Paint Valley Bluegrass Farm has spent most of the last few weeks lining up exhibitors and making arrangements for the second national field day of the ASPA.

This year a major field demonstration, expected to attract a high percentage of the nation's growers, is being held at Shamrock Turf Nursery, Hanna, Indiana, on July 30.

Growers will see practically every type of sod harvesting and handling equipment on the job. Don Morrill, owner of Shamrock Turf Nursery, and host for the big day, has set aside a sod field for equipment to work. This is an area just beyond a stationary exhibit booth area. All makers of sod producing, harvesting,

maintenance, and handling equipment are expected to exhibit. Most will also demonstrate their equipment.

ASPA's first field day last summer at Lansing, Mich., brought together the greatest array of equipment designed for the sod grower ever seen at any one location. Growers attending were astounded at the variety. This is logical since growers had just organized as a national group and the industry is relatively new. More equipment is expected this second year.

Ben O. Warren, Warren Turf Nurseries, Palos Park, Ill., president of ASPA, stresses that all growers are invited, and urged to attend, regardless of whether or not they are members of the association. No registration fee will be charged and a box lunch will be available at the noon hour.

Two tours of Shamrock Turf Nursery are scheduled for the

morning of July 31, one at 10:00 a.m. and the second at 11:00 a.m. Host Don Morrill will conduct these and growers will see his 200 acres of Merion bluegrass plus a small acreage of the new Fylking which he is growing at this location. Registration will precede these tours and is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. However, late arrivals may register until noon.

Following the lunch hour, equipment field demonstrations will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Each manufacturer

*Event: ASPA Field Day
Where: Shamrock Turf Nursery, Hanna, Indiana
When: July 30, 1968
Sponsor: American Sod Producers Association
Host: Don Morrill, Shamrock Turf Nursery*

or distributor will be allotted a time slot for operating equipment. Agronomist William Daniel, Purdue University, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The ASPA Field Day follows, by a day, the Purdue University Summer Turf Day, scheduled for Lafayette, Ind., July 29. For growers who are driving, Hanna, Ind., is located about 80 miles north of Lafayette, Ind., on US Hiway 30 between Plymouth and Valparaiso. Shamrock Turf Nursery is one-half mile north of US Hiway 30 on Indiana Route 39, and 15 miles south of the Indiana toll road, when using the exit for Route 39. For those growers who may be flying private planes, the nearest airport is at South Bend, Ind., some 35 miles north of Hanna. Midway Airport at Chicago, Ill., is approximately 65 miles from Hanna. Motels are available at Plymouth and Valparaiso for overnight visitors. A small motel is also located at Hanna.

Close-up of shielded rotary mower in operation under Green Valley irrigation pipe.



Rotary mower in tilted position showing mounting of the three 18-inch turbo cones.



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Special Type Mower For Irrigation Pipe

Green Valley Turf Company, Littleton, Colo., has solved the common problem of mowing under irrigation pipe. Manager of the 400-acre sod farm, J. R. "Rusty" Wilkins, and K. C. Ensor, president, designed a shielded irrigation pipe line mower to supplement the gang mower.

Basically the unit is made up with three 18-inch Jacobson turbo cones. Mounted on a regular tractor it can be used to mow at any time without moving irrigation pipe.

Green Valley irrigates at a rate approaching 2 million gallons daily from wells. Irrigation pipe of 1½" and 2" sizes are used. Wilkins says the system consists of 5500 heads of 1½" size on as many pieces of pipe, and 2500 additional heads of 2" size. Rainbird sprinklers are automatically sequenced by time-control valves.