



This Bell 47G-4 helicopter aids unsuccessful pine regeneration by distributing specially treated seeds over some 1500 acres of New Zealand forest-area.

New Zealand Whirly-birds Aid Pine Regeneration

In the space of 2 days each year, a single helicopter does a reseeded job that would require the efforts of 750 men, according to officials of N. Z. Forest Products, Ltd., New Zealand.

Each spring (September in New Zealand), a huge bird population feasts on pine cone seeds from 1500 acres of trees that were felled the preceding winter. This seed destruction prevents natural regeneration of the pines, thereby making re-seeding of the area necessary.

Here's how the company and its contract operator, Helicopters (N. Z.) Ltd., cope with the situation.

Pinus radiata seeds treated with Arasan 425, which irritates membranes in birds' nostrils and eyes, are sown via helicopter over the 1500-acre area each spring. Two pounds of the bird-

repellent seeds are distributed per acre at a rate of 8 acres a minute.

Taking only 10 hours of actual operating time, company officials say this is a fast and effective method of insuring an abundant growth of seedlings for forests of the future, much to the dismay of the seed-loving birds.

GE and URI Join Forces in Turf Heating Studies

Other professional football teams may follow the example of the Green Bay Packers in heating their playing fields with electric cable, predict researchers from both the University of Rhode Island and General Electric.

URI turf researchers have been studying soil heating in cooperation with GE, the company that wired the Green Bay field,

since 1965. Their new experimental area at the URI's College of Agriculture is a large 30'x75' turf section wired to test the performance of 3 types of cable, each made of different insulating material and each carrying different wattage.

Other questions for which GE and the URI's agronomy dept. are seeking answers include the effects of different temperatures on turf in terms of diseases and physiological functions and the results of using various kinds of tarpaulins on heated turf.

Both URI turf researchers and GE engineers believe that heated turf has endless possibilities for extending through Christmas the season for many kinds of recreational playing fields.

New Jersey Promotes Certified Seed Program

A limited lawn seed certification program is being promoted in New Jersey. A quantity of a blend of 40% each of Kentucky and Merion bluegrasses, and 20% creeping red fescue is being packaged and distributed under the state's seed certification tag. Rutgers University College of Agriculture has approved the blend and certification is by the state's Department of Agriculture.

Blending is being done by a North Jersey seedsman who is cooperating in the program. He is using seed from Oregon and South Dakota to make up the blend, which is packaged and retailed in 2-pound units. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture analyzes each lot and requires that each 2-pound package carry a serial number issued by the Department.

About 100,000 pounds of seed is expected to be marketed for home owners in the area this season. This should be enough to seed the equivalent of 1250 acres of lawn area. Seed is being distributed largely through 2 major food chains in the state.