Thomson Machinery's newly acquired Overland scraper line offers 1, 1½ and 2-cubic yard capacities. Scrapers with larger capacities will be offered in the near future, according to Thomson.

Thomson Machinery Adds Overland Scrapers to Line

Thomson Machinery Co., Inc., Thibodaux, La., manufacturer of sugar cane field equipment, recently acquired the name, design and manufacturing rights to the Overland scraper from Overland Equipment Co., Inc., Buena Park, Calif.

A subsidiary of Seilon, Inc. of Toledo, Ohio, Thomson announced no major changes are planned immediately on the scraper line. Presently, two models are available in manually operated M-100, M-150 and M-200; and hydraulically operated H-100, H-150, and H-200. Scrapers with 3, 4½ and 6-cubic yard capacities will be available in the near future, Thomson revealed.

Purdue Engineers Evaluate Electric Turf Heating

Electric heating of turf in sports stadiums is now beyond the experimental stage and may be the forerunner of a technique to help feed people, according to Purdue University's J. R. Barrett, Jr. and F. W. Harwood of the agricultural engineering department and W. H. Daniel, turf specialist in the agronomy department.

In describing heating systems now in use, the Purdue men discussed the objective of the Lambeau Field (home of the Green Bay Packers) installation, which was to prevent the field from freezing, at least until the National Football League play-off game last December. Other hoped-for results included: seeding and sodding cost reduction, faster rejuvenation of damaged turf, reduced injuries, faster drying and some snow melting.

Green Bay's system cost an estimated $80-$100 thousand; the heating bill $10-$20 thousand, according to the engineers.

In commercial turf heating, a system of cables is buried six or seven inches in the earth, the exact design varying with climatic location, availability and cost of power, extent of and use for each turf area and the grass variety used, they said.

However, shallowly buried cables can cause headaches, they revealed. Groundskeepers must be careful not to puncture the cables, as breaks are difficult and time consuming to locate.

They quoted Green Bay coach Vince Lombardi, who said, "The 'electric blanket' was a very successful operation—we just have to use a different tarp. Moisture forms between the tarp and the turf and freezes—that is what caused the field problems we had for the championship game."

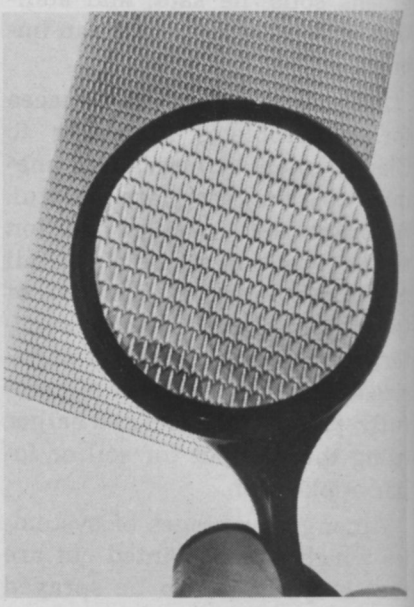
Looking ahead, the Purdue engineers said that electrically heated golf greens are under consideration. Perhaps the modification of temperatures of plant-supporting mediums will some day help grow food, they added.

National-Standard Offers New Pierced-Metal Screen

A new design in pierced-metal screens has been introduced by National - Standard Co., Perforated Metals Plant, Carbondale, Pa. Stainless steel Slotted Conidure™ offers long life, improved throughput, increased screening efficiency and reduced clogging for screens in centrifuges, dewatering presses and other dewatering equipment used in chemical and food processing, according to the company.

A unique piercing process insures that slots are highly tapered in the screening direction. By permitting sheet thickness to exceed hole diameter, this technique combines long-screen life with high throughput.

Contact the Carbondale plant for complete details.



New Slotted Conidure™ metal screen provides unique tapering of slots to prevent clogging or binding, according to National-Standard.