

## Meeting Dates



**Turf Conference**, New York State Federation of Golf Course Superintendents, Nevele Country Club, Ellenville, N. Y., October 8-9.

**Turfgrass Management Conference**, Florida Turfgrass Association, Ramada Inn, Gainesville, Fla., Oct. 8-10.

**Southern California Equipment and Materials Educational Exposition**, City Park, Lynwood, Calif., Oct. 16-17.

**Central Plains Turfgrass Conference**, Central Plains Turfgrass Association, U S G A Green Section and Kansas State Univ., K-State Campus, Manhattan, Kan., Oct. 16-18.

**Industrial Weed Control Conference**, 3rd Annual, Texas A&M University, Memorial Student Center, College Station, Tex., Oct. 20-22.

**Southern Fertilizer Conference**, National Plant Food Institute, Mariott Motor Hotel, Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 23-25.

**American Society of Agronomy, 1968 Annual National Meeting**, Jung and Roosevelt Hotels, New Orleans, La., Nov. 10-15.

**National Aerial Applicators Association, Annual Meeting**, Dunes Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev., Dec. 1-4.

**Illinois Turfgrass Conference, Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Inc.**, Building Auditorium, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., Dec. 5-6.

**Golf Turf Symposium**, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents of America and Milwaukee Sewage Commission, Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 11-12.

**40th International Turfgrass Conference and Show**, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, Fountainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 19-24.

**American Sod Producers Association Annual Meeting**, Fountainebleau Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 22.

**Weed Science Society of America Annual Meeting**, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nev., Feb. 10-14.

**Lawn and Utility Turf Growers Course**, Rutgers University, College of Agriculture and Environmental Science Campus, New Brunswick, N.J., Feb. 17-19.

**Golf and Fine Turf Growers Course**, Rutgers University, College of Agricultural and Environmental Science Campus, New Brunswick, N.J., Feb. 19-21.

## HRI Study Reveals Scope of Nursery Industry

The American Association of Nurserymen's Horticultural Research Institute has made available, for the first time, information that measures the economic size and scope of the nursery industry.

A summary of the HRI project—entitled "Scope of the Nursery Industry"—contains data regarding all types of nursery businesses, from wholesale operations to landscape, mail order and garden centers. Figures presented include employment profiles, job classifications, payrolls, production acreage, chemical and equipment uses and business profiles of all types.

The study, for example, reveals that wholesale nursery growers spend over \$13 million annually on fertilizer and pest control chemicals: \$8 million on fertilizers, \$2 million on weed killers, \$2 million on insecticides and \$1 million on fungicides. Preliminary figures of the summary also indicate that retail nursery stock sales during 1966 amounted to over \$1.6 billion.

The entire "Scope" summary may be obtained by sending \$3 to: Horticultural Research Institute, 833 Southern Building, Washington, D. C. 20005. Copies are free to HRI members.

## American Golf Courses Stricken with Blight

Pythium Blight—also known as "cottony blight"—is a grass-killing fungus that is causing fairways and greens of golf courses across the nation to be closed for repairs, according to a survey by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The disease is most aggressive in moisture-saturated atmospheres where temperatures range between 85° F and 95° F,

says GCSAA. It has no known cause or cure, nor are there any preventive measures for curbing it. Chemical programs may contain the fungus briefly, according to the survey, but the surest "stopper" is cool, dry weather. This unfortunately leaves the golf superintendent at the mercy of the uncontrollable weather.

A whitish cobwebby substance forms in and on top of infected turf in early morning. With the rising of the sun, the turf becomes water-soaked, with the darkened fungus giving off a greasy appearance. Later in the day the "web" disappears, and the infected leaves take on a tan to red color. In early infection periods, these spots run in streaks, following the surface drainage patterns of the links.

The most seriously damaged courses, the survey notes, are in the following areas: metropolitan St. Louis and the remainder of the crabgrass belt, ranging from Kansas City to Washington D. C.; the Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati areas plus the Carolinas; central Illinois and central Indiana.

## New Fertilizer Packet Regulated by Weather

Wisconsin's S & D Products, Inc. is now manufacturing the recently developed "Root Contact Paket," a slow-release fertilizer.

Improved plant survival, increased shoot growth and lower replacement costs are among the advantages of using the new packet fertilizer, says its developer, Professor O. J. Attoe, Soils Department, University of Wisconsin.

The packet is a heat-sealed, polyethylene-paper envelope containing specified quantities of water-soluble (16-8-16) fertilizer. Upon planting, the packet is placed unopened next to plant roots. Soil vapor enters micropore "pinholes" in the

packet's sides and slowly dissolves the fertilizer, which escapes in liquid form. The combination of slow release and minimal amounts of fertilizer delivered to a plant at any one time assures that fertilizer burn of root tendrils will not occur, Attoe says.

The packet's activity is largely controlled by the seasons, i.e. it operates through a timing mechanism triggered by vapor pressure in warm soil and halted when the soil is cold. Thus, fertilizer is not released during plants' dormant periods, according to Attoe.

The life of a two-ounce packet is usually about five years, he says. In warmer climates, however, it is reduced to about three.

Recommended for roses, potted plants, deciduous bushes, evergreens, shade and fruit trees, Root Contact Paket may be used in new plantings or with established plants.

For more information, write S & D Products, Inc., 216 S. Minnesota St., Prairie du Chien, Wis. 53821.

## MSU Says Lawns Need Air Circulation and Nitrogen

A recent Michigan State University study has indicated that surrounding your lawn with a solid screen of trees and shrubs will increase lawn maintenance problems.

If air movement across a lawn is restricted, the grass may die from high temperatures. This results in a brown, weak turf incapable of resisting injury from insects, drought or disease.

Another MSU tip concerns the addition of nitrogen in developing a more lush lawn. Dr. Paul E. Rieke, MSU soil scientist, suggests guidelines for nitrogen application.

On Merion bluegrass and bentgrass receiving plenty of water, apply 6 to 8 lbs. of actual nitro-

gen annually per 1000 sq. ft. of turf. As no more than 2 lbs. of actual nitrogen should ever be applied at a time, divide this amount among 3 or 4 applications.

Use 8 lbs. of nitrogen annually on heavily watered, sandy soil; on low management turf, use 4 to 6 lbs.

On other Kentucky bluegrass, 3 to 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. should be applied to turf getting lots of water; 2 to 3 lbs. for non-irrigated turf. For red fescues, only 1 to 3 lbs. should be applied per 1000 sq. ft.

MSU studies show that about 40% of your total fertilizer requirement should be applied in April and May, about 20% in June and July, and the remaining 40% in August and September.

The key to good lawn maintenance is getting an early start with fertilizer to help your grass get a jump on any weeds that may be present, says Rieke. It may be necessary to mow more often, making sure clippings are removed to avoid susceptibility to thatching.

If your lawn has come through the winter with a good stand and color, fertilize a little later in the spring, Rieke suggests. This will mean less mowing, less nitrogen, and fewer clippings to remove.

## Booklet Illustrates Proper Chain Saw Usage

McCulloch Corporation is now offering a new, revised edition of its pocket-sized booklet, "CHAIN SAW OPERATION." Text and illustrations cover tree felling, bucking, limbing and firewood cutting plus wearing apparel and chain saw maintenance tips.

For a free copy, write the Public Relations Dept., McCulloch Corp., 6101 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

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