

Ferguson Resigns U. S. Golf Assn. Position

Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Mid-Continent Director and Research coordinator for the United States Golf Association Green Section has resigned, effective at the end of the month, to engage in private business as president of Agri-Systems of Texas, Inc.

Agri-Systems of Texas, Inc. will provide a variety of services to turf and to agriculture in general. Areas of activity will include golf course design and construction supervision, irrigation systems design and installation, laboratory services for physical analyses of soils, sod production and sales, and consultation services for the turf-grass industry and for agriculture. Offices and laboratory of Agri-Systems of Texas, Inc. are located at 1200 Villa Maria Road, P. O. Box 3757, Bryan, Texas 77801.

Stripe Smut Is Difficult To Control, Says Partyka

Stripe smut, a serious problem on Merion bluegrass, is caused by a fungus that grows best during cool temperatures of early spring and late fall, according to R. E. Partyka, Extension plant pathologist at The Ohio State University.

Infected plants are often stunted and pale green to yellow in color. As the disease advances, the leaf blades curl; gray to black stripes, from which a soot-like dust can be rubbed, appear. In advanced stages the leaves twist, curl and split from the tip downward, leaving the turf looking gray and ragged.

The fungus grows in the plant tissue; once a plant is injected, the fungus remains there until the plant dies, says Partyka. Spores or seeds produced by infected plants can infest the soil. Upon germinating, the spores will invade grass seedlings or young tillers of older plants.

There is no sure-fire control program for the disease. Since it is inside the plants, sprays normally used in controlling turf diseases have not proved satisfactory.

If stripe smut is detected early—and is not too severe—some degree of control can be obtained by applying nabam at 2½ pts. of 22% active material per 1000 sq. ft. of turf in sufficient water to wet the soil to a 2-in. depth. Application should be made in early spring or late fall.

Proper fertilization and irrigation practices will help to overcome some of the disease symptoms, says Partyka, and may help the turf to make a faster recovery.

Central Nebraska Tech Has Horticulture Course

The Agriculture-Related Department at Central Nebraska Tech now offers a two-year program in Horticulture Technology.

Opportunities in landscaping, turf and park management and floral and nursery plant culture and sales are plentiful for graduates, according to the school. Specific positions include golf superintendents, landscape or nursery foremen, arborists, greenhouse growers and foresters.

Included in the course's objectives are: understanding the principles of basic soils and fertilizers; understanding problems relating to the general field of horticulture; developing the ability to supply needed information concerning turf management, weed and insect problems, disease problems, pruning and maintenance practices, landscaping practices and floriculture; developing the ability to communicate effectively; learning to operate and maintain equipment; familiarizing students with management practices of turf grass, trees, shrubs and greens.

Contact Morland Rucker, Cen-

tral Nebraska Tech, Box 1024, Hastings, Neb., for more information.

Sodding Provides Best Turf Success in Summer

Sodding is the only reliable way of establishing turf in the summer, according to Elwyn E. Deal, University of Maryland turf specialist.

For good sod, Deal says to be sure it is free of off-type perennial grasses, such as tall fescue, nimbleweed and timothy; crabgrass, goosegrass, foxtail and annual bluegrass should be avoided, too, as should broadleaf weeds, poison ivy and thistles. Never buy sod without seeing it first, Deal recommends.

Turfgrass varieties and/or species are of utmost importance, he says. Use only those varieties which have proven successful in your area.

Be on the lookout for mixtures designed for shady areas. In full sunlight, red fescue—the primary grass for use in shady spots—is not a good competitor with Kentucky bluegrasses.

Soil preparation before sodding is as important to successful establishment of sod as it is to seed, says Deal. The same methods and procedures should be followed for both with one exception: fertilizer ratio for sodding should be about 1-1-1, whereas in seeding it is usually 1-2-1 or 1-2-2.

New Folder Explains Uses of Vapam® Soil Fumigant

The Stauffer Chemical Company has recently made available a six-page folder (A-1037) describing the various uses of its Vapam® soil fumigant. Weeds and soil-borne disease organisms controlled by Vapam and pre- and post-application methods are also discussed. Write the company's Agricultural Division, 299 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017.