



Key speakers at Turf Conference educational sessions were Dr. Ray A. Keen, Kansas State University, Manhattan, left, and Dale Kern, president, Seed Technology, Inc., Marysville, Ohio.

New officers for 1969 are: Robert Rieman, Ohio Line Co., Woodville, O., president, seated; and left to right, standing, Gene Probasco, Lakeshore Dist. Co., Columbus, O., treasurer; Charles Tadge, Mayfield Country Club, South Euclid, O., past president; and Richard Craig, Chemargo Country Club, Cincinnati, O., 1st vice-president.

Ohio Turf Foundation Sponsors

2nd Annual Turf Conference

Ohio's Turfgrass Foundation staged its second annual show and conference in early December. Though it is a state event, it has been developed to serve the industry on a national basis. The initial show last year brought in 870 participants from across the country. Attendance was up this year to 950 despite the flu epidemic at the time.

Robert W. Miller, Ohio State University agronomist and executive-secretary for the group, reports that the golf course superintendents, sod producers, landscape contractors, nurserymen, turf specialists and others attending represented 22 states and Canada.

The conference is jointly sponsored by the University, its experiment station, and the Foundation. The 22 speakers were from industries and university research departments in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virgin-

ia, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Minnesota. Extra booth space was made available this year and 124 exhibit booths filled. Last year some would-be exhibitors failed to get space since only 100 were available.

Six Ohio State University turf majors all from Ohio were awarded scholarships by the Foundation as follows: F. Alan Garten, Cincinnati; Michael J. Nicora, Youngstown; Thomas A. Urbansky, Wellington; Tommy

Visiting during Conference session are: Dr. William H. Daniel, Purdue University, left, and Dr. J. R. Watson, Toro, Minneapolis, Minn.



L. Wentz, Wauseon; Paul L. Jacquemin, Hamilton; and Brian J. Thrasher, Westlake.

Use of Fertilizers

Typical of information on the educational program was that presented by Dr. Donald V. Waddington, soil technologist at Pennsylvania State University. He discussed the various types of turf fertilizers and pointed out the need to check closely on the physical conditions of fertilizers before applying them to turf. Too many operators, he said, see poor results and then ask themselves what was in the bag.

Waddington believes that the physical condition of fertilizers is extremely important. This, he said, influences the ease of application and the uniformity of coverage. Particle size of fertilizers is important. Large particles which clog spreader openings or bend agitators need to be avoided. Fines are bad, he said,

because they affect distribution patterns and are a dust nuisance. Also, fines can burn turf more easily when compared to granules or pellets which tend to roll off grass leaves. Size will also affect the amount of fertilizer removed by mowing.

Fertilizer users need to avoid products of suppliers who commonly allow nails, bolts, pieces of wood, and other trash to be bagged with fertilizer, according to Waddington. The savings in fertilizer cost can be lost in equipment repairs when a foreign object gets caught in a spreader or is hit by a mower. He also suggested avoiding fertilizers which set up and harden and thereby create problems.

Poor distribution patterns may be due to faulty equipment, the operator, the fertilizer, or a combination of these factors, Waddington continued. Overlaps and skips are usually the fault of the operator. Poor physical con-

dition of fertilizers, he said, has often been the cause of non-uniform applications when centrifugal type spreaders have been used. Coarse particles are thrown farther than fines, and fertilizers containing a lot of fines may give a pattern of heavier application close to the path of travel than that obtained farther away. This pattern seems to be a particular problem in dry mixtures of fine natural organics and the larger and heavier chemical fertilizers. If poor fertilization patterns are a problem, Waddington said, check the physical condition of the fertilizer. Never, he cautioned, depend too heavily on sample bags and jars for a true picture of the physical condition of a fertilizer. These may vary considerably from the product delivered.

Some turf fertilizers are called "lightweights" and have the plant nutrients impregnated or carried on lightweight materials

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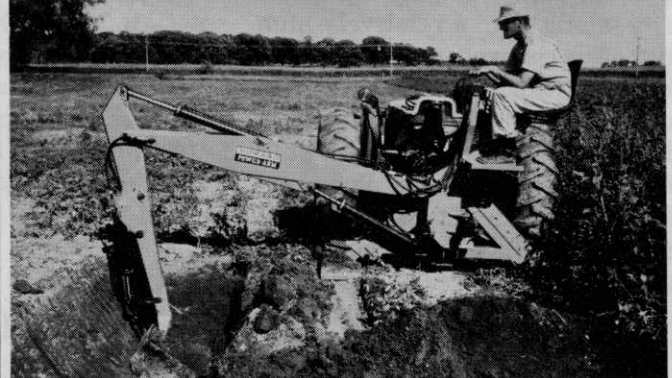
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Teeing off at Chemagro booth are Steve Begle, Ohio salesman for Chemagro, and Barbara Hendricks, Lakeshore Distributors, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Butcher believes that the "natural" control offered by European predators and parasites may reduce the need for some of the costly chemical controls now being used. He already has cooperative research underway with scientists in several Western European countries.

Dr. Butcher will use part of the research grant to support the efforts of Dr. Hubert Pshorn-Walcher of the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control, Delmont, Switzerland. Dr. Pshorn-Walcher will coordinate a search for predators and parasites in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia and return promising species to MSU. Next fall he will travel to the East Lansing campus to assist with research and to lecture on biological control.

AAN Sales Campaign Widens Nursery Industry Markets

During the past few years, the American Association of Nurserymen has been busily and thoroughly planning a new, industry-wide sales development program. Primary objective of the campaign will be to sell more people on the pleasures and benefits possible through "creative" planting of nursery goods, says AAN.

Planning the sales development program began with a good, hard look at today's nursery industry, AAN reveals. Research studies by the group's Horticultural Research Institute and the Furst Survey Research Center, Inc. in New York City disclosed motivations leading to — and objections retarding — the purchase and use of plant materials. This extensive research led to conclusions regarding "target audiences" for the new sales campaign.

Advertising will appear in media from national consumer magazines to radio and newspa-

such as vermiculite, ground corn cobs, and peat, Waddington pointed out. The lightweight carrier, along with a relatively high nitrogen content, makes it possible to fertilize a given area with a relatively small weight of fertilizer and still have enough bulk for ease of spreading. Some research at Penn State, Waddington said, indicates that these lightweights may have a built-in safety factor, and present less of a burning hazard than normal weight fertilizers containing the same amount of soluble nitrogen.

1969 Officers Announced At Louisiana Conference

New officers of the Louisiana Turfgrass Association were announced at the group's annual conference, held at the University of Southwestern Louisiana last December.

The 1969 slate includes: presi-

dent — Marvin Perry, superintendent, Metairie Country Club; vice president — Pat Ardoin, superintendent, Oakbourne Country Club, Lafayette; secretary-treasurer — Dr. Lynn Deselle, USL assistant professor; executive director — J. M. Peak, USL associate professor.

MSU's Butcher Seeks Natural Control of DED

A special research grant has been awarded to Michigan State University by the Elm Research Institute to help find parasites in Europe that might control the carriers of Dutch elm disease.

Dr. James W. Butcher, MSU entomologist directing the project, has already released one species of French parasites (*Dendroster protuberans*) in Michigan and the northeastern U.S. to find out the effect it will have on the Dutch elm bark beetle.