



Drs. G. C. Horn, left, turf technologist, and Eliot Roberts, chairman, Department of Ornamental Horticulture, University of Florida, Gainesville, were featured speakers on ASPA program.



Growers Tour Florida Sod Farms During 2nd ASPA Annual Meeting

A different group of sod producers attended the American Sod Producers Association's 2nd annual meeting at Miami Beach January 22 than the initial session at San Francisco last year. This indicates a healthy interest by growers in many sections of the country. Naturally, the 100 or more at the 2nd annual event this year included many regulars who have been instrumental in building the new association of growers.

Big news this year was appointment of Henry W. Indyk, turf specialist at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. as executive-secretary of the ASPA. Indyk succeeds George B. Hammond, Paint Valley Bluegrass Farm, Columbus, Ohio. Hammond has worked diligently in helping organize and build the association, but felt he could not allot the necessary time in the future which ASPA business will require. Indyk has been active in the sod industry and has done much to promote the industry in his position as an Extension Service specialist at Rutgers over a period of years. Not only does he know many individual

growers, he is familiar with sod production as an industry.

Ben O. Warren, Warren Turf Nurseries, Palos Park, Ill., outgoing president will continue to serve as a director. He had served 18 months as the only president of the ASPA. Elected president for the coming year is Wiley Miner, Princeton Turf Farms, Princeton, N.J. Miner had pre-

viously served as a director. Besides Miner, new officers elected were: Tobias Grether, Cal-Turf, Inc., Camarillo, Calif., vice-president; Jack Kidwell, Kidwell Turf Farms, Culpeper, Va., treasurer and director; and Jim Ousley, Ousley Sod Company, Pompano Beach, Fla., secretary. Other directors who will continue to serve are: Robert Daymon, Em-

ASPA officer slate, left to right: Tobias Grether, vice-president; Wiley Miner, president; Jack Kidwell, treasurer; Henry W. Indyk, executive-secretary; Jim Ousley, secretary; Ben O. Warren, director; and Robert Daymon, director.





Nunes sod harvester in operation at Resmondo farm, first tour stop made by growers. Some 1300 acres of sod is grown yearly in this operation.



Jim Ousley, left, and W. W. (Woody) Resmondo served as hosts to visitors.

chairman of the department of Ornamental Horticulture, discussed coming research at the Florida Station. He stressed the need for research in 11 specific areas of the turf industry.

First on the list by Roberts was the need for improved chemical control of turf growth. Chemicals for use on turf, he said, have not been as promising as those for other plant types. But as we learn more about the growth processes in grasses, Roberts pointed out, we may be able

erald Valley Turf Nurseries, Howell, Mich., and Louis DeLea, DeLea & Sons, East Northport, Long Island, N.Y. Richard Horner, Horner Sod Farms, Wind Lake, Wis., resigned as a director, with Kidwell succeeding him on the board.

Formal Session and Show

Growers spent the first day of their meeting in formal educational sessions. The range of soil and water management, insect and disease control, and weed problem solving was covered by research and teaching staff members of the University of Florida, Gainesville. Dr. Eliot C. Roberts,

Princeton sod harvester was demonstrated at Ousley sod farm. Operating harvester is Vince Grubb, field foreman at Princeton Sod Farms.



to use chemicals to slow down or speed up growth depending on the response desired.

Roberts also expects more selective herbicide use. Since herbicides are growth regulators of one type or another, he said, they exhibit a selective effect on plant type.

He also discussed water use and turf cultivation and the expected new knowledge in these areas. Emphasized also by Roberts is the coming promise of computerized management. We are living in a computer age, Roberts stated. The turfgrass manager with significant input data at his disposal can make good use of computer data, he believes. In this area Roberts listed inputs such as soil test data, leaf tissue test data, grass data, weather history, turf quality required, and normal cultural practices such as mowing practices, irrigation, and pesticide use. With these data properly weighted and fed into a computer, the equipment can be programmed to predict turf response and ultimately lead to control of quality of grass produced. Research is needed, Roberts said, to develop the specific programs and standard methods to make such computer use practical.

Besides the educational program, growers attending the annual meeting had ample time to attend the massive trade show staged by the Golf Course Superintendents. This Trade Show was a part of their 40th International Turfgrass Conference and Show. The ASPA holds its annual sessions in conjunction with the golf superintendents. The show as always, included major exhibits by more than 120 suppliers and manufacturers.

Tour of Florida Sod

Charter buses were used to transport visitors to the Resmondo and Ousley sod operations. During the course of a day-long tour growers also had opportunity to visit a sugar refinery

Automatic sod pick-up, 54"x96", manufactured by Stanco Midwest Sales, Inc., Chicago, Ill., was demonstrated at Ousley farm during tour.



and see some truck crop operations.

Sidelights to the formal meeting and tour were special demonstrations of equipment. Princeton Turf Farms showed Princeton Sod Harvester. This unit was demonstrated on sod at one of the farms of Jim Ousley. Visitors also saw the Nunes Harvester in operation during the tour of the Resmondo Sod Farm.

Don Morrill, president of Shamrock Turf Nurseries, Inc., at Hanna, Ind., announced at a special breakfast meeting that

his sod harvester, the "Big J," will now be manufactured and marketed. On hand with Morrill to present movies of the unit in operation were Fred Hartman, Shamrock nursery manager at the Hanna Farm, and Ray Johnson, general products manager at Momence, Ill., where the harvester will be built.

The Morrill unit picks up and rolls 1500 yards of sod per hour and operates with pallets. It is hydraulically operated and will handle all popular lengths and widths of sod, according to Morrill.

AMERICAN SOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION invites your participation

If you are a Sod Grower you should be
a member of ASPA.

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