

## Sod Industry Report

(From page 22)

and turf specialists alike. This was A-29#S-6, a promising low cut bluegrass. This specific selection, Warren stated, tolerated  $\frac{3}{8}$ - to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mowing over a 5-year test period. Normally, the tendency, he said, is for outlaw grasses such as crabgrass and annual bluegrass to compete with low-mowed Kentucky bluegrasses. But such has not been the case with the new A-29 selection. Much is yet to be done, Warren said, to determine whether to develop A-29 vegetatively or via the seed route.

Warren also discussed A-10, A-20, and A-34. The theory behind the complete series, he said, is the fact that in selection work, a variety which fits all situations and locations cannot be found.

For example, A-10 is adaptable to the Ohio River Valley area, which is the southern range of the bluegrass area. Northern grasses really don't fit this area, Warren stated, but A-10 can stand the hot humid summer of St. Louis, yet still has some merit in more northern areas. It is a very dark green at all levels

of fertility, and has a more narrow leaf than average. Though is not as dense as some bluegrasses, Warren stated. Resistance to disease is fair and it has good resistance to hot area diseases. *Fusarium zoseum* resistance has been good in St. Louis and similar areas where franchise growers have been selling the selection as plugs. His company is going somewhat slow on A-10 at the moment because of minor disease weaknesses.

For shade areas, A-34 seems the best answer at the moment. It is easy to both grow and transplant. Problems have been apparent only when areas range to 90% shade or more. For turf areas with 65- to 70% shade, A-34 is superior, Warren said. This selection has also been doing well in sunlight areas in California.

Warren's A-20 is a good grass for all areas, Warren pointed out. Disease resistance is good; in fact, he stated that it is as good or better than Merion for four key diseases. The company currently has one million yards of this sod in the mid-west for sale this year. Plans are to promote A-20 on the East coast beginning this year. Test data, including growth data at Rutgers, indicate that the grass is adaptable for the area.



Paul Florence, Scotts

### Windsor

Discussing Scotts' turf program was Paul Florence, manager of Windsor sod culture and marketing. He said that Windsor was a single clone selection made from a pony pasture in central Ohio, in 1949. This selection was entered into Scotts Bluegrass Development Program and propagated into selection and performance plots for evaluation and comparison with other turf

Hardi-Gardens, Inc., which only months ago began a nation-wide franchise program, recently announced it will establish 60 franchised garden centers in Texas, bringing the total of committed centers to 165.

Four centers are open in the company's Nashville headquarters; stores in newly franchised areas will start to open in early Spring, according to the company.

The garden centers carry over 15,000 items of living stock and feature a complete line of name-brand lawn and garden items, from plant foods to patio furniture.

"One of the beauties of our franchise plan is that the franchise need not have a special horticulture background to operate a Hardi-Gardens center," said company President Francis Galloway. "We offer a comprehensive course in garden center management and actual on-the-job training in one of our Nashville outlets. It greatly simplifies the horticultural and management aspects of the business."

## Hardi-Gardens Establishes 60 Franchises in Texas



Hardi-Care, a new franchise concept developed by Hardi-Gardens, Inc., is currently providing complete landscape services for Nashville industrial and residential customers. Jack King (in dark suit), manager of the pilot Nashville operation, consults with servicemen Paul Bauman (foreground) and Don Martin, at work in a residential patio garden.