

Wiley Miner, left, president of the American Sod Producers Association, discusses the program with Joe McDermott, new ASPA director.

Trim, Sweep, Cut, Roll, Lift

All in a Sod Field Days' Work

THE AMERICAN Sod Producers Association continued its winning ways with an excellent field day this last month. Held at Princeton Turf Farms, Cranbury, N.J., the event was the third major demonstration in as many years for this young organization.

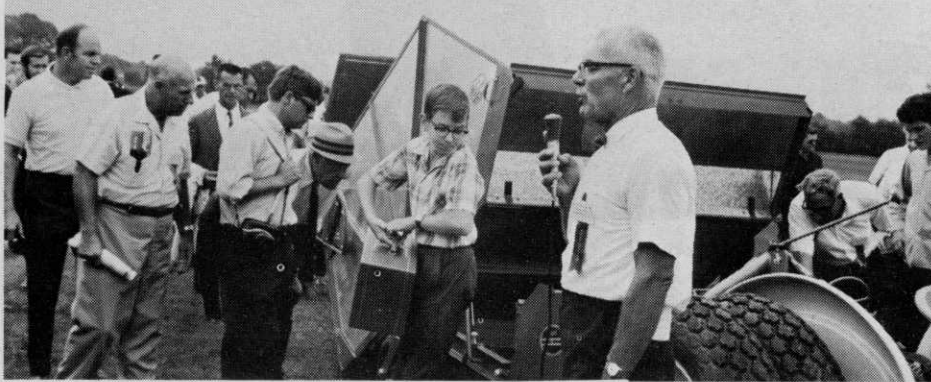
Popularity of the production and harvesting equipment on display is the fact that growers come from every section of the country to see equipment in action and to talk the business. At this field day—and the same was true last year at Shamrock Turf Nurseries—growers attended from 28 states. They also came from Canada, South Africa, and Puerto Rico. A mid-morning count of people on the grounds exceeded 350. Twenty-one companies were on hand with demonstration equipment.

Field day demonstrations included all types of mowers—even the new English Allett with opposed spiral reel; sweepers; booms; fork lifts; sod cutters; harvesters; rollers; and even a new type sod-laying machine plus a variety of miscellaneous equipment.

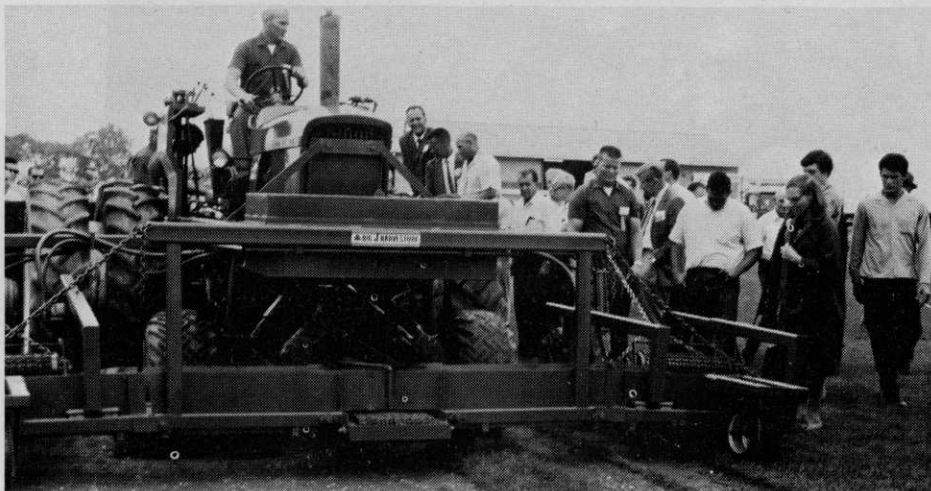
Wiley Miner, president of Princeton Turf and of ASPA, served as host at his headquarters farm. His entire producer staff headed by General Manager Elwood Tantum and Field Foreman Vince Grubb assisted. Dr. Henry Indyk, executive



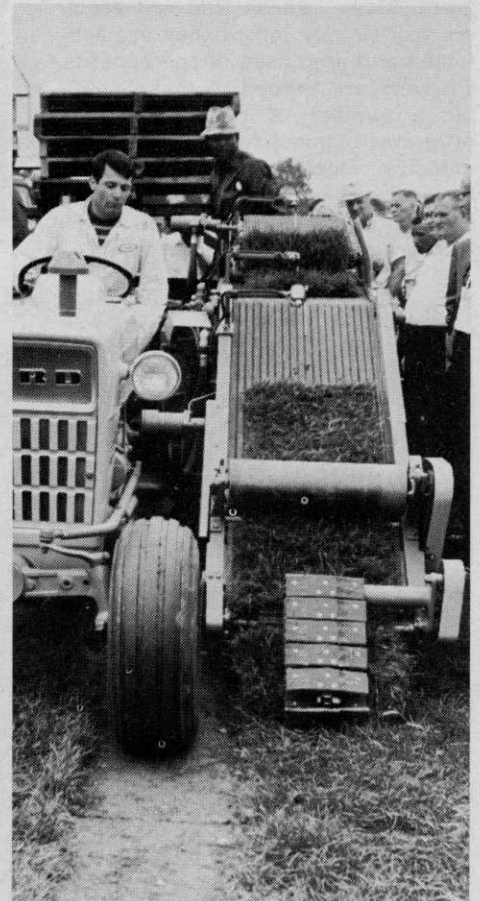
A crowd of 350 persons attended the action-type field day. Despite light showers and the threat of heavier rain, visitors spent the entire day at the Princeton Turf Farm field day site.



Russell Rose, Ryan Equipment Co., talks about sweeper and vacuum models.



Ray Johnson, Shamrock Turf Nurseries, Inc., demonstrates the Big 'J' sod harvester.



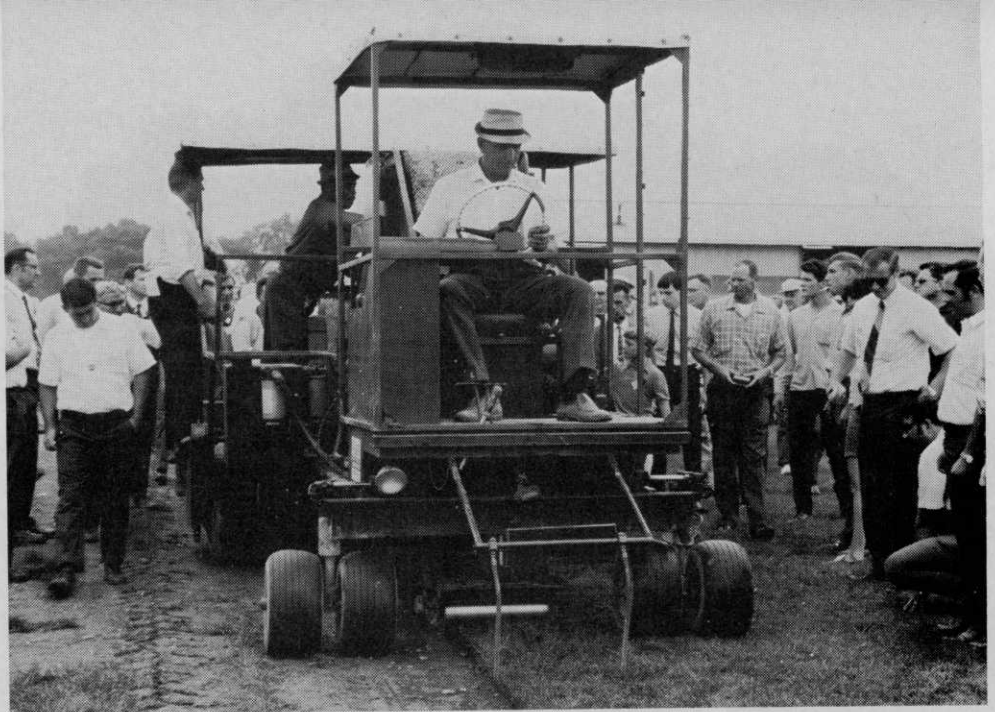
The Nunes sod harvester demonstrated how it could either roll sod or fold it on pallets.

secretary of ASPA, set up a 3-day program. A turfgrass research tour was made August 4 at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, with a banquet and formal meeting during the evening. The field event was held Aug. 5 followed by an optional tour of USDA turf research at Beltsville, Md., on Aug. 6.

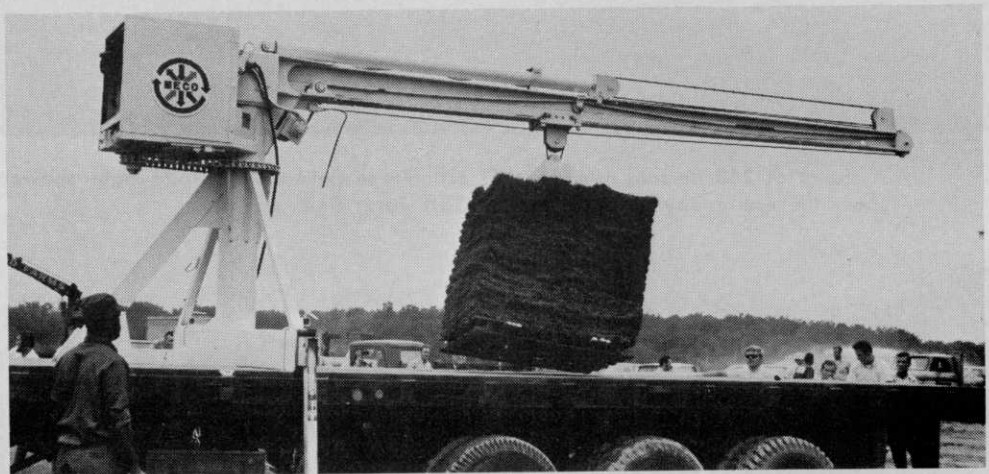
Joe McDermott, Loveland Lawns, Omaha, Neb., was elected a new director. He fills the director's seat vacated by Louis DeLea, Long Island, N.Y., grower. McDermott, a nationally recognized producer, also serves as president of the Midwest Turfgrass Growers Association, a regional group of growers from four midwestern states.

Plans for the coming year were discussed during the formal banquet meeting. A number of growers wish to expand the summer field day to a full 3-day event. This type program is being considered for the Chicago area for 1970. WTT will carry further news as plans are formulated.

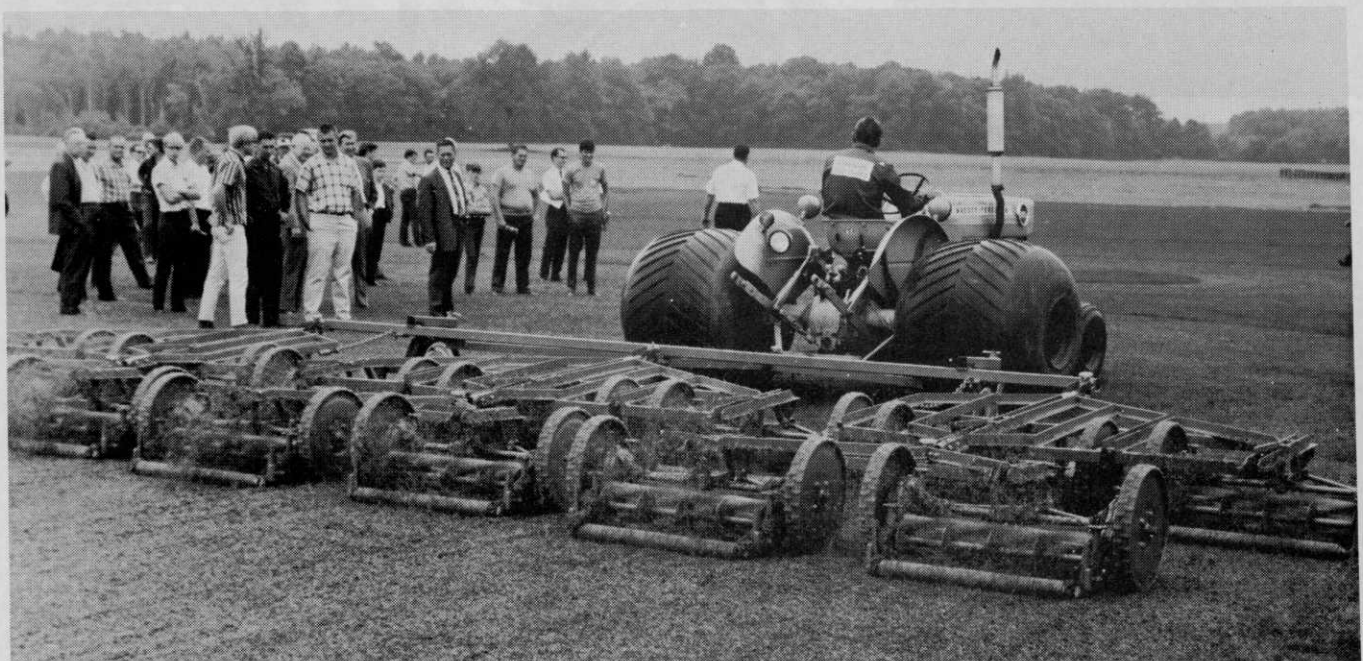
Member growers still face their greatest challenge in recruiting new members for the Association. Interest is greater than ever, as evidenced by the enthusiasm and attendance at the New Jersey program. Many believe that sod growers will readily join if they are contacted and appraised of the benefits. Growers are needed to make possible a number of new Association programs planned for improving the industry. During the coming year, Executive Secretary Indyk will be making additional contacts with growers as will present members.



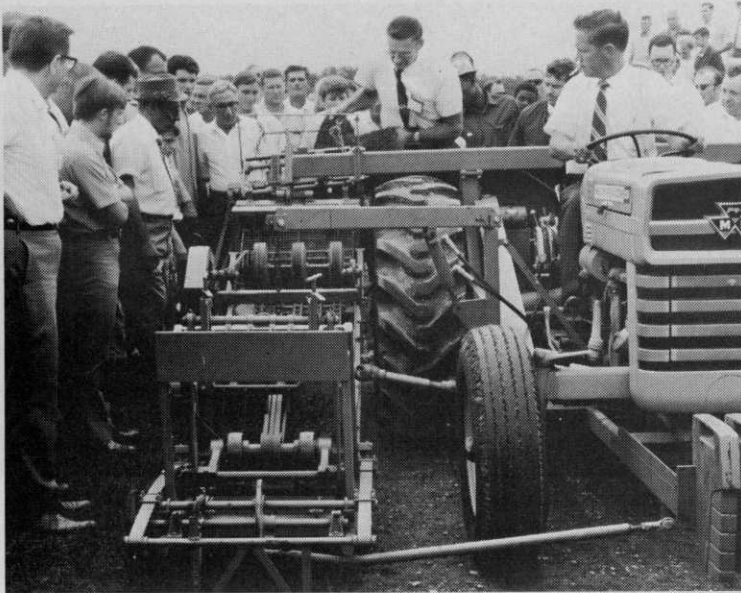
Princeton turf harvester is demonstrated by Vince Grubb, foreman.



A number of booms were in action for handling sod pallets.



Jacobsen equipment, rolling behind tractor with flotation tires, cuts a 28-foot swath.



Ryan demonstrated its complete line of equipment, including this sod harvester.



Turf Vac demonstrated its sweeper.

Lawn, Garden Week Plans Announced

Triumphs of home and community gardeners — and their contributions to a more livable America — will be recognized during National Lawn and Garden Week 1970.

This second annual observance, sponsored by USDA, begins on Mar. 20, the first day of spring, and continues through Mar. 26.

National Lawn and Garden Week will herald a series of "Growing With America" gardening events throughout the nation during the spring months.

The theme of the springtime observances will be developed in three stages:

1) Plan to Grow (March) — a time to celebrate National Lawn and Garden Week and

to announce local programs for the spring months;

2) Plant for Proper Growth (April) — the occasion to conduct or sponsor garden clinics in local communities; and

3) Pick a Growing Project (May) — awards for home and community projects that add most to more attractive homes, suburbs, schools, or city parks.

W. Atlee Burpee III, representing industry and non-government groups, will serve as co-chairman of the garden week committee with Harold R. Lewis, director of information, USDA. Committee members represent USDA, local government groups, interested trade associations, garden clubs, and civic associations.

Meeting Dates



Dates for this column need to reach the editor's desk by the 10th of the month preceding the date of publication.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute Turfgrass Field Days, V.P.I. Experimental Plots, Blacksburg, Va., Sept. 3-4.

Annual Turfgrass Field Day, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Sept. 4.

Lawn and Ornamental Days, The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Sept. 9-10.

Michigan State University Sod Producers' first field day at the Muck Experimental Farm northeast of East Lansing, Sept. 10.

Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Inc., field day and open house, South Lincoln Avenue turf plots, Urbana, Ill., Sept. 12.

Pacific Northwest Pesticide Applicators, Inc., Spray O Rama '69, Renton Inn, Renton, Wash., Sept. 18-20.

Pacific Northwest Pesticide Applicators Association, Annual Meeting, Renton Inn, Renton, Wash., Sept. 19-20.

Midwest Regional Turf Foundation field day, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., Sept. 29.

New York State Federation of Golf Course Superintendents, Annual Turf Conference, Concord Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, N.Y., Oct. 5-7.

Arizona Agricultural Chemicals Association, 22nd Annual Convention, Safari Hotel, Scottsdale, Ariz., Oct. 8-9.

Central Plains Turf Conference, Kansas State University, Ramada Inn, Manhattan, Kan., Oct. 15-17.

Texas A & M University, College of Agriculture, Fourth Annual Industrial Weed Control Conference, College Station, Texas, Oct. 20-22.

North Dakota Nurserymen's Association, Annual Convention and Trade Show, Fargo, N.D., Nov. 7-8.

National Fertilizer Solutions Association, National Convention and Equipment Exhibition, Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 9-13.

Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show, Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 1-3.

Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation, Inc., Conference and Show, Oklahoma State University Student Union, Stillwater, Okla., Dec. 3-5.

National Aerial Applicators Association, Third Annual Conference, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La., Dec. 7-10.