

# GUIDELINE SPECIFICATIONS soil preparation and sodding

"Turf quality and performance on sodded areas depends on a number of closely related and interdependent factors. These include the selection of adapted turfgrasses, adequate preparation of site, proper installation of sod, and good management practices which will result in fast establishment and good growth of the turf."

This paragraph is contained in the introduction of a publication entitled "Guideline Specifications: Soil Preparation and Sodding" and published by the University of Maryland and Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

"Although this publication has been available for only about six months, we are already seeing tremendous benefit from it," reports

A. J. Powell, turf specialist from the University of Maryland.

"Contractors and architects are very interested, and are using all sections or those sections which apply to their project. This will definitely help to improve turf quality and performance.

"As far as we know, these were the first specifications published in the U.S. for this purpose."

Close behind the Maryland-Virginia specifications has come the announcement that a similar guide is available for the Midwest. At its January annual meeting, the Midwest Turfgrass Growers Association announced that a booklet by the same title was being published.

The table of contents of the Maryland-Virginia guide is reproduced to give a quick idea of what is contained in the specifications. The outline is helpful for other sod producers' groups who might want to draw up specifications for their regions. The Virginia-Maryland guide is available for 15 cents by writing the agronomy departments of the respective universities.

The guide is divided in such a way to allow maximum flexibility for architects and contractors. Each

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**RAPID-GRO**

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# meeting dates

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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

**California Park and Recreation Society** announces three regional workshops. Apr. 7 at Palo Alto Community Center on Middlefield Road; Apr. 8 at Carriage House Restaurant, 1210 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno; and Apr. 9 Parnell Park Activity Building, Whittier.

**National Golf Foundation** annual meeting at Stouffer's Riverfront Inn, St. Louis, Mo. Apr. 16.

**22nd Annual Nurserymen's Refresher Course**, sponsored by the California Association of Nurserymen at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, June 9-11.

**Ohio Chapter, International Shade Tree Conference**, at the USDA Shade Tree and Ornamental Plants Laboratory at Delaware, Ohio, July 8.

**American Sod Producers Association** 4th annual conference and field day, Ramada Dorchester Inn, Dolton, Ill., and the H & E Sod Farm, Momence, Ill., July 28-30.

**46th International Shade Tree Conference**, Hotel Flagship-Rochester, N.Y., Aug. 9-14.

**Sprayorama '70 Pacific Northwest Pesticide Applicators, Inc.**, annual meeting, Thunderbird Motel, 1401 N. Hayden Island Dr., Portland, Ore., Sept. 10-12.

section can stand alone or be incorporated into an overall set of specifications for an entire sodding project. Contractors who specialize in a certain type of activity have the opportunity of bidding on only a portion of a project if the specifications are so designed — for example, supply and install topsoil, install sod, or maintain turf after sodding.

An appendix to the Maryland-Virginia guide explains about the two-state classification of sod:

"Certified Sod" is superior sod

grown from "certified" seed. It is inspected and certified by the State Certifying Agency to insure genetic purity, overall high quality, and freedom from noxious weeds, as well as excessive amounts of other crop and weed plants at the time of harvest. The sod must meet published state standards and bear an official Maryland, Virginia, or other state "Certified Sod" label on the bill of lading.

"Approved Sod" is inspected and approved by the State Certifying

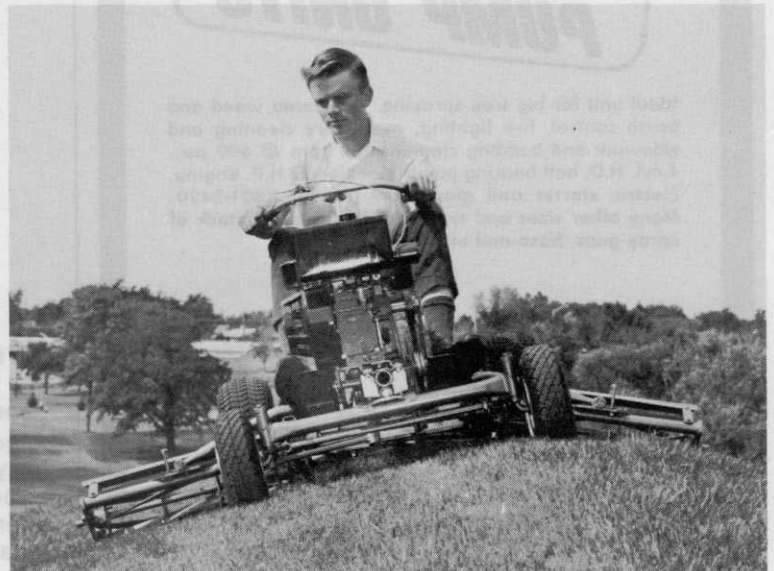
Agency to insure overall high quality and freedom from noxious weeds and excessive amounts of other crop and weed plants at the time of harvest. It may be composed of a mixture of two or more varieties or species. The sod must meet published state standards and bear an official Maryland, Virginia "Approved Sod" label on the bill of lading.

Appendix B describes the composition of sod that is suitable for the particular region.

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