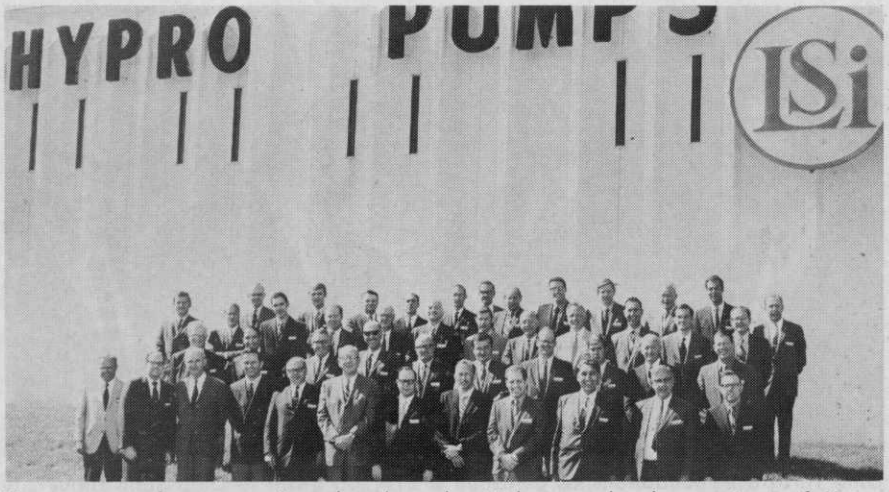

Five new products were introduced at the 18th annual sales seminar of Hypro Division of Lear Siegler, Inc., recently. The products were covered from conception to complete market analysis, including product application and distribution techniques and outlets. The seminar was conducted by Sales Vice-president Conrad Letourneau with help from Sales Manager DuWayne Olson, Market Consultant Carl Keiser and others. Andrew Haiduck, group vice-president from LSI, addressed the 30 factory representatives at the banquet.

New Turf Fungicide Ends Need for Mercury

A new fungicide designed to control a fungus that destroys turf during the winter is an effective substitute for mercury-based fungicides used for the same purpose, says a Michigan State University plant pathologist.

"Mercury and cadmium-based fungicides have been widely used on golf courses to control *Typhula* snow mold," says Dr. Joseph M. Vargas. "Legislation may soon be passed to ban the use of such potentially toxic metal compounds. Therefore it was essential to develop an equally effective fungicide without metallic ingredients."

Tesan SP, the commercial name of the new fungicide, will be on the market for the first time this season. Its chemical formula is 1,4-Dichloro-2,5 demethoxybenzene, or Chloroneb was developed through the work of Dr. Vargas and another MSU scientist, Dr. James B. Beard.

The gray snow mold the fungicide controls causes flat patches of dead grass often seen on golf courses in the spring. The gray threads of the fungus may be seen also.

Severity of damage inflicted by the fungus depends on how long the snow remains on the ground.

"When the turf is snow covered for four or five months, gray snow mold has a greater period of time to damage desirable grasses," says Dr. Vargas.

The MSU plant disease experts found the best time to apply Chloroneb was two weeks before the first permanent snow. It was also discovered that the new wettable powder fungicide performed best in nine-ounce concentrations. This amount was mixed with four gallons of water per thousand square feet, and was found to be just as effective as the mercury fungicides.

The granular form of Chloroneb had a longer residual effect, and performed better than the wettable powder. However, it is not available at this time. Another desirable feature revealed about the new fungicide is that it will not cause a yellowing of the grass, common with mercury fungicides because of their slight phytotoxicity.

Michigan Names Best Mixes For Roadside Grasses

The best way to establish grass along a roadside is to plant mixtures containing no less than 20% each of perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass and red fescue.

"In our study, we also found that adding cereal rye was beneficial to the mixture for sandy sites," John Kaufmann, Michigan State University turfgrass researcher, told scientists at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy.

"But the addition of the cereal rye for clay-loam sites did more damage than good."

The ryegrass will help you get quick establishment on roadsides, however. Kaufmann explained that the cereal rye used in his study of roadside grass mixtures seemed to form a good surface climate for fescue on a sandy site by helping to hold moisture.

"After three growing seasons, the red fescue became the dominant grass on the sandy sites used in our tests.

"On the clay-loam sites, the Kentucky bluegrass became dominant after four seasons."

Kaufmann, who conducted his research in conjunction with MSU turfgrass specialist David Martin, said the addition of tall fescue, redtop, creeping bentgrass, orchardgrass or bromegrass had no effect on improving grass establishment in any of the roadside sites tested in southern Michigan.

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, has cut leaf-raking time in half with a vacuum leaf collector that swoops up 14 square yards of leaves per load and grinds them to mulch. James Mayer, left, and Homer Pinkerton, physical plant workmen, operate the collector. The mulch, formerly burned, goes into a compost heap for campus use.