



Robert F. Lederer, right, executive vice-president of the American Association of Nurserymen, receives the Key Award for outstanding leadership, from S. Rayburn, president of the American Society of Association Executives. The award is the highest ASAE can give one of its members. It's presented annually, and was announced this year at the November ASAE annual convention in Las Vegas.

Planting Machines

A number of machines for row planting sprigs have been on the market for some time. Most were designed for establishing bermudagrass in rows at least 12 inches apart. We have found much to be desired when it is necessary to place zoysia plants more than eight inches apart. This is due to the difference in our area between zoysia and bermudagrass in time required to complete ground coverage. The wider spacing of zoysia will cover, but the additional length of time required is not suitable from an economical standpoint.

Various other machines are on the market for planting strips or plugs. Machines that plant zoysia which has living roots imbedded in a strip or plug of soil are very desirable when a longer period of time (more than three or four hours) is necessary between planting and first and subsequent waterings. We are using machines of this nature with a high degree of success where frequent watering is a problem. The machines place the plugs on about eight-inch centers.

We have recently furnished zoysia stolons for fairways and tees at Tan-Tar-A Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks for its new exotic golf course. Here the stolons were planted in September of 1969 with a hydromulch unit where-in the stolons were mixed with cellulose wood fiber in water and spread as a slurry through a high pressure hydraulic system.

Early observations indicate that this procedure might produce maximum turf in a minimum of time, if adequate frequent watering and professional care are available. Complete evaluation of this method of planting zoysia stolons, both from a growth and economic standpoint will have to be made at a later date.

MSU Study Evaluates Protective Turf Covers

The problem of providing protection for intensely maintained turf areas, such as golf course greens, during winter has prompted James Beard, Michigan State University crop scientist, to study various materials that might serve as protective coverings.

He has conducted winter field ex-

periments and laboratory studies with 16 different types of coverings. By using a cold chamber and a wind tunnel he was able to create conditions identical to winter climates.

Three of the coverings that performed best were a viscose-rayon fiber cover, a viscose-rayon-polyester cover, and an excelsior blanket.

Other coverings which gave protection against water vapor loss and provided good spring green-up included a cloth-like material of woven plastic strips, a fluffy mat of fiberglass, and polyethylene sheets. These materials, however, did not give adequate protection against low temperature injury.

Beard also studied a plastic material sprayed directly on the grass. It is used on shrubbery to prevent water loss during transplanting but did not satisfactorily meet any of the desired protection standards.

According to Beard, "The findings of this study will mean a considerable cost saving to people in the turfgrass industry. The coverings will allow them to maintain high quality areas of turfgrass by reducing or eliminating spring rehabilitation practices."

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