



AN ELM TREE, developed over the past 13 years by the Canadian government, is said to be resistant to Dutch elm disease. Although the tree grows only half as fast as the American elm, Canadians believe newer generations can be made to grow faster. Known as the Quebec elm from its origins at l'Assomption, the new strain is expected to be on the commercial market within a year.

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE has announced a breakthrough on Dutch elm disease research. Scientists at the Syracuse University and the Forest Service's Delaware, Ohio, laboratory reveal that virgin female beetles produce a chemical scent highly attractive to flying male and female elm bark beetles. Chief Edward P. Cliff says the scientists are now working to isolate, identify, and artificially produce the attractant. They think a man-made substitute can be used to regulate populations of the destructive beetles.

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HELICOPTERS have been used to seed the fairways of a golf course under construction at Country Club Village near Uniontown, Ohio. Lewis Busler, president of Iberia Earth Movers, said the helicopter can do as much in two minutes as his normal crew could do in two days. Water was mixed with the seed to get the proper pattern. Wind currents from the helicopter blades force the seed into the ground, Busler added.

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THE DENVER POST and Western Federal Savings co-sponsor a Lawn-of-the-Month contest. The competition, says The Post, is to foster greater pride in homes and to keep Denver one of the most beautiful residential cities in the nation.

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CERTAIN SPECIES OF FISH are collaborating with scientists in the battle against water pollution. The fish, placed in tanks in a stretch of the Vistula, Poland's longest river, give warning when there is a sudden deterioration in natural conditions. But soon the fish may be unemployed. Their work is being taken over by a computer-based monitoring system, which also will issue instructions to correct the situation. The project, known as POL-5, is being carried out by the World Health Organization.

VPI Research Center Serves \$100 Million Turf Industry

"Research involving turfgrass assumes greater importance as our society becomes more urban," said P. H. Massey Jr., at the recent dedication ceremonies of Virginia Tech's new Turfgrass Research Center.

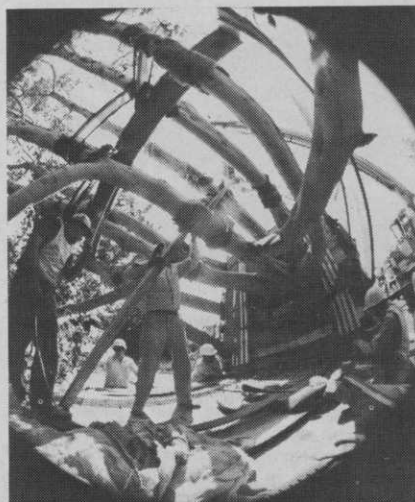
Massey, associate dean and director of the agronomic and plant sciences division of the College of Agriculture, Virginia Tech, told some 400 persons attending the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Field Days, that 225,000 Virginia acres are in fine turfgrasses.

It is estimated 135,000 acres are growing grass around individual homes. Industry uses about 25,000 acres for its lawns. Schools and colleges can count another 12,000 acres in grass. Golf courses, cemeteries, roadsides, parks, athletic fields and other turfed areas all help to make turf production big business in Virginia.

It is about \$100 million of Virginia's annual economy.

"That, together with the grass-growing problems presented by Virginia's location in the transitional area of cool and warm season turfgrasses, makes a strong research program necessary," Massey remarked.

The Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Center is on 25 acres with a suitable laboratory building devoted to literally hundreds of tests. On one area, 40 different strains of bluegrass are under test one against another. Large tracts are planted to bentgrasses with various fertilizer applications to permit researchers to study the plants' reaction. There are searches for new varieties and most effective grass seed mixtures. Me-



chanical equipment is studied for its value on lawns and turfed areas.

C. T. Wilson, associate dean and director of agriculture and life sciences in the Virginia Tech Research Division, spoke of the facility as part of the agronomy department. "It provides a facility where agronomists, horticulturists, plant pathologists and physiologists, agricultural engineers and other scientists can work together."

Of the total cost of establishing the turfgrass research center, about 70% came from outside sources. Tollie H. Quinn, Richmond equipment dealer, served as chairman of a special committee to obtain funds for the center.

Lee C. Dieter, president of the Virginia Turfgrass Council, presented a check to furnish equipment for the new building. It represented contributions from the lawn equipment industry in Virginia.

EI Announces Purchase Of Green Valley Landscaping

Environmental Industries, Inc., Encino, Calif. has acquired Green Valley Landscaping, Inc. and Green Valley Weed and Pest Control of San Jose, Calif., for an undisclosed amount of cash, note and stock.

Green Valley Landscaping is believed to be the largest independent company in industrial and commercial landscape maintenance in the United States. Green Valley performs industrial garden maintenance in Northern and Central California and will enlarge the scope of the company's Environmental Care. The firm has many long term maintenance agreements with various local, city, county, and other governmental agencies, as well as major California industrial facilities. J. M. "Joe" Marsh, President, will remain in charge of operations.

EII is primarily involved in landscape construction. This acquisition will provide services for permanently maintaining many of the projects presently being installed.

Valley Crest Tree Company, division of Environmental Industries, Inc., Encino, Calif., recently transplanted one of the largest known Ficus Microphylla specimen trees at the South Bay Club Anaheim project. The tree stood 50 feet high and had a 40-ft. spread. An 8-ft. box was built around the root system for moving. Landscape architect was Carter & Clarke. Valley Crest, with offices in Los Angeles, Santa Ana, San Diego, and Los Altos, is one of the largest specimen tree movers and growers in the state.