



Wide-swath coverage in seeding and fertilizing was the feature of this equipment shown and demonstrated at the American Sod Producers Association. The spreader at left, distributed by O. M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, Ohio, lays down a strip of fertilizer about 30 feet wide. Jacobsen Manufacturing Co., has ganged the Rogers Seeder it bought recently and offers hydraulic lift capability for turn-around and transporting.

Washington Seed Quality Law Likely Sod Industry Standard

Sod growers are quality conscious. They want lawngresses that are free of serious lawn weeds and coarse field grasses. Better quality seed is the norm. Growers expect far superior seed than that of a few years ago.

To this end, Washington State's new sod quality standards right now promise to become the standard for the industry. The Washington regulations, released May 18 of this year, are somewhat more stringent than previous certification programs. However, this is in keeping with the general march toward quality which has had a great effect in building the "instant lawn" business. It promises to do even more.

In a late June meeting at Lake Tahoe, the Lawn Seed Division of the American Seed Trade Association gave tacit approval to the Washington State regulations. At this time the group also discussed a seed purchase agreement proposed by the Midwest Turfgrass Growers Association, Inc. The Midwest organization comprises leading sod producers in a six- or seven-state area with headquarters at Kansas City, Mo. Better seed quality was but one of several goals of this association at its inception some two years ago.

The American Seed Trade industry group at Lake Tahoe in its discussions of the Midwest Seed Purchase Agreement questioned three of Midwest's proposed requirements. First, a 60-day period for testing of seed by an independent laboratory

before acceptance of any lot of seed proved to be a primary objection among seed suppliers. Suppliers said samples, if not correctly or uniformly drawn from a lot of seed, can produce varying test results. Price may change radically during any 60-day market period. Turfgrass seed on the commodity market varies from day to day, week to week, and so on. Suppliers do not feel they can assume the risk of a changing market over a two-month period.

A second objection among suppliers was the requirement proposed by Midwest growers for grass seed free of some 73 weed seeds in addition to any other weeds declared noxious in the state where the seed is to be planted. The objection here was primarily the requirement to rid the seed of weed seeds which are not noxious, some examples being dan-

delion, shepherds purse, peppergrass, and pennycress. These broadleaf weeds are not considered serious and can be controlled with the regular chemical weed control programs. Further, since these broadleaf types are already present in most or many sod growers' soil, suppliers believe the chemical treatment will be mandatory in any case. Even in situations where methyl bromide is used to fumigate the soil, the broadleaf problem must be faced within about two years. Native weeds are quickly reestablished by wind, traffic, birds, machinery, etc. By this time, however, sod is generally well established in the lawn and chemical spraying is simply a maintenance factor.

A third facet of the Midwest proposal which suppliers felt would be difficult to meet in some years was an 85% germination standard. Generally, if the seed production season is fair or better, seed will germinate at 85% or higher. But in some years because of variables such as high or low temperatures or rainfall, 80% is

Washington State Sod Quality Certified Seed Standards

Variety	Min. Purity	Min. Germ.	Max.* Other Crop	Max.*** Weed
Special Turf Varieties Merion, Fylking and Sodco Kentucky Bluegrass**	95%	80%	0.1%**	0.03%
Other Varieties of Kentucky Bluegrasses	97%	80%	0.1%	0.03%
Red Fescue	98%	90%	0.1%	0.03%
Chewings Fescue	98%	90%	0.1%	0.03%

* Must be free of ryegrass, orchardgrass, timothy, bentgrass, Big bluegrass, Canada bluegrass, Poa trivialis, Smooth bromegrass, Reeds Canarygrass, Tall fescue, and clover.

** Kentucky bluegrass in Merion — maximum 2%. Canada bluegrass in Merion — maximum 0.1%.

*** Must be free of dock, chickweed, crabgrass, plantain, Black medic, Annual bluegrass, velvetgrass, and prohibited noxious weed seeds.

more likely to be the norm. Neither growers nor suppliers have found this to be a major factor, so long as they have an accurate test as a basis for planting.

Contrasting with the Midwest group's proposals, the Washington State regulations are tougher in some requirements. For example, Washington State allows only .03% weed seed content in Merion. Midwest proposed .10%. Purity, crop and weed content are identical.

As things stand at this point, the Washington regulations listed below will likely prove to be the accepted standard. A spokesman for the Midwest growers at the recent American Sod Producers Association field day said that certain stipulations in their sod purchase agreement would be changed. At the same time, this group and others as well will insist on superior quality—a situation which bodes well for the industry. Few suppliers, if the Lake Tahoe discussions are indicative, will object.

The Washington State SOD QUALITY CERTIFIED SEED standards as promulgated by the Washington State Department of Agriculture order provide that:

(1) The general rules for seed cer-

tification and grass seed certification standards are basic and together with the following specific rules constitute the rules for sod quality grass seed certification.

(2) The varieties eligible and certification scheme of each; the certification fees; the land requirements; the isolation requirements and field tolerances shall be listed in grass seed certification standards.

(3) Seed standards for sod quality grass seed are as illustrated in the accompanying table.

(4) A sod seed analysis certificate which is a 25-gram purity, and includes noxious, all weed, all crop, 10-gram *Poa annua* check, and germination will be the basis of determining seed standards.

(5) In addition to the certified tag, seed meeting sod quality certified seed standards will be tagged with a special "Sod Quality Seed."

These Washington State sod quality standards came about because existing standards for certified seed have been considered too lenient in their minimum mechanical purity, and maximum allowable crop and weed allowances for the high quality seed demanded by sod growers. Industry support for the new regula-

tions should provide great assurance to these growers.

This move in the industry has to be a step in the right direction. The commercial sod grower has every reason to be concerned with serious lawn weeds and coarse field grasses that deface or foul the field prior to lifting. The homeowner consumer shares the same concern when associating with the finished product.

Help Offered on Turf For Athletic Fields

A publication on turf for athletic fields has been written by agronomists Carl T. Blake and William B. Gilbert at North Carolina State University. They describe how to design football fields, baseball fields and general playgrounds for best survival of the grass. They tell how to prepare the soil and care for the grass, and have outlined the best grasses for the Mountains, Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

Copies are available free from local offices of the Agricultural Extension Service, or by writing to the Department of Agricultural Information, N.C. State University, Raleigh, N.C.

When pros go to seed, they turn to Chanderlin.

Who can blame them?

Chanderlin offers virtually every superior variety of seed. And then some. Included are

0217 Fylking Kentucky Blue Grass, Manhattan Perennial Rye, Exeter Colonial Bentgrass, Highlight Chewings Fescue.

CROWN VETCH—SEED AND CROWNS
(All Varieties.)

Wild flower seeds and tree seeds also available for roadside planting.

Chanderlin also has sod quality blue grass, Fescue and Merion Blue for certified sod production. Plus many other grasses and special mixtures for institutions, golf courses, contractors and landscapers, mixed to your specifications.

Chanderlin Seed Co.

Division of Lofts Pedigreed Seed, Inc.

Chimney Rock Road

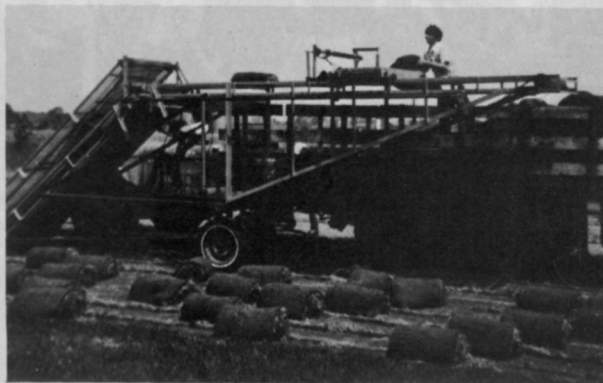
Bound Brook, New Jersey 08805

Call Collect (201) 356-8702

Branches in Los Angeles, Calif.; Albany, Ore.

49A

HADFIELD AUTOMATIC PICKUP SOD ROLL LOADER



Pat. Pending

1. Sodloader easily attaches to any sod truck.
2. No worker needed on ground when loading.
3. Will load up to three rows of sod at one time.
4. Cross conveyor runs lengthways of loader.
5. Loader may be backed rapidly on short rows.
6. Why palatize sod when you can slide sod out of any stack dumpbox with small modification, if they are stacked right? Have been doing it for three years. My customers are mostly homeowners.
7. 8mm movie film on how to modify stack dump box and stack sod, will be sent C.O.D. for \$50.00.

Hadfield Sod Roller Co.
4643 Sherwood, Oxford, Michigan 48051

Phone: Area 313 628-2000
Dealer Inquiry Invited