

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.

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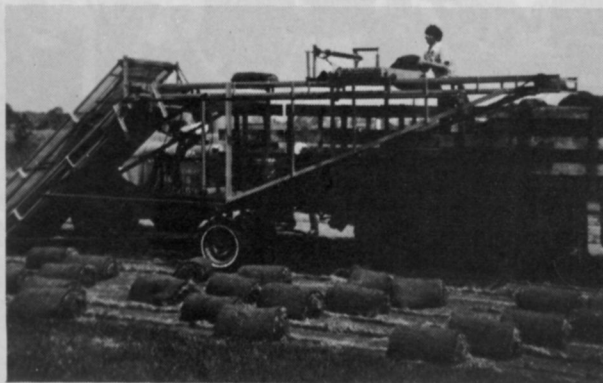
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