

# Benomyl for Fusarium Blight, Says MSU

Stop worrying about phosphate and nitrate pollution from fertilizing turf, or for having to live with Fusarium blight, but don't assume your turf worries are over because you decide to sod rather than seed.

These were some general recommendations coming out of two days of intensive discussions about turfgrass. The event was the 41st annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference at Michigan State University.

More than 400 golf course superintendents, sod growers, grounds managers, and other turf specialists attended.

"We have found a material, called benomyl, which will control Fusarium blight," reported Dr. Joseph M. Vargas of MSU's botany and plant pathology department. "Apply eight ounces of benomyl per 1,000 sq. ft. and thoroughly wash it down into the root zone before it has a chance to dry on the foliage," he directed.

Dr. Vargas said benomyl can be washed in by hand hosing or that it can be applied to the area covered by a sprinkler, allowing the sprinkler spray to wash it down. Two to five applications are required for control, he advised.

Benomyl is available under trade names by Du Pont and Scotts.

Use of phosphate and nitrate fertilizer on Michigan lawns does not contribute significantly to pollution of lakes and streams, contended Dr. Paul Rieke, MSU soil scientist.

Research at MSU and elsewhere has shown that phosphates are almost insoluble in soil and that, where care is used to follow recommendations for applications, there is no phosphate leaching.

Nitrate leaching, he said, is related to the type of nitrogen fertilizer used — water-soluble or organic—the rate of application at one time and over the season, and the amount of irrigation.

Dr. Rieke said that where turfgrass is being grown on heavily irrigated, sandy soils, especially near lakes and streams lighter and more frequent applications are required.

A visiting agronomist from the University of Arkansas cautioned that quality sod alone is not the answer to a beautiful turf.

"Proper seedbed preparation is just as crucial for the long-term success of sodded lawns as for seeded lawns," said Dr. John W. King. "And proper irrigation is the most important factor affecting the knit-

ting of sod as well as the establishment of seedlings."

Dr. King, an MSU graduate, said proper debris removal, grading, drainage and soil texture are essential before sodding or seeding.

"Later correction is much more expensive than doing the job right in the first place," he emphasized.

Dr. King listed 12 lawn establishment principles, as important to the success of the home lawn as to the public green:

—Remove debris. Stones, roots, cement blocks and other debris interfere with water movement in the soil and result in dry spots.

—Rough grade the area. Slope at 2% to 5% away from buildings.

—Install tile around foundations and through low areas. Pack backfill over tile so that settling will not occur later.

—Till or modify soil. Loam, sandy, clay loam, or sandy loam are best for lawns. Till to eight-inch depth.

—Fertilize and lime. Incorporate fertilizer, especially phosphorus, into top soil. Lime to pH 6.5.

—Final grade. The soil to receive the sod or seedlings should be smooth, fine and well-settled.

—Weed control. Use temporary soil sterilants to control quackgrass, nutsedge or bentgrass, if present. Keep sterilants away from tree and shrub roots.

—Seed or sod. Use high-quality seed blends or mixture high-quality sod.

—Roll lightly to assure contact of seed or sod with soil.

—Mulch with two tons of weed seed-free straw per acre if seeding.

—Irrigate. Use light water applications daily for the first month to keep soil moist, but not wet.

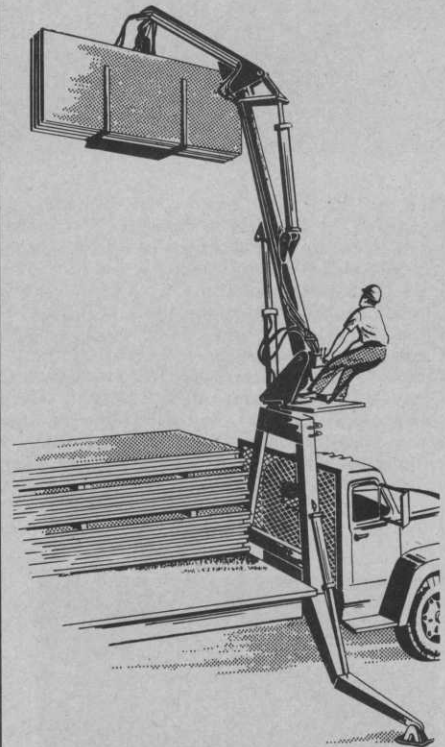
—Mow regularly as soon as any grass reaches one and one-half inches in height.

James Armstrong, J. D. Armstrong Landscape, Frazer, was elected president of the Michigan Turfgrass Association. Vice-president is Clem Wolfrom, Jr., Detroit Golf Club. The executive secretary-treasurer is James Standish III of Detroit. Dr. Paul Rieke of MSU is assistant secretary; Dr. Kenyon Payne of MSU, assistant treasurer.

Directors are Bill Milne of Gross Point Farms, Robert G. Spoelma of Spring Lake, James Smith of Detroit, Ted Woehrl of Birmingham, Gary Bartsch of Orchard Lake, Robert Knoll of Troy, and George Prieskorn of Brighton.

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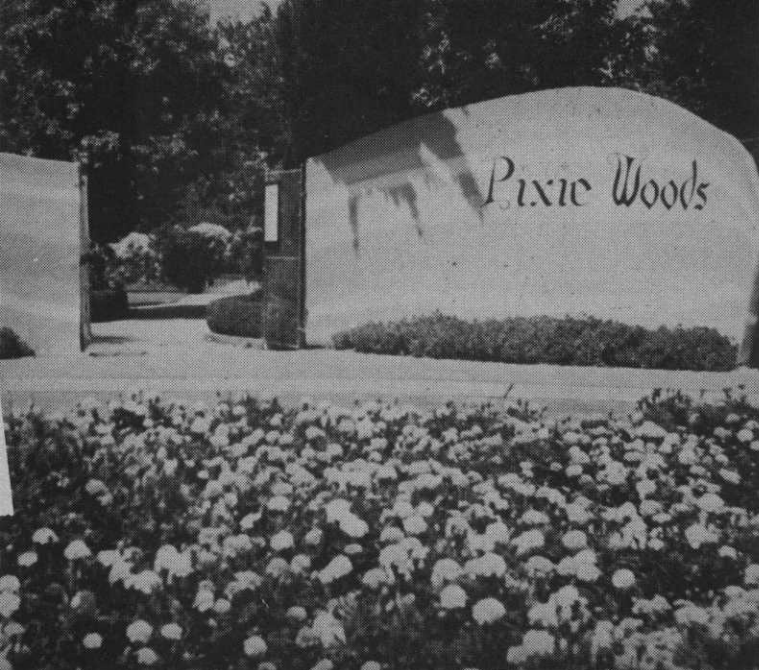
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Five national winners in the annual Gold Medal Awards program for excellence in park and recreation management have been announced by the Sports Foundation, Inc. Presentations were made recently at the 42nd National Sportings Goods Association Convention and Show. Winners are: Class I (population more than 250,000) — Washington, D.C.; Class II (population 100,000-250,000) — Madison, Wis.; Class III (population 50,000-100,000) — Stockton, Calif.; Class IV (population 20,000-50,000) — Glenview, Ill.; and Class V (population under 20,000) — Lewiston, Idaho. Pictures above are of key elements of the Class III winning entry from Stockton. The city was noted for its Pixie Woods children's park, Silver Lake Family Camp and exemplary

senior citizen's park. It was cited also for such items as its park storage building design for a new park and home development. The building was designed to blend in with the design of the neighborhood. Washington received the first state award for its parks and recreation program. Sound financing, far-sighted land acquisition, strong leadership, balanced but flexible programming, and over-all planning and cooperation with other agencies were key program criteria. Of special interest to judges was the degree to which the department succeeded in assessing and meeting the recreational needs and desires of the community.



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