

Trimmings

SYNTHETIC TURF promises to become a mainstay in the American life style whether or not it continues to be used extensively for athletic fields. New markets are developing or being developed in both consumer and industrial markets. Indications are that Monsanto's consumer sales this year (including doormats) will exceed commercial sales. New markets for synthetic turf (by American Biltrite, 3M, Ozite, Chevron, Lee & Mohawk and others) include synthetic ground coverings around motels, gas stations, shopping centers, highway medians, and homes. One report even has Astro-Turf being used to cover Hawaiian cemetery plots owned by Chinese whose religion permits them to attend grass on plots only two weeks of the year.

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ROADS AND STREETS in this country now total 3.7 million miles, surprisingly up only slightly in the last 15 years from about 3.4 million. And only about 15 percent of this total is municipal mileage. The balance is rural. Further, the Federal government has jurisdiction only of roads in National Forests, Parks, etc. This amounts to about 5 percent of the total (188,000 miles), the balance being under state or local control.

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SODIUM appears the chief cause of damage to plant growth where plants are subjected to high concentrations of household laundry. Study by two VPI scientists showed other soluble salts along with the sodium delayed emergence of seedlings in corn plants. Abnormal growth was also common including bending, abnormal constrictions across leaves, discoloration, and in some cases death of the corn plants in less than three weeks. Phosphorus was not a factor, apparently because it is a prime fertilizer element which improves plant growth.

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A MOVIE produced by the National Agricultural Chemicals Association entitled "Norman Borlaug: Revolutionary," is gaining popularity. It was selected to receive a Golden Eagle Award by CINE, the Council on International Nontheatrical Events, plus an Award of Merit in the '71 American Horticultural Film Festival. Dr. Borlaug, Iowa-born agronomist, Nobel Peace Prize winner (in 1970 for developing new wheat strains), and director of an international wheat research program at Mexico City, has become a

national news figure of late. His testimony at hearings of the Environmental Protection Agency recently at Washington, D.C. scored all efforts to ban DDT because, he testified, "Without DDT and other important agricultural chemicals, our goals are simply unattainable—and starvation and world chaos will result." He said that we used 290 million acres of farmland last year to produce food for ourselves and other nations. "With the technology used 30 years ago—when most of today's pesticides and fertilizers were nonexistent—we would have required nearly 600 million acres..." Dr. Borlaug also appeared last month before 1000 delegates from 125 countries attending the 16th Governing Conference of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. He literally scored environmentalists for their anti-DDT campaign and won strong support for his position from the world FAO group. Replies can be expected shortly, especially from specific groups including what he termed the "new legal arm of the movement," the Environmental Defense Fund.

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SCIENTISTS IN INDIA are working on a research project to find ways to speed the tree growth, with U.S. funds. A foreign currency grant is for a basic study of dormancy and growth control of Himalayan spruce, similar to U.S. spruces. Conifer seedlings grow continuously for up to 10 months. Then a terminal bud forms and dormancy sets in. When the bud opens, growth begins again for a few weeks; then, another bud is formed and dormancy again occurs. Indian scientists will seek ways to make trees grow for several months each year.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE MODERN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT, a primer of history and experiences by a veteran golf course superintendent, Richard Viereger.

The book is soft cover, 8½x11 inches in size and has a plastic spiral binding. It is 186 pages in length and contains many illustrations. Price is \$9.50.

The book contains the ideas on golf course management and maintenance gained by Mr. Viereger during many years in the profession. Whether learning to manage a golf course, or already on one, the book is interesting and worthwhile. The publisher

PARATHION was the subject of controversy last year when two deaths and many illnesses in North Carolina were blamed on the chemical used to control aphids and flea beetles on flue cured tobacco. Florida growers of cigar wrapper tobacco, an earlier crop than the northern flue-cured tobacco and one on which six to 10 times more parathion is normally used, had reason for concern and welcomed studies by Florida's Dr. William Tappan, university researcher. He supervised checks of 45 tobacco workers over a 6-week period. Despite contact with parathion residues, no illnesses occurred though one worker did experience slight depression effects. Parathion is a very dangerous material, Tappan reports, and must be used with extreme care. Yet regular blood and urine sample indicated no problems where the chemical was used as recommended.

Barrows Is Named Consulting Arborist

At its recent meeting in Montreal, Canada, the American Society of Consulting Arborists voted Walter J. Barrows into active membership. The Society with members throughout the United States and Canada is composed of men who are recognized for their professional abilities in the care, treatment, and maintenance of trees in the landscape.

These men are particularly skillful in the technical aspects of arborist culture, tree appraisals, tree surveys, and the evaluations of the effects of trees in our environment.

Barrows, Ventura, California, has been employed by the Ventura County Parks Department as Landscape Coordinator for the past three years.

recommends it for classroom instruction. Tips given in this book are directed specifically toward the golf course business.

Segments of the book include superintendent responsibilities, training and administration of workmen, structure of the superintendents crew, educational needs, maintenance of property, communications, how to apply for the position, and even the duties of the superintendent as a citizen.

Available from Tomson Publications, P.O. Box 50160, Indianapolis, Ind. 46250.