SOD INDUSTRY SECTION



James Beard, right, and John King check Michigan State University sod research. Dr. Beard and staff will show latest experimental work at combined Michigan State Sod Research Field Day and ASPA summer meeting, June 29.

## American Sod Producers Assn. Plans Farm and Research Tour

Trustees for the American Sod Producers Association have announced two major events important to the sod industry.

First on the agenda will be the annual ASPA summer meeting. This will be held in conjunction with the Michigan State Sod Research Field Day at the Muck Experiment Farm on Tuesday, June 29 starting at 1:00 p.m. The Muck Experiment Farm is located on the outskirts of East Lansing.

Sod producers at this event can see and discuss first hand with researchers, the most concentrated and intensive sod research program in the United States. The tour of the research plots, organized and conducted by Dr. James Beard and his staff at Michigan State, will include vital areas of concern to sod producers.

Specific items to be shown and discussed include: (1) sod strength and transplant rooting evaluation of turfgrass varieties, Kentucky bluegrass brands, Kentucky bluegrass-red fescue mixtures as well as various cutting heights and frequencies, (2) fertilization program for sod establishment, including rates, frequencies of application and types of carriers, (3) sod production subsidence studies as compared to normal cropping practices, (4) seeding rate and date studies, (5) sod disease problems, particularly Fusarium blight control, (6) sod weed control including control of annual bluegrass and control in young stands of Kentucky bluegrass, (7) sod clipping utilization studies, (8) sod heating and prevention studies, and (9) sod nematode studies.

Specific steps are as follows:

- Stop 1, Nitrogen Fertilization of Bluegrass-Red Fescue sod mixtures;
- Stop 2, Fusarium Blight Control in Kentucky Bluegrass sod with systemic fungicides.
- Stop 3, Organic soil subsidence and soil removal in sod production;
- Stop 4, Fertilizing for sod strength and rerooting:

IAm Curious [green]

You, too, should be curious about this magnificent young beauty among lawn grasses. 0217® Brand Fylking Kentucky bluegrass is a great green because it greens up earlier in spring, stays green longer in fall. Curiously, Fylking thrives when cut at 3/4 inch (even as low as 1/2 inch) making possible backyard putting greens with no special care required. Its curious name, Fylking, refers to its quality of dense root growth that crowds out weeds. It's a Swedish word because Fylking was discovered in Svalof, Sweden, and developed in America. Internationally tested, Fylking has proven superior over a 12year period. Fylking is more diseaseresistant, produces no seedheads, takes heavy traffic and resists drought. Get curious about this wonderful lawn. Available now at local wholesale seed or sod distributors.



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- Stop 5, Factors influencing sod heating;
- Stop 6, Potential uses for pelletized clippings;
- Stop 7, Annual Bluegrass control studies with endothall;
- Stop 8, Weed control studies in new Kentucky Bluegrass seedings;
- Stop 9, A survey of nematode problems in sod production;
- Stop 10, Seeding rate and date studies for sod production;
- Stop 11, Comparative sod strength and transplant rooting capabilities of 30 Bluegrass varieties;
- Stop 12, Bluegrass blends and Bluegrass-Red Fescue mixtures for sod production;
- Stop 13, Effects of cutting heights and frequency on sod strength and transplant rooting capabilities and;
- Stop 14, Sod quality as affected by varying percentages of Canada Bluegrass in the seed source.

The data discussed for many of the studies will include actual measurements of sod strength and the transplant rooting capabilities which were developed at MSU.

Individuals wishing additional information concerning housing, etc. can write Robert Shearman, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

Scheduled the evening of June 29, after the tour of the plots, will be the annual meeting and banquet of the Association. Included among the items of business at the meeting will be election of three members to the Board of Trustees.

Activities will continue on the following day (June 30) with a daylong tour of the Michigan sod industry. Host organization for the tour will be the Michigan Sod Growers Association. Don Juchartz, Wayne County Extension Director, and Bob Hozak, President of the Michigan Sod Growers Association, are planning the tour.

Looking ahead to the second major activity—Cal-Turf in California will be host to the national Educational Conference and Sod Equipment Field Day. This major event is scheduled for February 22 thru 24, 1972. Plans are being formulated. Specific details will be announced in forthcoming issues of Weeds Trees and Turf.

## Jacklin Seed Company, Inc. Gives Fylking Top Rating

Fylking Kentucky bluegrass is one of the delightful, new "finetextured" varieties suggested for well groomed lawns throughout the bluegrass zone, especially where the neat look of a closely-clipped turf is wanted. So reports Doyle Jacklin, Jacklin Seed Co., Dishman, Wash.

Fylking Kentucky bluegrass was discovered and bred in Sweden, "polished up" in this country by Jacklin as the 0217 brand and adapted to American conditions. Two outstanding attributes make Fylking one of the most heralded varieties of recent years, — low growth suited to inch-high mowing, and remarkable resistance to the usual lawn diseases.

In most areas Fylking provides a luxurious turf, with modest care. Fylking gets along with slightly less feeding than Merion bluegrass, and needs little else than regular mowing,—occasional thatch removal and sprucing up with a weed preventer, perhaps.

The 0217 Fylking seed is grown as an agricultural crop on nearly weed-free soils of eastern Washington and northern Idaho. It is cleaned to perfection, and the purchaser of Fylking seed or sod need have no fear that he will be introducing unwanted vegetation into his lawn, according to Jacklin. Fylking blends well with other fine-textured grasses, including fine fescues and even colonial bentgrasses. The company recommends that in most cases at least one-third of a seed mixture should be Fylking, in order to gain more quickly the velvety luxuriance this variety provides.

In warm weather a Fylking seeding should show green sprouts in as little as two weeks. As the grass grows taller and roots more deeply watering can taper off. The foundation is now laid for years of lawn satisfaction. Jacklin recommends that mowing begin when the grass is about 2 inches tall. It should then be clipped regularly thereafter so that no more than half of the green leaf is removed at any one mowing. If a few weeds show up from seed in the soil, there is no cause for alarm. Most will disappear as mowing continues. The remainder can be eliminated later with easy-to-use lawn herbicides, if, indeed, they are not squeezed out by the Fylking. Herbicides are best not applied until young grass is old enough to have had several mowings.



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