

Trimmings

ARTIFICIAL TURF use is being questioned by the National Football League Players Association. The association group is apparently getting the run-around from NFL owners following their request that further installation of artificial turf be halted until a study is made. The association wants to determine if artificial turf is causing an "alarming number of football injuries." Owners have referred the players' representatives to the National Football League Player Relations Association in a maneuver rivaling the red tape of a government program. Some 42 percent of regular season NFL games will be played on artificial turf in 11 stadiums this season.

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THATCH buildup in fine turfgrass may soon be eliminated as a troublesome maintenance problem. Michigan State University scientist David P. Martin has injected enzymes and a lignin precursor (ferulic acid) into thatch. The biological material cuts decomposition time by 5 percent—which Martin thinks might just be fast enough to keep thatch from ever building up. Tests continue.

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CONTROLLING WEEDS via science in developing countries has become more important than ever, according to L. J. Matthews, secretary of the New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society. He said recently that hand weeding is rapidly becoming inefficient and uneconomical, in an announcement of the fourth Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society Conference, scheduled for March 1973 at Rotorua in that country.

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FLORIDA TURFGRASS is big business with specialists estimating dollar value of turfgrass and its agribusiness aspects in excess of \$188 million. They estimate 621,000 acres of turfgrasses by 1975, and a state total of 713,000 acres by 1980. Figures are based on population increase projections for the state, with the most single significant increase in acreage to come from golf course construction. Some 19,000 acres of highway rights-of-way will be added by 1975. Cut sod and vegetative propagating material now comprise less than 6 percent of the total turf acreage in the state, but this small portion accounts for \$13½ million in sales.

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ACCOUSTICAL EAR MUFFS are called for if operators experience

a ringing in their ears for a few hours after getting off a tractor, or if voices of others seem muffled to them. Extension safety specialist Wilbur Stuckey at The Ohio State University says ear plugs and cotton are worthless as a protective device. Ear plugs may cause ear infections and are easily lost. But acoustical ear muffs reduce noise to safe levels, and still permit enough sound to reach the ears for informational and safety purposes.

Consulting Arborists Assn. Founded Four Years Ago

The American Society of Consulting Arborists was founded just four years ago in Philadelphia, Pa., during the annual meeting of the International Shade Tree Conference.

Since that time, an almost exclusive membership of veteran, competent arborists, have offered a new type of service. They serve as technical consultants, appraisers, tech-

nical witnesses, and in related capacities to municipalities, developers, architects, tree owners and others.

The group has never solicited members, and by contrast, has been unwilling to accept any but those qualified by training, education, and experience in the industry of arboriculture.

Result has been an increasing demand for services, many of which are in areas where the ASCA does not have membership.

Walter Morrow, a charter member and vice-president, has notified members that the group is seeking capable member prospects in these areas where members cannot conveniently provide service. Normal channels for membership in ASCA is via the association's membership committee. Dr. Spencer Davis, 12 Lakeview Ave., Milltown, N. J., executive secretary of the group for the past two years, handles advertising, public relations, and generally coordinates activities for the group.

According to the recent ASCA

PCB's In the Environment

For the past few years, scientists (working with older and less sophisticated equipment than recently available have often failed to distinguish polychlorinated biphenyls—known as PCB's—from pesticides (particularly DDT) when found as residues in the environment. Government has undertaken a study and the following is a mini-report from 12 scientists who recently gave progress reports on their research with PCB's at a meeting sponsored by the Working group on pesticides, a unit of the President's Cabinet Committee on the Environment. Following is the report:

"PCB's are not pesticides but share some of the same characteristics and can be confused with several pesticides in analytical methods. PCB's are found in many commercial products: Printing inks, carbon paper, rubber tires, plasticizers, and industrial cooling systems (heat exchangers), among others. PCB's seem to enter the environment from many of these sources and become of particular concern when leakages or recycling (of paper) result in contamination of food and water. Harmful properties of PCB's are not yet completely

known, but are under intensive toxicological study in a number of laboratories.

"PCB's represent a challenge to chemists far more difficult than the analogy of separating salt and sugar that had been mixed together. PCB's have characteristics that resemble persistent insecticides in some regards, and both groups of compounds may interfere with each other if appropriate precautions are not followed. Chemist R. Webb of the Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory, Athens, Ga., noted that various forms, or isomers, of PCB's can be detected. More than 20 such isomers were detected in liver samples from sea otters, reported chemist J. W. Rote, Stanford University, Pacific Grove, Calif.

"Calvin Corley, U.S. Department of Agriculture chemist at Beltsville, Md., reported that a simple method has been developed to distinguish PCB from toxaphene, which interfered in the analyses and invalidated tests. Natural constituents of eggs that also invalidated tests can be removed with a process developed by Dr. Kenneth R. Hill, of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville, Md."