

American Sod Producers Announce Post-Meeting Report

Executive-Secretary Henry W. Indyk of the American Sod Producers Association has just released the official report of Board action at the summer meeting held last month in Michigan (See August WTT).

Action of the Board of Trustees including appointing of new council chairmen is as follows: George Stewart (newly elected treasurer) chairman of administration and finance; Wily Miner, ecology; Dale Habenicht, legislative; Robert Daymon, management and industry; Ben Warren, membership; John Nunes, (newly elected director) mechanization; and William Latta, (newly elected director) public relations.

Indyk also reports that completion of the association's intensive effort to draft a set of sod specifications is in sight. The Board has approved a set of specifications and will shortly publish these. Copies will be made available to the ASPA membership for distribution.

The Board has approved development of a simple cost accounting chart of accounts and manual as a guide for the individual sod farm accounting system. This is being finalized by Robert Daymon and Don Juchartz. Juchartz is Wayne County, Mich., Extension Director. He has spent a number of years working closely with Michigan sod producers.

Printing of the first formal membership directory for the ASPA will be started shortly, according to Indyk. He has urged members and potential new members to remit dues promptly (dues are \$50 yearly) in order to be included in the official directory. New members may submit checks directly to Indyk for processing (Dr. Henry W. Indyk, Exec.-Sec., ASPA, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903).

The American Landscape Contractors Association has invited the ASPA to participate in the ALCA annual conference at Las Vegas, Nev., Feb. 9, 1972. Indyk reports the invitation was accepted and the ASPA will participate in a workshop on sodding. The Association will also provide an exhibit for this event. ASPA president, Tobias

Grether, Cal Turf, will handle details on the workshop, and Parker Shirling, Princeton Turf at Centerville, Md., will assume responsibility for the booth.

The ALCA will reciprocate by participating in the upcoming winter ASPA annual meeting (Feb. 22-24, 1972) in California. Details for this winter meeting are being formulated.

Plans are also being made, Indyk states, for the ASPA '72 summer meeting to be held at Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Host will be the Nursery Sod Growers of Ontario.

Michigan Announces Turfgrass Ratings

Variety "blends" are recommended for most Michigan lawns, because no single variety has all the "ideal" characteristics of attractiveness, durability, and resistance to disease and adverse weather.

"A blend of two or three improved Kentucky bluegrasses is definitely preferred to the use of a single variety," according to Dr. James Beard, MSU turfgrass researcher.

"Since all available varieties have certain weaknesses, especially in terms of disease resistance, a blending of several improved varieties will result in a better overall turf."

Beard found no great differences among six different blends that contained Merion bluegrass.

Research showed that Merion, Fylking, Pennstar and Nuggett have the best general appearance throughout the season in trials comparing 66 bluegrass varieties.

For droughty, sandy soils and shaded areas, Beard recommends red fescue varieties. He said Pennlawn is generally considered to be the standard for red fescue quality, but Jamestown was equal or superior in appearance in last year's trials. Wintergreen, the new red fescue variety developed by MSU, had excellent color and quality until it and all varieties were attacked by leaf-spot in July.

Bentgrass varieties — which are

best suited to high maintenance, closely mowed lawns or golf greens — were compared by Dr. Paul Rieke, MSU soil scientist. He found Toronto, Penncross and Cohansey to be superior in overall performance.

New Lawn Grass Now Available

A new lawn grass, developed at Michigan State University, should be widely available throughout the state this fall.

The new variety, Wintergreen, is a superior red fescue grass that is tailored to Michigan growing conditions, according to Drs. James Beard and Fred Elliott, the MSU crop scientists who developed it.

Beard and Elliott say that Wintergreen compares favorably to Pennlawn red fescue, and produces a very thick turf for lawns, parks, cemeteries, roadsides and industrial grounds.

Also, Wintergreen is much darker green, has superior uniformity, stays greener during the winter, and can be grown under shady conditions. Best of all, it produces good turf with a minimum of fertilizing and watering.

According to the scientists, the adaptation of Wintergreen to areas outside Michigan is not known. Wintergreen is designed specifically for use under the moderate climate and light soil conditions of the Wolverine State.

The best bet for home owners who want to get Wintergreen seed are commercial seed dealers who specialize in the production and sale of turfgrass seed.

Biological Control For Grubs In Turfgrass

Grub proofing by biological control is possible according to Entomologist Dr. Richard L. Miller, Ohio State University.

Miller says literature on milky

spore disease indicates that this bacterial disease causes the death of grubworms. It is most effective against Japanese beetle grubs but will also kill others. The disease, he reports, is sold as Doom or Japidemic. Cost is about \$7 per pound, which will treat about 4000 square feet of lawn.

Milky spore disease is available from Fairfax Biological Laboratory, Clinton, Corners, N.Y. (For more information, circle Reader Card No. 717).

Insecticide Formulations Effective For Gypsy Mouth

Three new insecticide formulations have been tested recently for aerial application against gypsy moths at the Connecticut Experiment Station.

They are Dylox, a powder used with oil; Gardona in oil; and Sevin-4-Oil. All proved highly effective according to researchers doing the work.

Dr. Charles C. Doane and Paul W. Schaefer made the field tests in an area heavily infected with gypsy moths. Much of the area had been defoliated the previous year.

Oaks in 50-acre test plots showed about 10 percent defoliation when sprays were applied in late May. After treating, defoliation remained stable at the 10 percent damage level. But defoliation in untreated oaks in control areas sustained 70- to 90-percent defoliation.

Sevin-4-Oil residues proved highly toxic to gypsy moth larvae for at least eight weeks, the researchers said. Those of Dylox and Gardona were not toxic after the first rains.

Birds were not directly affected by the insecticides, according to the researchers, though they did note some normal changes as nesting and territory establishment proceeded following spray applications.

Details of the report are available directly from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Conn. 06504. Bulletin number of the report is 724.

Blackburn Reports On Aquatic Weed Symposium

Robert Blackburn, a research specialist in aquatic weed control with the Agricultural Research Service, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., has just returned from England after attending the Third International Symposium of the Control of Aquatic Weeds.

He reports that interest in this session focused on control of aquatic weeds by biological means and the effect of chemical control procedures on the aquatic environment.

Papers presented on the white amur (*Ctenopharyngodon idella* Val.) emphasized the need for more information on its rate of weed consumption as related to temperature, the conversion of aquatic weeds to fish flesh, and the factors necessary for natural spawning. Stock rates of the fish necessary for weed control will probably vary with the water temperatures. Effect of the white amur on native fish populations is not considered a problem in most areas of the world. Even in England where sport fishing is important, scientists believe the likelihood of the white amur spawning naturally is remote. Cost of producing fish large enough to use for stocking purposes appears the major problem because of the slower growth in the colder climates of the European countries.

Blackburn also reports that considerable interest was shown in the snail marisa (*Marisa cornuarietis*) as a biological control for aquatic vegetation. Effect of low temperatures on survival of the snail and its appetite for rice and watercress would limit its use in many areas of the world. The possibility of breeding a more cold tolerant snail was discussed since the snail can be used for human consumption.

Scientists from Holland, Blackburn says, expressed considerable interest in diuron, ametryne, atrazine, and terbutryn as aquatic herbicides. They have collected considerable information on the residue of these herbicides in soil, water, and fish. Information has also been collected on their effect on plankton, benthos, water quality and fish toxicity. Diuron and terbutryn are the most promising for aquatic weed control in irrigation ditches. Diuron showed large accumulations in fish and bottom muds. For this reason, they are placing greater emphasis on terbutryn.

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