Ecology Manipulation Suggested for Sod Fields

The most successful control of annual weeds in commercial sod fields, comes from manipulating the microecology, according to Dr. James V. Parochetti, Extension weed control specialist at the University of Maryland.

Proper mowing and control of turf diseases and problem insects are the key elements in producing vigorous turf growth which will do its own job of controlling weeds with little or no need for application of herbicides, he said during the Maryland Sod Conference in March.

He granted that herbicide application is often necessary, however, especially for the control of cool-season perennial grassy weeds, such as quackgrass, which make most of their growth in spring and fall when lawn grasses may not be actively growing.

The Maryland agronomist cited one herbicide application rule-of-thumb. "When the forsythia blooms drop, it's time to apply dacthal for crabgrass control."

He reminded nearly 100 persons attending the conference of the necessity of eliminating perennial weeds prior to establishment of a sod field.

Dalapon was listed as a good herbicide for controlling grassy perennial weeds, and dicamba plus 2,4-D was recommended for post-emergent applications to hold broadleaved perennial weeds in check.

New Headquarters Building To House Upjohn Ag Division

The Upjohn Company Agricultural Division will be consolidated under a single roof when new offices are completed in April.

Included in the move to the new facilities at Upjohn's research farm near Kalamazoo, Mich. will be the Upjohn and Tuco animal products marketing and research areas, Tuco agricultural chemicals marketing, Upjohn's Asgrow Seed Company, and certain other administrative personnel.

Dr. David A. Phillipson, vice-president and general manager of the agricultural division, said the consolidation reflects the rapid growth the division has experienced since its formation in 1964.

"Because of the increased size and complexity of our agricultural operations, there's a need for us to establish a single, more efficient base of operations," Dr. Phillipson said.