



NATURAL TURF MAINTENANCE costs are less than artificial turf, according to Melvin J. Robey, superintendent of Purdue's athletic facilities. For Ross-Ade Stadium, the university's football field, he said resodding cost \$2,600 including labor and materials. Artificial turf manufacturers claim the same area would cost from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Cost of maintenance and resodding for a year was \$4,475, with artificial turf producers claiming a cost almost five times as much. Yearly maintenance of an artificial turf football field would amount to \$5,000 according to its manufacturers, Robey said.

TALL FESCUE AND KENTUCKY bluegrass have cut growing time for sod in Harford county, Maryland, from the normal two to two-and-a-half years down to 18-20 months. Producers were using creeping fescue and Kentucky bluegrass, but shorter time to harvest plus a slight price advantage has convinced growers to switch. One producer increased his experimental three acres to 50. Two other sod producers have seeded 110 acres.

A CONTROLLED CHECK by Federal inspectors of commercial interstate trucks and busses in highway use has shown that 17 percent of the vehicles were in unsafe operating condition. They were ordered out of service until the mechanical deficiencies were corrected. Percentage of vehicles ordered out of service as a result of safety checks during random inspection activity was 24 percent.

PUTTING GREEN SOIL should have a percolation rate of about five inches per hour. The same soil should have a total pore space of about 35 percent by volume. Capillary pore space should account for about 25 percent of this. The rest should be non-capillary pore space. University of Florida research has demonstrated that adding colloidal phosphate, vermiculite and/or peat to sand in the proper proportions can result in a mixture with those desired physical properties.

FOUR MILLION private individuals own almost 303 million acres of forests, or nearly 66 percent of America's forested land.

JAMES CIPRA of Burr Ridge, Ill. takes his job home with him at night. A tree trimmer by trade, he whittles and carves things out of wood in his spare time. Owner of Riverside Tree Service, Cipra started whittling about two years ago. He turns out everything from toothpicks to totem poles.

PULLING WEEDS WON'T HELP says South Dakota State University. Their research shows that the root system of a single plant of field bindweed will penetrate the soil to a depth of 4 feet in one season and spread 2½ feet laterally. After three growing seasons the roots have extended downward 18 to 20 feet and covered a circle 17 to 18 feet in diameter.

Prentiss Drug & Chemical Co., Inc., is relocating its Chicago branch office to new and larger quarters at 15 S. Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 701, Park Ridge (Chicago), Ill. 60068. The firm is a producer of insecticides, rodenticides, chemicals and drugs.

Sodding Specifications Developed by ASPA

Guideline specifications for sodding have been developed by the American Sod Producers Association.

Purpose is to provide architects, owners, builders, developers and others with information to guide their efforts in using sod. Many plans today merely list "this area to be sodded." The Association has long believed that some specific guidelines would be helpful for the industry.

Information in the new publication includes that on soil preparation, sodding and turfgrass management with details on practically every area of management.

Major sections include specifications on subsoil preparation, topsoil material and application, fertilizer and pH corrections materials and final soil preparation, specifications for sod materials and transplanting, and for maintenance of transplanted sod.

Dr. Henry Indyk, executive-secretary of the ASPA, has announced that single copies are available via his office on request, at P. O. Box 231, New Brunswick, N. J. 08903.

The Grounds For Grass

Presented as part of a paper, "Grass and The Tamed Landscape" by Walter Bruning, A.S.L.A., landscape architect consultant for Jacobsen Manufacturing Company.

- 1. Grass Freshens the Air** — Like the leaves of trees, grass — through the process of photosynthesis — absorbs the pollutant carbon dioxide and gives off the oxygen atom.
- 2. Grass Filters Out Dust and Dirt** — Dust particles (from leaves of trees) either drop or are washed from the leaves to the grass below. The grass blades trap the particles and eventually are absorbed into the soil.
- 3. Grass Controls Erosion** — A healthy stand of grass prevents wind erosion, water erosion and retains precious water.
- 4. Grass Reduces Glare** — Just picture yourself at mid-day driving a four-lane ribbon of concrete in mid-July as opposed to resting your eyes on the green of Central Park.
- 5. Grass Reduces Radiation** — Of the total amount of solar heat striking the surface of a lawn, 5 percent is reflected, 5 percent is absorbed and 50 percent is eliminated through the transpiration or cooling process.
- 6. Grass Helps Deaden Sound** — The Riverbank Acoustical Laboratory of the ITT Research in Geneva, Ill., compared the acoustical qualities of turf with a heavy carpet on a felt pad. Surprisingly, the grass proved to have superior sound absorption qualities in the low and high frequencies which are the most annoying to man's ears.
- 7. Grass is Essential to Wildlife** — Grass is a source of food to many forms of wildlife and provides a haven for song birds, game birds and small animals.