

## ASPA — California or Bust

The greatest sod producer activity ever conducted is what the American Sod Producers Association boasts about their Educational Conference and Field Day, at the Disneyland Hotel, Los Angeles, Calif., Feb. 22-24.

ASPA officials say this year's program will encompass more topics and speakers than ever before. Prominent turf authorities, nationally and internationally known for their contributions to the turfgrass industry, have been invited to participate.

Speaking on the topic, "Technology of Sod Harvesting, Shipment and Transplanting," will be Dr.

James Beard of Michigan State University. Dr. Glenn Burton, Agriculture Research Service, USDA, a turfgrass breeder and developer of the Tif-varieties of hybrid Bermuda-grasses will speak on, "Development — Past and Future of Improved Warm Season Turfgrasses."

Toby Grether of Cal-Turf, Inc., will talk on "Sod Production in California." Other speakers on the program include Channing Jones, Ortho Garden and Home Marketing, Donald Juchartz, Director of Wayne County, Michigan, Cooperative Extension Service, and Dr. Victor Youngner, University of California.

The afternoon session of each day

will be devoted to field tours of research plots and demonstrations. Visitors will tour the Cal-Turf Sod production facilities, the Cal-Hy production facilities and view demonstrational plots of chemical performance.

A highlight of the conference will be the equipment field day. Many types of products and machinery for sod production will be discussed and demonstrated. Many are new to the industry and offer more efficient and economical techniques in doing the job.

In addition, a special tour of Disneyland for sod producers has been organized. Others may tour agricultural areas of southern California.

### Consumer Protection Highlights Sod Growers Meeting

Consumer protection in the sod industry was the major topic at the annual meeting of the Maryland Turfgrass Association, Inc., in December.

Discussion was triggered by an explanation of proposed amendments to the Virginia sod law by Dennis E. Brown, a representative of the turf and seed regulatory section in the Old Dominion's state department of agriculture.

One of the proposed amendments to the Virginia law would require that sod installers be licensed by the state in the interest of consumers. Maryland sod law already operates in the interest of consumers without a dealer licensing requirement.

Besides Maryland and Virginia, only two other states — Michigan and Kentucky — are known to have a law pertaining exclusively to sod.

New officers of the Maryland association were also elected at the meeting. They are: Emery R. Patton of Silver Spring, president; James Maxwell of Rising Sun, vice-president; Eugene Roberts of Glenn Dale, treasurer, and Dr. John R. Hall III of Silver Spring, secretary. Dr. Hall is Extension turfgrass management specialist at the University of Maryland in College Park.

New directors of the statewide turfgrass trade group are David Hamilton of Waldorf, Larry Moore of Daisy and Gordon C. Keys of Olney.



Gabriel Eros, left, president of Ontario Seed Cleaners & Dealers Limited, Brampton, Ontario, shows grass seed samples to Yasuharu Ikegami, a representative of the forage seed mission from Japan visiting Canada. Right is Ontario Seed's plant superintendent, Sam Vesely. Mr. Ikegami is chief of export in the domestic section, Nagoya Plant Protection Station, of Japan's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The purpose of the mission was to familiarize Japanese authorities with forage seed production and contract growing opportunities in Canada as well as to discuss regulations governing seed exports to Japan.