

Ohio Sod Growers Organize New Group

Ohio sod growers, meeting in conjunction with the recent Ohio Turfgrass Foundation annual at Cleveland, formally organized an Ohio Sod Growers Association. Potential for the group will be more than 80 growers plus supplier membership, for which there is a category.

John R. Kramer, Kramer & Sons, Westlake, was named president by the group. Other officers are: Chester Augspurger, Cincinnati

Turfgrass Nursery, Inc., vice-president; Dr. Robert W. Miller, The Ohio State University, secretary; Don Figurella, Best Turf Sod Farm, North Canton, treasurer; and directors, Cecil Collings, Green Valley Turf Farm, Youngstown, Woodrow Wilson, Eastside Nurseries, Inc., Canal Winchester, and Jack Schiller, Haywood, Inc., Oak Harbor.

Kramer reports that both Class A and Class B memberships are available at \$50 per year for each. Growers are eligible for Class A, and businessmen suppliers for the Class B category.

First meeting of the Board following the organizational session is scheduled for 12:00 noon, Jan. 25, at Columbus, O. Data on this session and memberships are available from either Kramer (24617 Center Ridge, Westlake, Tel. 871-4092) or from Dr. Miller (1827 Neil Ave., Columbus, 43210).

Plants Vital; But Can't Solve Pollution

Green plants such as ornamentals and turfgrass can be valuable in improving environmental conditions, but the plants should not be considered as a cure-all remedy.

Dr. V. B. Youngner, head of turfgrass research at the University of California, said many of today's ecologists are overestimating the effectiveness of turfgrass and ornamentals because they don't have the facts. He says that there are two major fallacies concerning green plants and pollution.

One is that plants will purify the air as it passes through them. He pointed out that some filtering does occur, but only in the gases that actually pass through the plant. As an example, Youngner said that polluted air might be several thousand feet high but wouldn't be filtered very well by a turf that might be only a couple of inches high.

Another misconception is that the production of oxygen by green plants will salvage the quality of the atmosphere.

"Certainly oxygen is given off by the plants, but there is no shortage of oxygen. The problem is one of pollutants in the atmosphere," Youngner commented.

Vegetation can play a very vital role in prevention of air pollution by dust and other particles, according to speaker Youngner.

People involved in turfgrass management have better opportunities to

solve water pollution problems. Youngner described systems where sewage water is sprayed on golf courses or ornamentals so that it can filter back into the ground water supply. By the time it filters into the ground, there should be no problems such as those occurring with direct dumping or run-off situations.

"People involved in the management of turfgrass and ornamentals have been environmentalists long before the word became so popular," Youngner said. "They have an important role but they must perform it from the position of understanding their actions and being careful to avoid any new contaminant problems."

In southern California, studies are underway using vegetation to establish "green belts" along mountain sides. The belts would aid in water conservation, disposal of sewage water, fire prevention or retardation, and recreation. Other research is determining the effect of different moisture levels on plants native to the region and the feasibility of establishing introduced species.

Definition of A Farmer

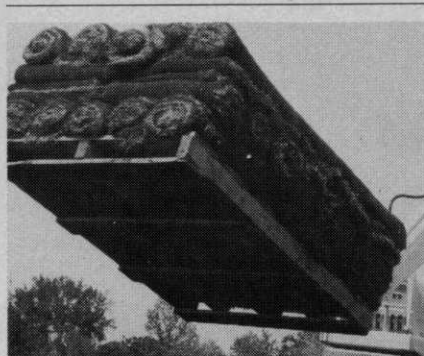
Who is a farmer? That's the question the Florida Project Agriculture Advisory Committee faced. To answer this, members of the committee, chaired by James F. Griffin, Jr. executive vice-president of the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association Inc., took many things into consideration.

A state-wide study was made for adjusting agricultural education and training programs so that they will better meet the needs of the Florida agricultural industry.

The committee defined a farmer as a land owner, operator, renter, lessor, or sharecropper who cultivates land. He is one who on 10 acres or less realizes at least \$50 per acre gross income, or on more than 10 acres returns at least a total of \$270 gross income from his farming operation.

Acreage of land is not necessarily a good criterion for deciding who is a farmer, said Griffin. Total man months of labor required and total income received from farming operations in a given year are better, but not complete.

"For example what about the person who has a crop failure due to drought or pests? What about the fellow with a half acre of land who makes a good livelihood raising watercress?" Griffin said.



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Executive Secretary

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