



Large snowblower above makes quick work of lumpy peat in the reseed program at the University of Alaska. Peat fell evenly over a hillside that would have not been practical to landscape by hand.

Alaska's Snowblowers Serve Dual Purpose

There's topsoil falling from the sky. And University of Alaska officials are using it to cover newly graded slopes on the campus in Fairbanks.

Physical plant personnel were not able to arrange special cooperation from the Almighty for their reseed program, but they did the next best thing. They found that snow removal equipment can be utilized in landscaping.

"We used our snow-blower to spread peat over some of the steep slopes around the new road," said Hal Kelly, equipment supervisor. "It does a beautiful job. If we had spread the peat by hand or used a grader, it wouldn't be even, and it would be lumpy. The blower covers evenly and pulverizes the peat as fine as if it had been put through a screen."

The grounds crew dumped the peat in the road, and used a grader

a plow it to one side like snow. The blower followed the grader, spewing out a black cloud of peat to fall evenly along the slope to a distance of some two hundred feet.

Such use of snow equipment for landscaping purposes is unique as far as is known. The next time the University of Alaska crew plans a further refinement of the method by incorporating the grass seed in the final layer of peat, thus saving also the last step of hand scattering the seed.

Turfgrass Researchers Honored At Penn Conference

Two prominent turfgrass specialists were cited for achievements during the annual Turfgrass Conference held recently at The Pennsylvania State University. Honored were Dr. Fred V. Grau of College Park, Md., and Dr. Joseph M. Dutch of University Park, Pa. Each received a service award plaque from the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council.

The Penn State Turfgrass Conference was dedicated to Russell A. Smith, turfgrass research technician at the University for 36 years. Due to illness, Mr. Smith was unable to attend but was represented at a testimonial dinner by brother John, vegetable technician, who has served Penn State for 37 years, and brother William, floricultural technician, who served the University for 42 years. Regrettably, Russell Smith died two days after the conference.

The service award to Dr. Grau recognized his outstanding contributions and devotion to furthering the turfgrass industry both at home and abroad—especially for his most recent contribution as executive director of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council.

Dr. Joseph M. Dutch was honored with a service award plaque for his outstanding dedication as a turfgrass teacher and researcher. Dutch has taught at Penn State for more than 13 years and is responsible for the success of the Turfgrass Short Course Program which to date has involved students from 22 states, Canada and Mexico.

Elected president of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council was Martin Stolpe of New Castle. The new first vice president is David O. Miller of Bethlehem. Second vice president is Robert Hummer of Manheim. Treasurer is David Boyd, Jr., of New Wilmington. Continuing as executive director is Dr. Grau.

Named directors of the Council were Clyde Lyons of West Middlesex, Craig Monroe of Somerset, Richard Valentine of Ardmore, William Helbling of Pittsburgh, Levi Travis of Hawley, and C. William Black of Hagerstown, Md. The Penn State Turfgrass Conference is co-sponsored by the College of Agriculture and the Penna. Turfgrass Council.



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