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## MD. SOD CONFERENCE (from page 60)

understand fashion. His discussion was extremely pertinent because of Michigan's recent sod market price collapse and their subsequent investigation into the possibility of stabilizing the market with sod marketing orders. Coddington said that a marketing order is a legal tool provided by the government for solving marketing problems. Its purpose is to improve returns to the growers through orderly marketing. Types of market orders would include quantity or quality regulations, market or production research, marketing statistics, regulations prohibiting unfair methods of competition and unfair trade practices or price posting by handlers to aid in stabilizing prices.

The last speaker for the conference was Kathryn D. Williams, Bowen & Diggs, Wheaton, Md. A lawyer in her own right, Ms. Williams discussed the basic elements of contracts for sale of sod and pointed out the weaknesses of oral contracts with their almost certain requirement for litigation. Her discussion of the Maryland code regulating sod sales with relationship to contracts was pertinent and raised many questions.

## Rocky Mountain Sod Growers To Host ASPA Meeting

Plans for the annual summer meeting of the American Sod Producers Association have been finalized. This year's meeting is scheduled for Denver, Colorado and the host organization for the event is the Rocky Mountain Sod Growers Association. Dates for the meeting are July 16-19.

The three-day program will include educational sessions on the technical aspects of sod production, tours of sod operations at the Richlawn Turf farms, sod installation, equipment field day and the annual business meeting and banquet.

A special program is being planned for women and children.

## American Sod Producers Hold Meeting In Hawaii

Sod producers traveled by charter flight from various areas of the United States mainland and Canada to Hawaii for the winter meeting of the American Sod Producers Association. About 200 attended the eight-day trip, including sod producers, suppliers, wives and children. The late-winter meeting provided an opportunity to enjoy the unlimited natural beauty of Hawaii as well as attend exceptionally well-rated educational sessions.

Kauai and Maui islands were selected as the sites for the ASPA activities. These islands exhibit unlimited natural beauty and quietness as contrasted to other areas of intensified development.

The educational sessions were planned as seminar sessions on the business rather than technical aspects of sod production. Dr. James Longstreet, chairman of the finance department, College of Business Administration of the University of South Florida, presented two one-half day seminars on the topic of financial management. His presentations were filled with a constant flow of valuable and useful information for the successful management of sod operations.

In addition, Dr. Longstreet conducted two roundtable discussions that proved to be most helpful in answering questions raised by sod producers attending the seminar sessions. Frequently, specific questions lead to lengthy discussions on certain aspects of financial management as to how it relates to sod production.

During a third seminar session,



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attention was focused on the topic of "General Tax Planning For Sod Producers." Richard Thomas, relayed information on various aspects of taxes, ranging from income tax through estate planning. He is a partner in the nationally known accounting firm of Arthur Anderson of Houston, Texas.

Recognizing the need for better business management in the sod industry, ASPA purposely selected talented speakers with the capabilities exhibited by Dr. Longstreet and Mr. Thomas. Educational seminars of this nature, as well as making available the ASPA Accounting Manual, represent association activities to help sod producers become better business managers for more profitable sod production.

## Wye Institute Research Studies Turfgrass Problems

The University of Maryland's agricultural experiment station, in cooperation with the Wye Institute, is conducting three separate studies in turfgrass management on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

These studies will provide useful information on growing high-quality lawns, according to Dr. John R. Hall, project leader, who is an assistant professor of agronomy at the university's College Park campus.

Over 100 types of Kentucky bluegrass are being studied in the variety trial project. Sixty-four are individual varieties and 36 are mixtures of two or more varieties.

Separate plots are being observed for quality, density, color, disease resistance, seedling vigor and persistence. Ratings are taken on the plots from April until November in order to follow their performance throughout the growing season.

The variety trial project was started in the fall of 1972 and will continue for an indefinite period. It is hoped that a variety adaptable to the Eastern Shore region will result from these tests.

The second project involves variety trials of grasses in shaded areas. There are 32 varieties being tested. These are mainly creeping red fescues, Kentucky 31 tall fescue, and Warrens A34 bluegrass and perennial ryegrass.

One of the major factors being looked at in this project is the persistence of each of the varieties. Some of the grasses on the market now last only four to five years, according to Dr. Hall. When this

experiment is finished, homeowners can plant the variety recommended, knowing it will persist.

Common Bermudagrass is a nuisance invader of lawns on the Eastern Shore. The third experiment that Dr. Hall is running is aimed at eradicating common Bermudagrass from established bluegrass turf. The chemical, siduron (Tupersan), is being used in the study.

Bluegrass plots that have become infested with Bermudagrass at the Wye Institute are being used in the study. Various rates and times of

application of Tupersan are being studied.

The eradication experiment was started in the spring of 1972. At present, Dr. Hall is pleased with the results of the chemical in his fall evaluation.

With experiments and studies being conducted at the Wye Institute, the Maryland agricultural experiment station hopes to improve the quality of life for the people of the Eastern Shore. These projects are only one means of accomplishing that goal.



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