

MacDonald emphasizes.

"Using Acti-dione through September and into October helps keep the turfgrass in shape for the winter season," he adds. "This fungicide does a tremendous job on leafspot and worked well on dollarspot in 1972."

His preventive programs go a long way toward this type of control because leafspot often goes unnoticed until most of the damage is done. With turf mixtures such as those at New Haven Country Club, the disease will likely attack only one type of grass and the rest will remain healthy.

This makes it easier for the disease to go undetected until severe thinning has occurred.

Leafspot most often occurs between April 1 and May 15 when temperatures are cool and the turf is moist. In MacDonald's area, the generally high humidity, along with an abundance of rainfall last year, provided good conditions for leafspot outbreaks.

Helminthosporium is present year-around, however, and can cause leafspot damage during cool, wet periods of summer and fall.

"During the application season, we spray every Friday," explains MacDonald. "This gives the greens more protection during a time when the heavy golfer traffic can bring on bruises and diseases. Even though our greens are three to four decades old, they're in good shape." □

## Grass Seed Prices Up Farmer Interest Down

Several conditions, both artificial and natural, have compounded to more than triple the price of grass seed this year.

The upsurge of grass seed prices parallels the general grain trade situation of the past year. An export raid on U.S. grass seed, similar to the Russian wheat sales, has been quietly conducted by various foreign nations.

Added to the domestic shortage were unfavorable wet weather conditions in major Mid-west seed-producing areas, both during the 1972 grass seed harvest season and the 1973 planting season.

Despite an all-out effort for agricultural production by the USDA, experts are predicting little or no relief on either short-run or long-term basis.

Certified seed production has been largely dominated by veteran farmers. When farmers retire or otherwise go out of the business, young farmers are not attracted to seed

growing, despite premium per-bushel prices. Some experts attribute this factor to the lack of desire by young farmers to take the special care required in growing, handling and storing high-quality seed.

## Wisconsin Assembly Plant For Toro Announced

The Toro Company plans to start construction this summer of a 165,000-square-foot assembly plant in Tomah, Wis.

The plant will be located on 25 acres in Tomah Industrial Park, a

350-acre development created eight years ago to attract new industry and jointly owned by the city of Tomah and Forward Tomah Development Corporation. Tentative completion is scheduled for early summer of 1975. Initial work force will be about 50, but will build to between 300 and 350 employees, making Toro the largest employer in the industrial park.

Estimated the total cost of the new facility will be more than \$3 million. Annual payroll of the plant, once it reaches full employment, will be over \$2 million.

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