

Sprinkler Irrigation Conference Held In Denver

Opening with a special session on the energy situation and its implications to the sprinkler irrigation industry, the Sprinkler Irrigation Technical Conference was held in Denver, Colorado on February 24-26, 1974. Site was the new Regency Hotel.

Special sessions were devoted to financing of sprinkler irrigation systems and a panel on drip irrigation. Two general sessions of the conference presented a broad range of subject matter of interest to those in the field of turf and agricultural irrigation.

Registrants heard twenty speakers from all areas of the country—the most representative group to ever appear before the annual meeting which was sponsored by the Sprinkler Irrigation Association.

Other activities for the conference included the winter meetings of the SIA board of directors, the annual breakfast meeting of SIA committees and the association's annual banquet. A special meeting of the Association was held to vote on a series of amendments proposed to the organization's By-Laws.

North/South Transition Zone Ready For Bermudagrass

Bermudagrass adapted to lawns in the "transition zone" between South and North could be only a few years away.

John Dunn, University of Missouri-Columbia turf researcher, said several Missouri and Kansas selections "look promising" and could be made available to homeowners in about 5 years. In fact, two winter-hardy varieties have been released by Kansas State University and are in limited use on lawns and golf courses.

Dunn, who calls the "transition zone" (like central Missouri or Kansas) "the toughest place in the country to grow a good lawn," said research to find winter-hardy bermudagrass for this area might be a better idea than trying to develop summer tolerant bluegrass.

Improved bluegrasses have been developed, he said, but they need to be well irrigated in summer to stay green. "Besides," Dunn added, "serious disease problems may occur on bluegrasses in summer."

"Bermudagrass will tolerate our hot summers and stay green until the first heavy frost. We are look-

ing for more hardy varieties that can survive our harsh winters."

Dunn and others have been looking "inside" grasses in hopes of getting some cold-hardy "indicators."

They compared three bermudagrasses and Meyer zoysia. (Zoysias used in the Midwest are generally more cold-hardy than bermudagrass.)

They found that the carbohydrate content, mostly in the form of starch, was 2 to 3 times higher in zoysia than in bermuda during the cold-hardening period of early fall into winter.

Among the bermudagrasses, Dunn found little difference in carbohydrate levels even with differences in cold-hardiness.

He noted, however, that most carbohydrate storage of bermudagrass during fall and winter is in the stolons while storage in zoysias is equally divided between the stolons and rhizomes.

"One of the resistant bermudagrasses has more stolons and rhizomes which might give it an advantage over other bermudas of equal, inherent hardiness," said Dunn. "Since it has more of these, it has more possibilities of nodes surviving for regrowth."

Announcing the new Asplundh "Whisper Chipper" Looks the same—sounds so different!

This new unit has all the dependable features of our famous chipper line. However, there is a remarkable difference — a great reduction in noise. Modification kits will be available for many existing models. **Asplundh Chipper Company, a division of Asplundh Tree Expert Co., 50 E. Hamilton Street, Chalfont, Pa. 18914**

ASPLUNDH

