

Industry News

\$13,000 awarded for turfgrass research

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation has awarded a \$13,000 grant to the College of Agriculture at Ohio State University.

The grant will support turfgrass research in agronomy, entomology and plant pathology.

Grants from the foundation have totaled more than \$130,000 to turfgrass research since 1968.

Purdue to make revegetation study

Purdue University's Department of Horticulture has received a \$50,000 grant from the Cooperative State Research Service to develop techniques for the rapid establishment of plants on lands disturbed by strip mining.

Dr. Phillip L. Carpenter, professor of horticulture, has been named as the project's principal investigator; his associate will be Dr. B. C. Moser, who is the current head of the horticulture department.

The researchers will divide their work into two major areas. Carpenter will work to establish a rapid cover for mined areas through plant communities that utilize nitrogen fixing "nurse" crops. Moser will focus on developing methods of improving root regeneration of transplanted woody plants, thus improving their chances of survival.

According to the researchers, large areas of southwestern Indiana and southern Illinois are either being strip mined for coal or will be in future years as the demand increases. One coal company alone strip mined 1500 acres a year in Indiana, the horticulturists point out. Returning this land to productive use as soon as possible is of great

importance both economically and ecologically, they add.

The grant will cover a 24-month period. CSRS is a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Cushman-Ryan has service schools

Cushman-Ryan will establish the turf-care industry's first known regional factory service training network.

Jack Northrup, service training manager, said service schools will be set up in Atlanta, San Francisco and Lincoln, Nebraska. Classes will be geared to mechanics in the turf care industry.

The 1976-77 curriculum will include 2½-day classes to be conducted on a rotating basis through March. Northrup said classes have been structured to permit specialized training.

Dow testing new pyridine herbicide

Dow Chemical U.S.A. reports that a new broad-spectrum pyridine herbicide under test in an experimental program is controlling ash, oak and root-sprouting brush species that often survive treatment with other chemicals.

Garlon 3A herbicide has been applied to utility rights-of-way, roadsides, railroads, industrial sites and on forest lands by 140 co-operators in 37 states in a program approved earlier this year by the Environmental Protection Agency.

According to Larry H. Speer, Dow product sales manager, the results of the program are being monitored with the expectation that the data generated will lead to full registration for use of the product on non-crop areas.

In addition to delivering the best control yet achieved with herbicides

on ash, oak and root-sprouting brush species in many areas of the country, Speer said, Garlon 3A is active against a long list of annual and perennial broadleaf weeds and woody species normally controlled with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T phenoxy herbicides and Tordon mixture herbicides.

Watershed study begins in Oregon

The Special Studies Branch of the U.S. Forest Service's Forestry Sciences Laboratory at Corvallis, Oregon has begun a cooperative study to biologically evaluate nutrient contributions to streams from logged watersheds.

With the controls, 15 experimental Oregon watersheds are included in the study. The timber in some watersheds has been totally clearcut, some watersheds have been partially clearcut, and others have had only selected harvesting of trees.

In some watersheds the slash (material remaining after harvesting) has been burned, while in others it has not. The primary tool used in this project is the algal assay, described in a Corvallis Environmental Research publication entitled "Algal Assay Procedure: Bottle Test."

One area encompassing four of the experimental watersheds is being researched more intensively and studies include the response of macro-invertebrates as well as phytoplankton.

Plant industry expands in Texas

The ornamental plant industry in Texas is now valued in excess of \$75 million and shows great potential for continued expansion.

Because of its central location and favorable growing climate, the state is rapidly becoming a major producer of ornamental plants in the United States.