

Big Business in Ohio . . .

ANYONE who has attended industry shows for a number of years has their favorites. And at the top of most lists is a regional turfgrass meeting that consistently draws over a thousand people; all interested in promoting the Midwest turfgrass industry. Once again the Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show reached an all time high attendance for both the equipment exhibits and educational portions of the show.

Some 1,170 turfgrass managers, golf course superintendents, contract applicators, and commercial representatives filed into the Cincinnati Convention and Exposition Center to witness one of the largest and most comprehensive equipment and supply displays ever assembled at the Ohio show. But the show is much more than a buyers and sellers market.

"We try to assemble a complete educational program, drawing experts from Ohio as well as many speakers from outside the state," said John Laake, in-coming president of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation and superintendent of Crest Hills Country Club, Cincinnati, Ohio. Each year the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation attempts to provide the latest in management techniques and research information. "The people attending this conference vary greatly in work experience and educational background," said Laake. "Our goal is to provide a well-rounded program that contains information for both the novice turfgrass manager as well as the pro."

Dr. Fred Ledebor, director of research, Loft's Pedigreed Seed, summed up the theme of the conference saying that the modern turfgrass manager must gear his management practices to the needs and requirements of his particular turf. Also included in his talk on evaluation and recommendations of Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass, Ledebor stressed the correct



The 1975 Ohio Turfgrass Conference and Show was the biggest and some say the best in the event's nine year history.



is Green Business



selection of turf types for acceptable cut and appearance. "Some of the new fine-leaved ryegrass varieties when used in mixtures provide tremendous competition for weeds," he said. "This allows the grass to attain sufficient maturity so herbicides may be applied to control the new and existing weeds."

Ledeboer also presented arguments for blending a particular turf species pointing out that a blend can bridge stress periods commonly found in most single varieties. "However, in a seeding mixture that contains both bluegrass and ryegrass, the percentage of ryegrass should not exceed 20 percent by weight," he added.

Continuing on with selection of turf types Lee Record, mid-

continent director, USGA, discussed the cool season bentgrasses. "The four categories of bentgrass commonly used are Red Top, Creeping, Colonial, and Velvet," he said. He traced the origin of bentgrass from Europe to the East coast. Record also recommended the Creeping varieties as the most practical bentgrasses adding that the other varieties also have places in other uses such as fairway mixtures. "For the best playing surface and the healthiest plants keep the bentgrass dry, firm, and hungry," he added.

Dr. James Watson, vice president, the Toro Co., evaluated the total turfgrass management picture by examining the financial and managerial aspects of equipment

selection. "It all boils down to people and machines," he said. "Seventy percent of the total budget on a turf area is consumed by labor, so it behoves us to purchase equipment that allows increased use and is the proper unit for the job." Watson stated that the reel type mower is more efficient and requires less fuel per acre of grass cut than a rotary or flail. "The number of blades also effects the quality of cut and the amount of fuel consumption," he added.

Depending on the financial structure of your particular organization, Watson said, leasing equipment may be the best alternative to an outright purchase. But however you obtain your equipment and whatever equipment you use there

The 1975 Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's Board of Directors from left: Bill King, Norwood Public Schools; John Laake, Crest Hills Country Club; John Fitzgerald, Century Toro; Paul Mechling, Sylvania Country Club; Dr. Dave Martin, Ohio State University; Kermit Delk, Springfield Country Club; Bill Hill, George W. Hill and Co.; Merrill Frank, Brookside Country Club; Art Edwards, WEEDS TREES AND TURF; Mac Gilly, Findley Country Club; John Goodwin, Shawnee Country Club; and Lou Greco, Squaw Creek Country Club.

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are a few rules that should be followed for the most efficient operation. Watson suggests that the engine should be operated at 75-80 percent of peak; don't use alternate fuels; avoid idling; train operators for efficient use; obtain the services of a knowledgeable mechanic; and plan your next purchase on need not impulse.

The second day of the conference opened with three split sessions. Attendees had the oppor-



Lee Record, mid-continent director, USGA.

tunity to attend sessions on Poa annua, general grounds, and cemetery grounds.

Dr. Charles Powell, Ohio State University, opened the general grounds session with a look at the total fungicide picture. "There's been a radical change in fungicides and insecticides in recent years," Powell said. "We no longer have general biocides, everything is now accomplished by a specific material for a specific problem." One of the most important considerations when applying fungicides is timing. And Powell suggests that knowledge of the particular disease is paramount when attempting to control it. "The first line of defense against any disease should be the use of disease-resistant varieties, the second line of defense is good maintenance practices, and the last alternative is chemical control," said Powell.

Timing is important when applying fungicides. And it is equally important in the control of crabgrass and annual grass. Dr. Robert Miller, Chem-Lawn Corp., reinforced Powell's know-all-you-can principals by saying: "When using a

pre-emergent herbicide for the control of crabgrass, timing of application is critical." Second to timing, is the type of herbicide used, rate of application, and lastly its likelihood of injury to bluegrass.

Also from the Chem-Lawn Corporation was Dr. Robert Partyka. He spoke on the frequency of pesticide injury to non-target plants. "The tendency is to think that if a little chemical gives so much control than a lot of chemical will give more control," he said. "That's one principal that doesn't hold true when applying chemicals." Partyka discussed a wide range of topics including typical damage symptoms caused by phenoxy-herbicides, use of soil sterilants and the damage that can occur when the drainage pattern of the area is not known. When the wrong chemical is applied to a plant and death or distortion results, residue work must be performed to determine what chemical was applied.

"Residue work is expensive to perform but it may be necessary if the property owner is demanding payment for damages to his plants," Partyka added. And Partyka, like the two speakers before him, stressed the importance of knowing the basic requirements of a plant.

New fertilizer products currently receiving considerable market attention are IBDU and Urea Formaldehyde (UF). Dr. James Wilkinson, Ohio State University, reviewed his current tests using both types of fertilizer. Wilkinson compared and contrasted the two products using spring green-up and maintained summer quality as limiting factors. "The best IBDU tests were achieved with a spring and fall application,"



The 1975 exhibit area.

he added. "This combination gave good spring green-up and the turf stayed green throughout the summer." UF releases nitrogen by temperature-controlled microorganisms breaking down the particles, he said, resulting in a faster spring green-up than IBDU.

The Wednesday afternoon program was a two-way split of basic turfgrass management and a general session featuring three governmental regulation topics; FIFRA,



Dr. Fred Ledeboer, Loft's Pedigreed Seed.

OSHA, and pesticide labels, and a presentation on employee motivation.

University of Cincinnati's Dr. Samuel Mantel said a basic rule in employee relations is not to promise rewards to employees that you are not absolutely certain you can deliver. All of us have a hierarchy of needs, he added. Lower level needs must be satisfied before higher level needs can be fulfilled. "The unsatisfied need motivates a person to fulfill that need," he said.

New officers for 1976 are: John Laake, president, Crest Hills Country Club; Lou Greco, president-elect, Squaw Creek Country Club; John Fitzgerald, vice president, Century Toro; Merrill Frank, treasurer, Brookside Country Club; and Paul Mechling, immediate past president, Sylvania Country Club.

Trustees are: Kermit Delk, Springfield Country Club; Bill Hill, George W. Hill and Co.; Bob Robinson, Chem-Lawn Corp.; and Max Szturm, Wildwood Country Club.

The 1976 Conference and Show of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation will be held in Columbus, Ohio. □