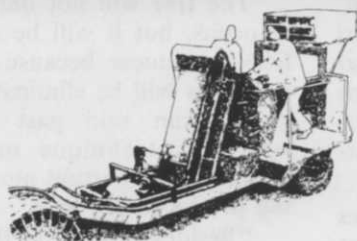


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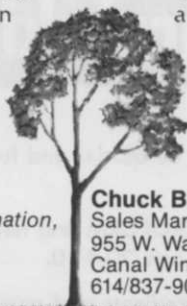
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## Some ryegrasses can minimize raggedness

Perennial ryegrasses have come a long way in their development and use the past decade and possess several favorable characteristics, but there is some good along with the bad. Raggedness from mowing is a particular problem with many of them.

Results from a University of California field experiment at San Jose indicate that the variety of perennial ryegrass you plant is a more important factor than the level of fertilization you apply to minimize raggedness from mowing.

The experiment was conducted by David L. Hanson, UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor for San Mateo County. He reported his findings during the Turf & Landscape Institute program held recently in Anaheim. The program is presented annually by UC Cooperative Extension and is sponsored by the Southern California Turfgrass Council and other supporting landscape associations. More than 1,100 persons turned out for this year's program.

Hanson established a series of varietal plots in the spring of 1974 at the UC Deciduous Fruit Field Station at San Jose to see what effect nitrogen fertilization would have on the cuttability of perennial ryegrasses. New varieties available at that time were included in the trial: Manhattan, Pennfine, Lamora, Linn, NK-100, and NK-S321.

The seed bed was prepared in a normal manner. Super-phosphate was applied at a rate of one pound of actual phosphorous per 1000 square feet. Seeding was by hand at a rate of six pounds per 1000 square feet in the 5 by 15-foot plots.

After allowing the grasses to establish themselves for four months, three fertilizer treatments of one and a half, three, and six pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet per year were applied across the varietal plots. For the next seven months, the plots were rated every other week for their cuttability (raggedness), as well as their color, texture, density, pest activity, and uniformity. At certain times of the year, Hanson noted, there were no apparent differences in the raggedness of the species mowed. A 30-inch reel mower, sharpened every month, was used in the test.

At the end of one year, all of the data collected was statistically analyzed to determine the significance of difference in fertilization and the differences by variety with respect to their raggedness from cutting.

Using a 0 to 10 scale (0 being something like a stand of mowed, and 10 being a clean-cut turfgrass stand), the six-pound rate of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet per year resulted in an average cuttability score on all varieties of 4.9. The three-pound and one and a half pound rates resulted in lower average scores.

A comparison of the results by variety at all fertilization rates showed that in this trial Manhattan had the cleanest cutting quality with a score of 6.0. NK-S321 was next with 5.4, followed by Pennfine at 5.0 and Lamora at 4.7. □