

Soil erosion lab to be built

Construction of a \$3.6 million National Soil Erosion Laboratory on the Purdue University Campus in West Lafayette, Indiana, should be underway by next summer, according to a USDA spokesman.

Earl R. Glover, acting regional administrator for agricultural research of the department's Science and Education Administration said the laboratory should be ready for occupancy by late 1980 or early 1981. Construction funds were included in the agricultural appropriations bill approved by Congress and signed by the President in October.

The two-story building will provide space for about 15 Science and Education Administration agricultural research scientists and 22 support staff. Plans for the building are now in the preliminary design stage.

"There will also be space for cooperating Purdue research and teaching staff as well as graduate students and visiting scientists," Glover said.

"We will give special attention to erosion problems on disturbed lands, such as strip mine and construction sites," he added.

St. Louis honored as Green Survival City

The American Association of Nurserymen has announced the official designation of St. Louis, Mo., as a Green Survival City. "The City of Trees" received its certificate from AAN President Ernest Tosovsky and Vice President Hugh Steavenson during special ceremonies in November at a joint meeting of the St. Louis Landscape and Nursery Association and the St. Louis Arborist Association.

Landscape beautification and planting activities have always played an important role in the city. During St. Louis' bicentennial celebration in 1964, the St. Louis Landscape & Nursery Association conducted a planting program whereby citizens could donate funds to sponsor tree planting. In one year \$64,000 was raised.

The city's most recognized and successful planting program was initiated in 1971. Called "Project Greenback," this public awareness project is operated jointly by the St. Louis Landscape & Nursery Association, the St. Louis Arborist Association, the Residential Betterment Section of the St. Louis Community Development Agency, and the Forestry Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

other symptoms though not as serious as those of the bristlecone pine.

Tiny salt crystals were also visible under the microscope which produces a three dimensional image of a specimen on a television screen magnified up to 200,000 times.

Krause said that the electron microscope permits the scientists to detect subtle differences between salt-tolerant and salt-susceptible plant species.

TURF

Penncross bent rated superior in NGF survey

A recent nationwide survey conducted by the National Golf Foundation showed 60% of the respondents rating Penncross bentgrass superior as a putting surface. Results were received from 1,623 golf facilities, representing a cross-section by type, size of course and geographic location.

Other results revealed that bluegrass was the most frequently used species on tees (32%), fairways (52%) and roughs (53%). Bentgrass had the second highest frequency of use on tees (26%), bermuda was second on fairways (23%) and roughs (19%). On greens, bentgrass was most often used (79%) followed by bermuda (15%). Climate was given as the leading factor in influencing selection of grasses.

Sixty percent of the respondents reported annual budgets for grass seed of \$1000 and under. The median figure was \$833, while the average was \$1485. The average per pound for overseeding bentgrass was \$5.19.

Expanded green renovation for next year was planned by 27 percent of the facilities.

PARKS

PGMS elects new officers

Fred A. Lennertz, Jr., has been re-elected to his second term as president of the Professional Grounds Maintenance Society. J. Alton Enloe is the vice president. He has served on the Board of Directors and was co-chairman of the 1977 Annual Conference in Houston. John R. Van Vorst was re-elected treasurer. vorst was a 1978 recipient of an award in the Grounds Maintenance Award Program. He is Supervisor of Parks for the Borough of Tenafly in New Jersey.

TURF

Ohio simulator to provide turf data

Ohio agronomists have built an environmental simulator with which to study northern, cool season turfgrasses in the laboratory. Bruce J. Augustin, a graduate student in agronomy at The Ohio State University, has spent the better part of a year assembling the unit under the guidance of Keith J. Karnok, turfgrass specialist for the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

Composed of two growth chambers, adjustable sun lamps, air pumps, connecting hoses, sampling tubes, and various monitoring and recording devices, the facility has the capability of simulating a variety of environmental conditions. Augustin can control light intensity and quality, daylength, relative humidity, wind velocity, air and soil temperatures, and soil moisture in numerous combinations.

Augustin said that with the simulator he can study all the aspects (what goes on above and below the ground) important to healthy turf at one time without actually disturbing the grass.