

In a Rut

Though the article entitled "Geochemical Factors Affecting Plant Growth in Reclamation," in your April issue, was interesting, one basic error did appear as the caption to the photo on page 43. The photograph shows short linear clumps of vegetation growing in a pattern suggesting that the area was walked, prior to seeding, by equipment with grouser marks on the tracks. The caption states that the vegetative pattern indicated that "compacted earth was a better growing medium than the uncompacted." While this statement is generally inappropriate in regard to surface mine reclamation, compaction is not the variable responsible for the growth of the vegetation in the grouser marks.

When an area is tracked and then seeded, the distribution of the seed is initially uniform. During the first moderate rain, however, the distribution is radically altered. The lightweight seeds are washed downslope from each high between the grouser marks and into the adjacent local depression (grouser mark). During this process fines are also transported. These settle out in the still water accumulating in the depression and cover the seeds, generally preventing their further movement. The vegetation grows in the grouser marks, and not on the relative high spaces between, merely because that is where most of the seeds are located when they germinate. It should also be noted that the grouser marks catch water aiding the germination process and that tracking should always be conducted parallel to the slope.

Don Davison Jr.
Chief Engineering Geologist
Barnette Contractors
Wise, Virginia

The Total Picture

I read with interest your editorial in your May issue of WT&T. First, we do appreciate the compliment you paid our magazine ASPA "Turf News" and the strides we have made with it.

In contemplating your other comments, I realize that what you say is true in that we sometimes get so deeply involved in our own association activities and its publications that we do forget the other elements of the press which over the years have been extremely cooperative and interested in the "total picture" where those of us in our own special interest associations obviously are concentrating on our specialties. You have a valid point and we pledge that we'll make a conscientious effort at this end to try to funnel more information to you that might be of general interest to the total spectrum of the Green Industry.

Thanks for your interest and while we are proud of the growth of organizations such as ASPA, we likewise recognize the contribution that publications such as yours have made and are making industry wide.

Bob Garey, Executive Director
American Sod Producers Association

Right On to Education Articles

Thank you for running my article on our training programs at Lake City Community College.

Articles explaining horticulture training programs at various schools across the country provide an excellent means of informing employers in the horticulture industry where they can go for qualified employees. Such articles also help young people who are interested in horticulture to select the program that best meets their needs. As a result of the article, we have already received several requests from potential students and employers about our programs.

"Weeds Trees and Turf" is doing an excellent job of covering the various aspects of the green industry. I appreciate your sincere concern for environmental horticulture education.

John Piersol, Instructor
Landscape Design and Sales
Lake City Community College
Lake City, Florida

In the May issue of *Weeds Trees and Turf* you ran a feature article on technical education programs in horticulture. The Ornamental Nursery Management program at Penn State University trains technicians to serve the nursery industry principally in the mid-Atlantic region. Founded in 1957, this is a well established, highly respected program. Although it does not offer a degree, it does utilize the facilities and faculty associated with our baccalaureate program. If you feel information about this would be appropriate for your magazine, I would be happy to further describe it for possible publication in *Weeds Trees and Turf*.

David J. Beattie
Assistant Professor of Ornamental Horticulture

The tradition and respect for programs from Penn State University almost speak for themselves. Both turf and tree research has strong roots in Pennsylvania. We'd be proud to feature your program in an upcoming issue. The Editor.

Covering the turf

It was brought to my attention by my Extension Agent for Oakland County, Greg Patchan, that your magazine is of fine quality and that one of your latest issues (I believe May or June '79) addressed itself to many varieties of ground covers. This is an area of extreme interest to me, and I would appreciate your sending me this back issue. I would be more than happy to pay either prior to delivery or upon delivery. Also, please enclose an application for subscription.

Joe Halfmann
Landscape Contractor
Michigan Dept. of Agriculture