

### SOD

#### ASPA tops attendance; elects new officers

Record crowds viewed a wide range of equipment, seed, and chemicals at the 13th Annual Summer Convention and Field Days of the American Sod Producers Association held in Columbus, Ohio, from July 18-20.

Over 500 sod producers and their families from the United States, Canada, England, Saudi Arabia, and Israel gathered for exhibits, tours, and demonstrations of the latest sod industry developments around the world.

Tours included the O.M. Scott and Sons facility with acres of test products and a nearby seed testing laboratory. Sod growers met and talked with many of the company's research and turfgrass experts.

There was also a drive-through tour of Princeton Manufacturing Co. and onto Eastside Nursery, who hosted the field day demonstrations. Almost every type of sod equipment from harvesters to netting was demonstrated along with some new and innovative equipment first revealed.

The convention also elected new officers for the 1979-1980 year. E. John Hope, Manderley Turf Farms Limited, North Gower, Ontario was elected president; Chris Beasley, Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Canton, Mass., was elected vice-president; Woodrow Wilson, Eastside Nursery Inc., Groveport, Ohio, was elected secretary; and Theodor Mund, Alboa Co., Meedville, Texas, was elected treasurer (serving a second term).

Hope replaces Charles Lain, as past president for the present fiscal year.

Newly elected to the board of trustees are Stephen T. Cockerhan, Rancho Verde Turf Farms, Perris, Calif.; Raymond A. Johnson, Shamrock Turf Nurseries Inc., Hanna, Ind.; and Glenn Markham, Green Hills Sod Farm, Berthoud, Colo.



**Princeton Mfg.** General Manager Roger Osborne shows new preplugger during ASPA Field Days in Columbus.

#### Nursery quarantine changes proposed

The U.S. Department of Agriculture may substantially revise the basic quarantine regulations that restrict the import of nursery stock, plants, and seeds from foreign countries.

This is the basic quarantine that protects the U.S. from foreign plant diseases and pests in nursery stock. It affects the nursery industry, plant importers, freight forwarders, customs brokers, international freight carriers, hobbyists, and others concerned with the importation of plant propagative materials.

The proposal, made by the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), will make a number of changes in the kinds of permitted and prohibited items and the countries from which they come. It will affect certain plants in approved growing media.

Major changes include:

- Many kinds of palms, including coconut, may not be imported.
- Strawberry, sweet potato, chrysanthemum, and cassava plants may not be imported from a number of countries.
- Cactus cuttings less than 4 feet long, without roots or branches may be imported.
- Carnation plants from England may be imported, under certain prescribed conditions. Carnation plants from most other countries must be grown under post-entry quarantine agreement as a condition of entry.
- Stem cuttings with leaves, roots, sprouts, or branches 4 inches or less in diameter and 6 feet or less in length, may be imported.

Also, the proposal would permit any herbaceous plant or shrub not otherwise prohibited to be imported if it is grown under certain strict conditions and certified by the exporting country and by APHIS inspectors. The material would have to be established in approved growing media and grown under greenhouse conditions. This would provide for more imports of plants which do not tolerate handling and shipping in the bare-rooted condition.

#### Budget cuts hit state EPA offices

State EPA programs are feeling the pinch of reduced regional staff caused by cutbacks by the Carter Administration. Simultaneous budget hikes for waste disposal site inspection and enforcement are causing some confusion as to priorities of older programs. The problem of regional EPA office cutbacks was reported by the State FIFRA Issues and Research and Evaluation Group in July.

#### Gas conservation tips published by EPA

EPA has published a 32 page "Guidelines for Adjustment of Gas Burners for Residential and Commercial Space Heating and Water Heating". It lists measures to reduce gas use by such burners. Copies of the guidelines are available from the Technical Information Service, Mail Drop 64, Industrial Environmental Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. Requests should refer to EPA Report 600/8-79-005.

#### Construction hazards is OSHA topic

The first of six meetings scheduled by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to discuss hazards to workers at construction sites was held in Washington, D.C. in August.

The OSHA Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health is holding the hearings to thoroughly review current OSHA health standards as they relate to construction.

The hearings make input by the landscape industry possible by contacting Ken Hunt, OSHA Information, Third St. and Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, d.c. 20210.