

# SOD PRODUCER NEWS

## Turfgrass ranks high in Oklahoma's economy

Usually considered a land of cattle and wheat, Oklahoma's turfgrass production ranks right behind the two major crops in the state's agricultural economy.

Specialists Wayne Huffine and Roy Sturgeon at Oklahoma State University draw this claim from a recently published Oklahoma turfgrass survey which shows dollars from turf production, establishment, and management during the survey year, 1977, amounted to more than \$258 million. Below the turfgrass figure were hay at \$195 million and milk at \$113 million.

## Fertilizer producers show big increase

U.S. fertilizer producers registered a 14 percent increase in domestic dis-

appearance for the first six months of the 1979-80 year compared to July-December 1978, according to a report of The Fertilizer Institute. During the same period, U.S. fertilizer production averaged seven percent above the last six months of 1978.

"Much of the domestic disappearance from the producer likely occurred as shipments to retailer inventory, as dealers built stocks for early spring sales," explained Edwin M. Wheeler, president of The Fertilizer Institute. "In December 1979, fertilizer disappearance from producers was 24 percent above December 1978, with the increase applying broadly to nearly every nitrogen, phosphate, and potash product listed in the institute's fertilizer index," he added.

"Meanwhile, producer-held fertilizer inventories at the end of December dropped 24 percent below December 1978 to record low levels,"

Wheeler said. Several key products have stocks equivalent to only about three weeks of production, significantly below typical working levels of at least a month's production. "Among the basic fertilizer materials," said Wheeler, "only phosphoric acid had producer inventories equal to or above last year's levels."

## Jacklin Seed plans large expansion

Jacklin Seed Co. of Post Falls, ID, is gearing up for its biggest production and marketing year with an expansion program that includes construction of a building believed to be the largest single unit in northern Idaho.

Doyle Jacklin, marketing manager for the company, said the expansion program would almost double the present warehouse and processing capacity.

## OREGON FINE FESCUES The Park and Golf Course Grass

The fine fescues, both Chewings type (doesn't creep) and the Red type (creeping) are favorites of golf course and park superintendents for several very good reasons. The fine fescues tolerate poor soils and have low water requirements compared with other type grasses. They take less fertilizer for maintenance and the fine fescues take the wear in parks and golf course fairways. Mix with other grasses or use it straight . . . the fine fescues make great turf for just about anywhere.

## CHEWINGS AND CREEPING RED FESCUE COMMISSION

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