

SOD PRODUCER NEWS

Forklift innovation stops pallet theft

The owners of an Indiana turf farm have developed one practical

method of reducing work site theft of sod pallets. The system allows a forklift to remove the pallet from the sod stack without damage to the sod. Harold and Victor Keigley and

Harold Helter of Red Hen Turf Farm devised the method with the help of equipment maintenance man Don Kilgore in 1978 and gave the idea to the American Sod Producers for further development. Four turf equipment companies have begun to work on production of prototypes.

Called an extruder system, the device consists of a thick plastic plate attached to the pallet and hydraulic push bars on the forklift to slide the sod off the pallet.

The innovators said pallets last longer, the need to pick up pallets after the job is eliminated, and theft is virtually eliminated.

"Sound Conditioned" M & M Brush Chippers

for...
less noise...
more efficiency

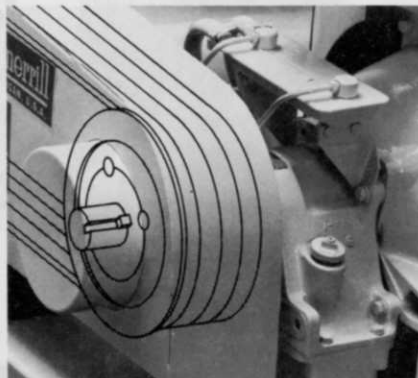


Applying engineering designs which "Sound Conditioned"* our industrial scrap reduction machinery, Mitts & Merrill can modify our brush chippers for low noise levels. At the same time, those engineering features which have made Mitts & Merrill the leader for years have been retained.

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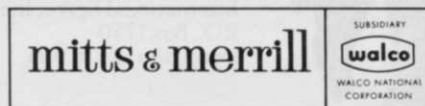


Staggered knife pattern, for years a Mitts & Merrill feature, has always resulted in a lower noise level. First, by segmenting the noise source. Second, through smoother cutting action. Third, by producing smaller chips.



Optional torque converters and the heaviest steel cylinder — even without an external flywheel — combine to give positive cutting action under the most rugged conditions. Isolates the engine from shock. Minimizes maintenance.

Plus • **Positive safety-lock pin** for greater operator safety • **Swing-away, folding feed chute** protects cutting chamber; allows instant access and increases maneuverability • **Heavy duty construction** includes coil spring, torsion-type suspension, and box tubular steel frame.



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Second Orlando Inn to house meeting goers

If you haven't already made your reservations to attend the American Sod Producers Association Winter Meeting in Walt Disney World's Contemporary Resort Hotel because you thought there were no rooms, there still is a way to have a hotel room when you get to Orlando. The Dutch Inn Resort on the edge of Disney World will take reservations until Feb. 1st. ASPA advises you call the Inn (305-828-4444) right away and guarantee a room by credit card or deposit.

Scheduled dates for the ASPA meeting are Feb. 24-26. For conference registration contact ASPA, Association Bldg., 9th and Minnesota, Hastings, NE 68901 (402-463-5691).

ASPA President John Hope recently indicated that the meeting and future association efforts will seek to differentiate northern and southern sod production. More attention to vegetative production methods is likely in 1980. For this reason sessions will be split in Orlando to help serve the southern grower better. Afternoons will be free to enable show goers to sample some of the vast recreation potential of Disney World and other Orlando attractions, such as Sea World.

Florida researchers seek ways to hasten vegetative turfgrasses

Philip Busey and B.J. Myers of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station in Ft. Lauderdale, recently reported in the *Agronomy Journal* (Vo. 71, No. 5) that it may be possible to accelerate growth of vegetatively propagated turfgrasses and thereby improve the efficiency of commercial sod production.

The researchers have begun tests to counteract the slowing effect on grass growth caused by a natural tendency for stolons and rhizomes to pack together. The plants becoming self-inhibiting when densely spaced.

Improved growth rates were achieved by dividing the sod frequently. This was accomplished under greenhouse conditions by cutting two- to three-node stolon pieces from each clone and transplanting them in the same plot. Frequency of division and improvement of growth rate depended upon the type of turfgrass.

Other findings by Busey and Myers included improved growth rates in sand over sand/muck or sludge, and little improvement by temperature changes.

For more information contact the Busey or Myers at the University of Florida Agric. Res. Center, 3205 S.W. 70th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 33314.

Brouwer rolls out 1,000th harvester

Gerry Brouwer, president of Brouwer Turf Equipment, Keswick, Ontario, Canada, must have felt very confident and proud of his product as the 1,000 sod harvester came off the line recently.

Sharing in the celebration was the buyer of the 1,000 unit, Greg Lurvey of Lurvey Sod Farms, Dausman, WI, and the seller, Rolley Kieffer of Milwaukee Ford Tractor.

The well-known harvester is now sold in 11 countries.

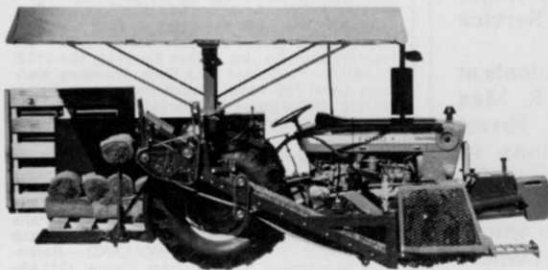
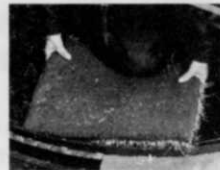
If that weren't enough, the government of Ontario presented the com-

pany its achievement award for increased exports, job creation, facilities expansion, and product research and development. Slightly more than 100 companies have received the award in the 17 years of its existence.



Celebrating Brouwer's 1,000 harvester are (l. to r.) Gerry Brouwer, the Lurveys, and Rolley Kieffer of Ford.

Cut, Roll, Slab or Fold, 24 hours a day, wet or dry weather, all sod conditions.



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Over 1000 Top Turf men around the world use Brouwer Harvesters to assure themselves of top profit.

The Brouwer line of Harvesters is engineered by a Turf Grower for Turf Growers. **They're economical to acquire, labour saving, and they eliminate waste.** Available in 15, 16, 18 and 24 inch widths and a choice of pallet sizes.

You get a more uniform cut, less down time, less top soil removal, and a harvester that operates off the uncut turf. Brouwer Harvesters are easy on your sod. Write for our free Harvester brochure.

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