

SOD PRODUCER NEWS

Study relates effect of petroleum spills on turf

A field study conducted on "Tifgreen" bermudagrass has determined the injury symptoms and subsequent recovery rates from petroleum spill damage.

D. Johns and J.B. Beard of the department of soil & crop sciences, Texas A&M University, applied five petroleum products commonly used in turf-grass maintenance equipment—gasoline, motor oil, hydraulic fluid, brake fluid, and grease. They then attempted to treat the turf with calcined clay fines, activated charcoal, and detergent.

The detergent washing proved to be an effective treatment for turf with spilled hydraulic fluid, brake fluid, and motor oil. In two cases, they achieved complete recovery three to six weeks sooner than with other corrective procedures.

None of the corrective treatments were effective on either the gasoline or grease damaged turf. The bermudagrass recovered rapidly (three to four weeks) from gasoline spills without corrective procedures. It took more than 10 weeks to recover from grease spills.

Sod Producers prepare for summer meeting in Canada

The American Sod Producers Association will be holding its annual summer conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and expects a good turnout, according to convention chairman, Don Stumborg.

Highlights of the conference expect to be a tour of the 400-acre Big Lake Sod Farm, where an irrigation demonstration will take place, and the annual field day at the 2,000-acre Gem Sod Farms. Exhibits during the field day will include a variety of seed and sod equipment, chemical companies, and others concerned with the sod industry.

The conference will run from July 20-22 and simultaneously with the Klondike Days, a 10-day fair which commemorates the discovery of gold in the Yukon Territory that made Edmonton a gateway city to the north. For more information, contact ASPA Executive Director, Bob Garey, 9th and Minnesota, Hastings, NE 68901, 402/463-4683, or Don Stumborg, Gem Sod Farms, Ltd., RR 6, Site 3, Box 25, Edmonton, Alberta, 403/973-3311.

Banner Chewings Fescue gains Canadian license

An outstanding new Chewings Fescue variety, named Banner, has been awarded a Canadian license by Agriculture Canada, Plant Products Div. in Ottawa on an application by Oseco Inc. of Brampton, Ontario. Banner was developed by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, and was released in 1975. It was awarded a USDA Plant Variety Protection Certificate in 1977.

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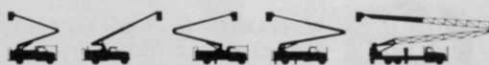
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