

SOD PRODUCER NEWS

Warren's Turf Nursery acquired by Curran

The Curran interests of Crystal Lake, Illinois, have acquired ownership of Warren's Turf Nursery, Inc., headquartered at Palos Hills, a Chicago suburb, through transfer of stock certificates.

The Warren firm has nearly 5,000 acres of land under cultivation and is one of the largest growers of sod in the world. Currently, it is developing European and Asiatic, Australian and African markets for its patented grasses.

Warren's is the only turf grower with a research department that has led to the development of improved lawn grasses. The A-34 was the only one rated excellent by Michigan State University for wear tolerance, a quality which makes it particularly suitable for athletic fields and sports grounds. The A-20 is noted for its deep green color and disease resistance.

Besides new grasses, the firm's contribution to the turf industry includes turf handling equipment such as sod cutters, sod harvesters, and sod washing machines for the removal of soil from newly harvested sod. Soil removal results in a much lighter product, allowing lighter pay loads, and it enables newly planted turf to knit to the site soil more quickly.

Another innovation of Warren's is the vacuum cooling of sod on hot days. The cooling system lowers the temperature of newly harvested sod to just above freezing within about thirty minutes. The company has also pioneered in the dehydration and preservation of bluegrass clippings for poultry and livestock feed.

The Curran people who have acquired Warren's Turf Nurseries are diversified, with interests in paving, trucking, and railroad equipment. They have indicated that the management of the Warren organization will continue under the direction of the Warren brothers.

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ance of Professor Eric Arthur of Toronto, a noted architect and historian, who verified the authenticity of the 1870 construction date. The home is the focal point of the company's community relations program at the Lake Erie Works.

Stelco has already planted well over 100,000 trees and shrubs within their greenbelt system and these will be supplemented by many more, including 6,000 flowering varieties currently being grown at their on-site nursery. This nursery, incidentally, is located next to the old home that was restored.

The entire steelmaking development is surrounded by a greenbelt, which in places extends up to half a mile in width. The series of earth mounds, some up to thirty feet high, are but a few examples of the careful planning and millions of dollars spent on a greenbelt to make this one of the most environmentally attractive new steel plants on the North American continent. **WTT**



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