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Imitating forest conditions helps urban trees. "Whoever heard of grass in a forest?" Ware asks. Most trees aren't used to living in turf.

Looking at the overall landscape situation should be a priority. Trees should be native to the region or to a part of the world with a similar climate.

Ware spoke at the Landscape Expo in Chicago, Ill.

### ASSOCIATIONS

## Breeders group formed to help seed growers

The Turfgrass Breeders Association has been formed to collect and distribute breeding data to educate growers and distributors on plant variety protection (PVP) laws. The group also intends to police PVP infractions.

"Our membership is the 'Who's Who' of the turfgrass breeding industry," says John Rutkai, association president. "With names like Dr. Jerry Pepin, Dr. Reed Funk and Dr. Bill Meyer, we have established credibility and clout.

"PVP laws were intended to protect and reward developers of improved turfgrass varieties," Rutkai adds. "Some



For a better seed industry: left to right, Dr. Jerry Pepin, John Rutkai and Dr. Bill Meyer.

sellers could be bypassing the certification and/or royalty programs."

One of the first projects the association will be to investigate is variety-not-stated (VNS) perennial ryegrass trading. The association will act as a fact-finder, investigating suspect seed and presenting conclusions. It will be up to the individual breeder to prosecute infringements.

One goal of the association is to develop and implement a system to "fingerprint" turfgrass seeds so that a sample drawn from a suspect source will reveal the actual variety.

"The protection of improved varieties through the Plant Variety Protection Act was a giant step in turf breeding," Rutkai notes. "Now we want to put teeth into the law."

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