

SEED

1988-89 seed crop looks on bleak side

The extended drought in the Pacific Northwest last fall may have damaged the seed crop. "The groundwork for 1988 has already been laid and it doesn't look very good," says Jerry Pepin, Ph.D., of Pickseed West.

The Kentucky bluegrass crop, however, will be slightly improved, according to Pepin. "A year ago crops were terrible. This year they will be tight," he says. "The crop should be healthy, but the demand is unprecedented. Prices will be high, and better varieties will be limited."

The bentgrass crop may be slightly improved, but demand will keep prices high. "There's a lot more use on fairways in the North," Pepin says. "And it's being used for overseeding in the South."

Pepin estimates fine fescue supplies to be adequate, despite a decrease in growing acres. "For low-maintenance or shade tolerance, fine fescues can't be beat," he says. "Prices will be firm."

Supplies of perennial ryegrass and turf-type tall fescue will be short. "Use of perennial ryegrass is higher

than it's ever been," Pepin says. Despite the fact that seed companies produce more than 50 million pounds annually, increased use on fairways and home lawns will keep supply low and prices high.

Tall fescues are in demand because of their drought tolerance. "The dwarf-type varieties will be the wave of the future," Pepin says.

Pepin recommended buying seed early in the spring, especially if you want a specific variety. He spoke at the North Central Turfgrass Conference in St. Charles, Ill.

PEOPLE

Ohio State's Buscher retires to Wooster

Fred K. Buscher has retired from The Ohio State University's horticulture department, effective last summer.

Buscher, Ph.D., retired as Professor of Horticulture Emeritus. As a district specialist in landscape horticulture, he had developed and conducted a series of five landscape design short courses, the Northeast Ohio Horticultural Trade Shows and the Nursery Field Days. Buscher will remain active in the nursery industry and reside in Wooster, Ohio.

Thomas W. Hofer has been named president of Spring-Green Lawn Care, Plainfield, Ill. Hofer's appointment was made by William Fischer, who died Jan. 7 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 41. The appointment is a rare accomplishment in the franchise industry: he has risen to the top spot in the company after having been one of Spring-Green's first franchisees from 1977 to 1980.



Hofer

INDUSTRY

Landscape Management an Edgell magazine

Ownership of LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT and 109 other titles changed hands Jan. 1, 1988. LM, formerly an HBJ publication, is now owned by Edgell Communications Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio.

An investor group led by Robert L. Edgell purchased HBJ Publications and HBJ Beckley Cardy for \$334 million. Edgell, 65, headed HBJ Publications for nearly 20 years.

NEW TURF-TYPE TALL FESCUES

Now, more than ever the choice of professionals.

Join the rapidly growing number who select Tall Fescue for:

- rich, dark green dense turf
- low maintenance
- soil and climate adaptability
- tolerance to shade and cold



- tolerance to heat and drought
- resistance to disease
- durability and longer wear
- year-round beauty and performance

Oregon Turf Type Tall Fescue has all the superior qualities you want and need: beauty and rugged stability. Demand the perfect choice for low maintenance turf, ideal for playing fields, parks, home lawns, airfields, roadways, industrial and commercial sites and more.

For more information contact your seed dealer, or write to:

OREGON TALL FESCUE COMMISSION

2140 Turner Rd. SE., Salem, Oregon 97302

Phone (503) 585-1157

Circle No. 145 on Reader Inquiry Card