

Managing turfgrass under tree shade

RALEIGH, N.C. — Environmental conditions in shaded areas make growing turf a very difficult task. Still, there are things you can do to make the best of the situation.

The problems associated with tree shade, according to Dr. Art Bruneau, is that the canopy often blocks enough light to make photosynthesis impossible. In addition, shade conditions are conducive to disease development, and tree and shrub roots compete with the turf for moisture.

Bruneau is an extension turf pathologist at North Carolina State University.

"These conditions produce succulent, weak turfgrass plants that are slow to establish, susceptible to environmental stress, and unable to withstand traffic compared to plants grown in full sunlight," says Dr. Bruneau.

He suggests selectively removing trees whenever possible, in areas that get



Dr. Art Bruneau

less than 50 percent open sunlight, or less than four hours of sunlight per day. "Removing lower limbs of existing trees and unnecessary undergrowth will greatly enhance wind movement and reduce the potential of disease infection," he adds.

Select trees with dense canopies and/or shallow root systems such as willows, poplars, ashes and certain maples. Also, Dr. Bruneau adds, use shade-

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AWARDS

Florida man wins Lawnman award

ORLANDO, Fla. — Roger Brown of Brown Lawn Development, Ormond Beach, Fla., "mowed down" 48 other contestants to win the first American Landscape Maintenance Association (ALMA) Lawnman Competition.

The contest took place April 1 at ALMA '89 Lawn Equipment Exposition here. Each contestant had to mow and trim a 25-foot wide obstacle course that included 20 feet of sidewalk, 12 feet of chain link fence and 20 feet of mulched bed.

Brown's winning time of 2 minutes, 47.94 seconds was well ahead of the average time of 3 minutes, 30 seconds. His efforts earned him a four-foot trophy and a new Snapper line trimmer. □



Roger Brown

SHORT CUTS

MOSS CONTROL...Although there are no guaranteed chemical methods for moss control, Dr. Norm Hummel, Jr. says the best method is to apply iron sulfate or ferrous ammonium sulfate at one pound per 1,000 square feet. Wait one hour and water in, or after the moss turns black. Apply in cool, humid weather. Rake the moss out after it dies, and follow with an application of lawn fertilizer to encourage growth of desirable grasses. If large bare spots remain, it may be necessary to seed or sod.

BIGGER AND BETTER...Jim Carnes, most recently president of International Seeds of Halsey, Ore., is becoming head of North American affairs for Cebeco, the giant Dutch company which owns both International Seeds and the European seed company Van Engelen Zeden. The move takes effect July 1. Word is that Rich Underwood will succeed Carnes.

HOW FAST IS FAST?...Recommended Stimpmeter speed of greens should not exceed nine feet, according to the USGA's Jim Snow. Writing in the Long Island GCSA newsletter, Snow said that more than nine feet "is an unreasonable range at all times." He also noted, "maintaining speeds between 7'6" and 9' should be feasible. Speeds greater than 9' should be established only for special occasions. Trying to keep green speeds above 9' at all times, as desired by some golfers, often results in serious problems and should be avoided."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is 75 years old. The big day was May 8, and this month the Lone Star State joins with other states in special birthday observances. County extension agents, members of extension program councils, mayors and other local state and national leaders are participating in the festivities.

DROUGHT? WHAT DROUGHT?...It turns out we've gotten all excited over nothing. According to John Ford of the Pesticide Applicators' Professional Association, a drought is technically defined as two consecutive years of less than 50 percent rainfall. That's a relief.

BACK TO GRASS...Ohio State University is the most recent major school to change its varsity football field from synthetic turf back to natural grass. The Buckeyes had played on plastic since 1970. O.S.U. thus becomes the third Big Ten school to have natural grass, joining Purdue and Iowa.