

Fresa clover is alternative to mowing in Southwest locales



Dr. William Meyer: "We cannot bury our heads and hope somebody else will take care of our industry."

One initiative would level an immediate ban on burning. Another calls for a virtual ban on burning by 1995, at which time burnable acreage would be reduced to 50,000 acres. Exceptions would exist to go beyond the limitations of propane flaming in cases of using appropriate emission control technologies.

According to Meyer, such propaning standards are unreachable with current technology.

"There is no question that we must find alternatives to open burning," insists Meyer. "However, we must have enough time to test alternatives to field burning."

Meyer says the industry proposal, which would allow for 160,000 acres of field burning for eight years, "must be presented to the public and decision makers as the most appropriate public policy choice." □

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Southwesterners have an alternative to mowing: fresa strawberry clover, a groundcover developed in the New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station breeding program.

According to Dr. Arden A. Baltensperger, a person could get away with mowing fresa as little as twice a year. More frequent mowing, however, will keep the clover more uniform and looking good.

The NMSU crop scientist not only developed fresa, which was released in 1983, but also has it planted in his own yard.

Fresa can be planted by itself in low traffic areas, or mixed in with other grasses. It is not for everyone, he cautions, as the clover will not take wear and tear from children as well as many grass lawns will.

An attractive ground cover, fresa stays green about 10 months of the year. It has pink flowers and resembles strawberries, Baltensperger says, although there have been problems with bees on the fresa at his home.

In field tests, fresa compared favorably to other clovers for winter color and general appearance. Importantly, it had a lower growing height and plant height

than other strawberry clovers. In making selections for fresa during breeding, low plant height had been a primary consideration, Baltensperger says. Fresa needs about as much or more water as bermudagrass, but doesn't need any nitrogen fertilization, Baltensperger adds.

He points out that fresa strawberry clover is a legume, which means it can fix nitrogen from the soil. To enhance this nitrogen fixing capability, some phosphorus might need to

be applied to fresa. The nitrogen fixing properties of fresa make it valuable in a mix, because it can provide nitrogen to other grasses, the scientist says.

In field tests, researchers found the general appearance of dormant bluegrass and bermudagrass was improved by having fresa in the stand.

Although fresa has not been tested outside of the Southwest, Baltensperger notes some interest in the clover in France and in the Netherlands. □



Dick Holschu (left) and Bill Culpepper: DowElanco to be a market leader in providing industry with new technology.

INDUSTRY

Resources spur DowElanco

CLEVELAND — Focusing on the customer and the health of the green industry is the emerging philosophy of DowElanco, Inc.

Representatives of the chemical giant, forged by the recent merger of Dow Chemical and Eli Lilly, say the company has learned from corporate America's inability to match foreign competition in the 1980s.

"The lesson is not lost on DowElanco," says commercial director Bill Culpepper. "We need to be more focused on the customer. We need to know what they need and then do it."

Culpepper and general manager Dick Holschu tell LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT that DowElanco will "do it"

through educational programs and by creating four divisions within the company. They are: turf and ornamentals; industrial insecticide; vegetation management; and marketing of technical chemistry. Each division will have a sales and marketing staff.

"The combining of our technology is going to allow us to be a leader in providing new technology to the market," adds Holschu. "We know that bigger is not necessarily better, but we now have the critical mass of sales dollars and dollars to reinvest into the discovery of new technology. Our goal is to use this to become a full-blown partner in the markets that we serve." □

Low-Cost
FUERST
F-L-E-X-I-B-L-E
TINE
HARROW®

Keeps Turf in top condition!

The proven low cost way to keep golf courses, athletic fields, ball diamonds, and all turf areas in top condition. Crumbles and scatters cores without clogging, brings up thatch, prepares seedbed without disrupting existing growth. Aerates to stimulate growth, scarifies to improve moisture penetration. No maintenance. Maintains cinder tracks. 4 to 42 ft. widths. Adjustable penetration. No maintenance. Satisfaction guaranteed.

For FREE literature, testimonials, prices, phone toll-free 1-800/435-9630.

FUERST BROTHERS, INC.

P.O. Box 427-LM-2, Gibson City, IL 60936 (In IL call 217/784-4266)

Circle No. 123 on Reader Inquiry Card