

# It certainly would be a miracle



*Ron Hall*

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Managing Editor

**T**he fishing hadn't been kind to Bob "Low-Super-Drive" Stevick who earned his nickname by the insane way he shifted gears on his dad's Olds 88. (The Olds had an automatic transmission, by the way.)

Bob was casting a flashy "Wonder Boy" lure and he hadn't registered a hit. The rest of us bobbed jigs. We were murdering the bass and crappie in the farm pond.

"Why do you suppose it's called the Wonder Boy?" mused Bob, again scrutinizing the the incredible claims on the lure's empty package.

"Because it'd be a wonder if it ever caught a fish," chimed in Fats Orty. The comment drew the expected jibes, but Bob insisted the Wonder Boy would, soon enough, work magic--it never did.

That long-ago afternoon of fishing with buddies popped into my head at this year's Turf-Seed, Inc. Field Day in Rolesville, NC, as I walked over a turf plot planted with a grass seed touted as "Miracle Lawn".

This seed is sold through advertisements in some consumer magazines. The price is steep, \$6 a pound or so.

Miracle Lawn? You bet. *It would* be a miracle if this grass seed ever produced anything resembling a lawn.

Then there's my brother-in-law who was hooked by a magazine advertisement promising an "amazing" lawn. He mailed his check and received, several weeks later, a manila envelope stuffed with sprigs. He planted them out. They did—as promised—spread over his yard. In fact, over several seasons, they spread into the edges of his neighbor's lawn too. *Amazing*. But not good.

Most homeowners know little about grasses, the differences among species and varieties. They recognize names like Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and tall fescue. That's about it.

[LANDSCAPE/GROUNDS]

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New England sports field dynamo

That's where you, the turf professional, come in. One of your concerns, of course, is to give clients the best turf that you can. We can help.

Look over LM's '97 Pocket Seed Guide. (It came with July's issue, or let us know and we'll send you one.) In particular, review the data from sites closest to you to see which turfseed varieties perform best in your region. Talk with local university and extension turf experts too.

Remember, your clients probably know little about turfgrass. **LM**

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