

ASA to Include Turfgrass Topics in Aug. 21-26 Meet

Turfgrass breeding and nitrogen nutrition of turfgrasses are to be discussed at the joint meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America, set for Aug. 21 to 26 at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater.

As part of a half-day program on plant breeding and genetics, Dr. J. A. Long, director of biochemical research for O. M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, Ohio, will talk on the effectiveness of breeding methods for developing improved bluegrass, st. Augustinegrass, red fescue, tall fescue, and ryegrass.

Nitrogen nutrition will be topic of a special symposium sponsored by the Crop Science Society of America, and directed by Dr. James B. Beard of Michigan State University. Speakers will include Dr. Coleman Y. Ward, agronomy department, Mississippi State University, who will discuss the forms in which grasses absorb nitrogen; Dr. Eliot C. Roberts, horticulture department, Iowa State University, who will talk on nitrogen effects on turfgrass growth and quality; Dr. R. E. Schmidt, agronomy department, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, who will describe environmental elements, such as light, oxygen, and temperature, affecting nitrogen utilization; and Dr. Norman Goetze, farm crops department, Oregon State U., talking on nitrogen carriers.

Contact the American Society of Agronomy, 677 S. Segoe Road, Madison, Wis. 53711, for more information on the meeting.

Md. Sod Program Grows

Many Maryland sod growers, who this fall will plant for certification, have already had their fields inspected, University of Maryland extension specialist, Joe Newcomer, reports. Growers seeking approval under the Maryland Sod Certification Program must use certified seed when planting such varieties as Merion bluegrass and Pennlawn red fescue, and should save a

sample of the seed as a control check. To obtain the certified tag, sod growers who use non-certified seed must have approval of the seed lot before planting. Seeds are checked for kind, origin, and contamination by other crop and weed seeds. Checking for Aug. and Sept. plantings is underway. Details on the state's certification program are available to WTT readers who write: Department of Agronomy, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

Diamond Adds Arsonate Plant

Construction of a new multi-million pound capacity plant for production of its arsonate herbicides has been revealed by the Agricultural Chemicals Division of Diamond Alkali Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

The new facility is scheduled to produce Diamond's DSMA and MSMA, postemergent herbicides and Diamond's arsonate surfactant, Daconate. It is located at the company's Greens Bayou, Texas, operation.

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"No-Mow" is Hit of Texas A&M Turfgrass Day, July 6

"No-Mow," a low-light tolerating bermudagrass variety was hit of the show as some 125 turf managers gathered for Texas A&M University's annual turf field day, July 6. "No-Mow" has exhibited exceptional tolerance to low light intensity," Dr. George G. McBee, of the school's soil and crop sciences department, said. Other grasses tested, including Pensacola bahiagrass, Meyer zoysia, and two Bermuda varieties, performed unsatisfactorily in shade. Only T-135, another Bermuda selection, showed some shade tolerance.

Visitors to test plots at the Agronomy Field Laboratory also saw a test of weed control using organic arsenicals. AMA, MSMA, Malgon, CAMA, and DSMA controlled annual weedy grasses with a single application, though several applications were necessary to kill such perennials as nutgrass. Fineleaf Bermudas

were described as "sensitive but tolerant" to arsenicals.

Of more than 80 new grasses, several Bermuda-related types were top performers in the Texas

tests. These were *Cynodon hirsutus*, *Cynodon barberi*, and *Cynodon dactylon*.

Other plots showed weed control experiments on Tifgreen, said to be safe for such herbicides as 2,4-D as long as the temperature is not too high; clipping-height experiments; and establishment studies, where



Visitors register for the Turfgrass Field Day, held at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, July 6. On the horn, right, is Dr. George G. McBee, soil and crop scientist.

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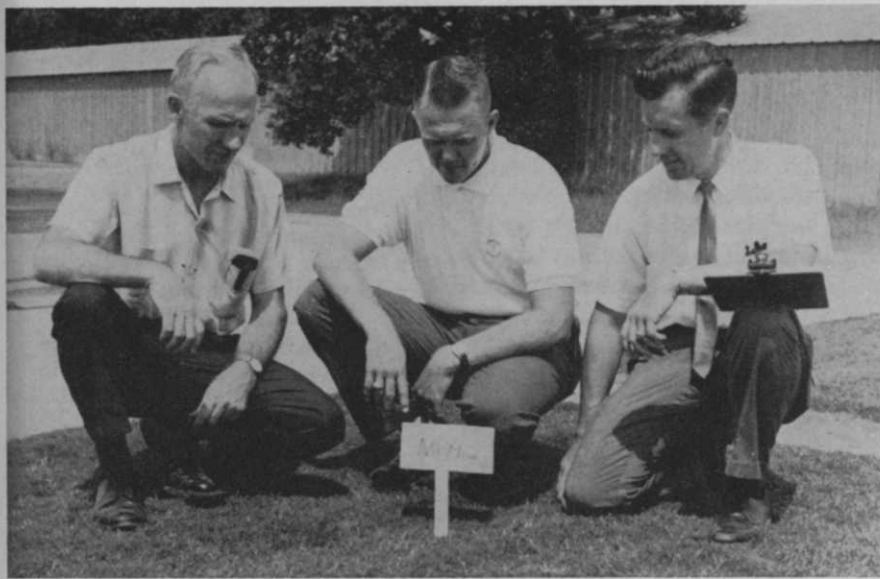
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Qualities of "No-Mow" bermudagrass variety are explained to Quinton A. Johnson, president, Texas Turfgrass Assn., by Dr. E. C. Holt, left, and Dr. George G. McBee, right, of Texas A&M.

broadcast sprigging gave fastest and most uniform growth of zoysia, St. Augustine, and Bermuda varieties tested.

Special plant growth chambers and nematode studies were explained on a tour of Texas A&M's laboratories. Talks on turf heating, soil aeration, and

miscellaneous turf experiments highlighted the field day's afternoon session.

Explaining Texas studies to visitors were Dr. Walter Thames, Dr. Wendell Horne, Al Novosad, Dr. Neal Pratt, Cecil Brooks, Ken Beerwinkle, Alvin Zemanek, and Wallace Menn, all of Texas A&M.

Avoid Nitrogen Overuse

Some newspaper articles published recently have been advocating what some consider extremely high rates of nitrogen for lawns, according to Dr. Elwyn E. Deal, extension turf specialist at the University of Maryland. Rates as high as 6 to 8 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. for common Kentucky bluegrass, and 8 to 10 pounds for Merion Kentucky bluegrass have been suggested, Deal reports.

Current recommendations from most experiment stations suggest 3 to 4 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. per year for common Kentucky bluegrass and 4 to 6 pounds for Merion, Deal says. Roughly one-half of two-thirds of this amount can be applied in September and October, and the rest in March. With Merion, another light application may be made in May.

Severe disease problems, heat, and drought injury during summer often result when nitrogen is applied at high rates to cool-season grasses in the Maryland area, Dr. Deal cautions.

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Fall Planting Excellent For Certain Ornamentals

Fall is an excellent time to plant many ornamental trees such as evergreens, hackberry and moraine locust, and shrubs such as spirea, according to Jim Nighswonger, extension landscape architect, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kans.

He notes that growing problems can often be traced back to poor planting practices. Whether planting bare-root or balled and burlapped trees or shrubs, Nighswonger says make sure the hole dug is large enough. The larger a balled and burlapped plant, the greater the hole size should be in relation to ball diameter. For a 12 to 18" soil ball, add 6 to 8" for hole diameter.

Plant should be set at about the same depth it had before moving. Back fill with good soil and peat moss after planting, and water thoroughly. Nighswonger adds that fertilizer is seldom needed until the plant has established itself in the new location.

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Stauffer Lists Eptam Uses

Eptam granular herbicide, said to control annual and perennial weeds in flower beds and among ornamentals, is discussed in a new folder available from Stauffer. Listed are 15 herbaceous plants, 9 ground covers, and 25 evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs, Stauffer claims Eptam granular will protect.

Timing, application, and recommended rates are covered in the folder which may be obtained by writing Stauffer Chemical Co., 380 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

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A Near Kill

Experienced treemen know equipment safety guards are built onto machinery for sound safety reasons. Here's an account of a near-fatal accident that resulted from failure to use a safety guard.

A Public Utility District arborist in Kennewick, Wash., reports that the mishap occurred while he was nearly 40 ft. up in the air inside the bucket of an aerial hoist. A safety shield over the controls had been removed for "better access" to the levers.

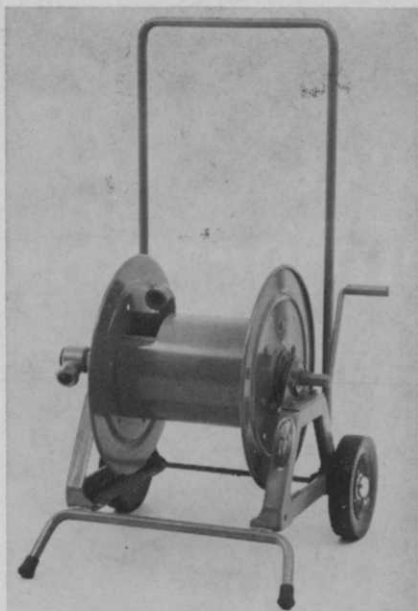
Minus the shield over controls, the treeman slowly brought the bucket up under a cable attached to a building and stretched across the street to another anchoring. As the bucket continued to rise, the wire came directly across the operator's hand which was pressing on the "Up" control. Before the unusual pressure was noticed, the serviceman's hand was trapped and the hoist surged upward.

When the cable snapped from its moorings, the bounce nearly popped the serviceman out of the bucket, and to the ground close to 40 ft. below.

Banvel D Label Approved

Approval of a new USDA label registration for granular Banvel D + 2,4-D was recently revealed by the Velsicol Chemical Corp. One application a year, in spring or fall, is recommended by the maker for control of dandelion, clover, knotweed, chickweed, and other broadleaf weeds in established lawns and golf course areas. The granular form may also be applied to newly seeded lawns after the second spring cutting, Velsicol says. For best results the herbicide should be applied to moist grass, which should not be watered or mowed for 24 hours afterwards.

For more information on the granular Banvel D + 2,4-D combination, write Velsicol Chemical Corp., 341 East Ohio St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.



New Hannay portable hose reel handles 60 to 250 ft. of $\frac{3}{8}$ to 1-in. I.D. hose for liquids or gases up to 300 psi, and temperatures from -20 to +180 degrees Fahrenheit. Rewind is by direct hand crank with an adjustable drag device to brake or lock the reel. The new models are permanently mounted on tubular steel frames. They feature self-aligning front and back bearings. Complete information is available from Clifford B. Hannay & Son, Inc., Westerlo, N. Y. 12193.

Tractor Exhaust Blows Dry Insecticide Fog

Estate Deluxe BlitzFogger "400" is a new lawn and garden tractor attachment that uses heated exhaust gases to dispense insecticide fog.

Manufactured by Northern Industries, Inc., the device incorporates a metering valve which allows heated exhaust gases to thermalize insecticide in an attached tank. The resulting dry fog covers an acre of ground in less than 10 minutes, the firm claims. The unit comes equipped with an easy-to-read gauge that registers the amount of insecticide left in the tank.

Fog generated by the attachment is said to be safe for use on and around trees, flowers, and shrubs.

BlitzFogger "400" has a half-gallon tank, metering valve, pipe fittings, and a nozzle. Included with new units is a quart of BlitzFog insecticide, made especially for the foggers.

To obtain more details on the exhaust attachment write to Northern Industries, Inc., 407 E. Michigan St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53202.

Trimmings

High and Dry. Talking to a sod producer the other day, we heard of a hapless New York State landscaper caught with his sod down. Barely had he placed the last piece of sod around a new high-rise apartment when the local authorities imposed a watertight sprinkling ban. Within a few days, his fresh, green sod turned to a straw mat, and the apartment owner staunchly refused to part with a nickel on the grounds that the ground he ordered was to be of grass, not hay. We don't know how the matter was resolved, if it has been resolved, but we wonder about the sod grower and the unfortunate landscaper, and just how far their responsibility for fresh turf goes. What about the grower or landscaper who delivers his sod in good order to the occasional customer who's convinced garden hoses are for washing cars, not watering lawns?

* * *

Weed rather not enter. We're still listening to radio, and recently tuned in a station promoting a weed contest. Listeners are invited to send in weeds which will be judged in three categories: biggest, most unusual, and prettiest. And free crabgrass plants for the winners. Weed rather give up radio.

* * *

Seeing is believing. When in New Jersey for the Rutgers sod field day, we talked to Wiley Miner, head of Princeton Turf Farms, whose Croshaw Farm hosted the June 22 product demonstrations. "Field days are important because we have to see the new equipment in action to appreciate the growth of sod industry techniques," Wiley said with a smile. We weren't puzzled by his comment, but we wonder how he could smile after seeing his turf leveled, rotavated, fumigated, seeded, fertilized, irrigated, mowed, thinned, and harvested—all in one afternoon! We noticed, though, that as soon as the show equipment was off the turf, Princeton's crew went to work to smooth out their prize New Jersey Certified Sod.

* * *

Shotgun fails. "Shotgun" spraying of lawns with drug and grocery store weedkillers is more convenient than effective, says Eugene Heikes, Colorado State University extension weed specialist. He traces the frequent failures of home weed remedies to weak formulations and wrong identification of weeds by lawn-owners, who sometimes assume that if a plant doesn't belong it must be "crabgrass." There's just no substitute for the weed or turf specialist and the well-calibrated sprayer. Now, if CAs could only get homeowners to believe this...

* * *

Our congratulations to the Weed Society of America for its new "Weed Science Newsletter," being edited by that well-known Floridian, Jack Rogers. Since the publication meets a real need, we hope members will soon vote on how frequently it will be issued.

"COPPER SULFATE AND CONTINUAL SAMPLING KEEP ALGAE AT A MINIMUM"

states Alan H. Ketcham, Superintendent of Supply, Stamford Water Company, Stamford, Connecticut



Alan H. Ketcham, Superintendent of Supply and William Bartscht, Watershed Supervisor plan an all-out attack on algae.

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"Our inspectors who are regularly in every quarter of the property, are constantly on the lookout for algae growth, particularly in remote shallow sections. When necessary, treatment with copper sulfate is directed at these points of algae concentration. We always try to catch algae at the start of growth and treat at once before it has a chance to spread."

"We have sometimes traced algae problems to untreated residential ponds. We find that the average homeowner does not fully comprehend pond management and maintenance so we try to advise him. This is really worthwhile because whenever

algae is allowed to grow unchecked there is danger of it getting into the main reservoir, and it is always simpler to treat algae confined to a small pond."

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William Bartscht, Watershed Supervisor, continually samples water from the reservoirs and from outlying ponds.



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