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Special for This Issue

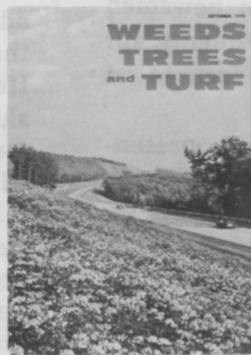
Crownvetch	6
<i>The founder of the Crownvetch industry, Dr. Fred V. Grau, and the biggest users of this legume discuss its merits for controlling slope erosion.</i>	
Accidents and Fires	12
<i>J. L. Shopen of Farmland Industries calls attention to the profit waste that can result from fires and accidents. He offers suggestions for successful preventive programs.</i>	
Urban, Industrial Weed Control	16
<i>Allied Biological Control Corporation, Wellesley, Mass., known for its aquatic weed efforts, also has an extensive land weed control business.</i>	
Kentucky Golf Estates Are Hydroseeded	22
<i>Landscape agronomist Ken Arnold reports his prescription for seeding both the golf course and home lawns.</i>	
American Sod Producers Association Report	24
Hyacinth Control Society Report	30

Regular Features

Editorial: <i>Your Interest in Building Public Interest in Trees</i>	4
Insect Report	14
Meeting Dates	19
Sod Industry Section: <i>Seed quality standards</i>	28
New Products	34-37
Trimmings	38
Classifieds	38
Index to Advertisers	39

The Cover

You don't need to mow it, fertilize it, weed it, or water it. You just look at it and enjoy it. That's what the proponents of Crownvetch say. It's hard to get started, but the rewards come later. The result can be like the cover picture, taken along Interstate 80 in Pennsylvania. Crownvetch is planted along the entire length of this super highway from New Jersey to the Ohio line. But highways are just one area the legume can be used. Anywhere there is a slope that needs to be preserved and landscaped, Crownvetch is a prospect. The cover feature discusses why, beginning on page 6.



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Your Interest in Building Public Interest in Trees

If you're traveling and pass me by, stop, for you're as welcome as can be.

The sun is hot, the day is long. Listen. The wind and my leaves will play a song.

Stop and rest, if just for awhile. Later, you'll be rested and ready to walk another mile.

But while you're here, take care of me. For I must be here for the future to see.

SUE COPENHAGEN, ninth grader at Wayne Central School, Ontario, was writing about trees. She and a flock of other pupils from grades five through nine were asked to write a poem or essay on the subject: "The World's Heritage—Trees." The phrase was the theme for the International Shade Tree Conference and the contest was part of the 46th annual conference at Rochester, N.Y., recently. Cash prizes were given and grand winners also attended the conference and were recognized.

All in all, the contest generated a great deal of interest in trees on the part of the youngsters and their teachers.

During the shade tree conference, several executives of the National Arborist Association presented a plaque to Rochester University representatives for an outstanding purple beech, estimated to be 125 to 135 years old. Television newsmen were present, so thousands of area residents, for a moment or two, had their attention focused on trees.

NAA plans to conduct a similar plaque presentation in each host city where it meets, hopefully to draw attention to trees and the organization, reports Dan Lynch, executive secretary.

The writing contest and NAA's program are just two of many projects you could duplicate in your town to create more interest in trees.

Your interest in building public interest in trees is at least two-fold. Such a project contains excellent public relations value, through the publicity of your company's efforts. With concern established for trees, either by a poem like Sue's that carries within it a plea for tree care, or in some other

way, it follows that people might begin thinking about professional tree care.

Attaching value or significance of some kind to trees is a quick way to draw attention to them. For example:

Mr. H. P. Bowser, manager of Keystone Tree Service—Has anyone called attention to the national champion thornless honeylocust in your town of Chambersburg, Pa.? And Mr. F. C. Henderson, your company might give some thought on what to do about the champion spruce pine there in Tallahassee, Fla. Mr. P. M. Cecrle and Mr. C. E. Sowell—your tree companies can weave your program around the champion eastern wahoo there in Manhattan, Kan.

If a plaque or other recognition already has been thought of, perhaps you might consider donating your services to care for these special trees.

You need not have champions, however, to have a successful program. Give some thought to picking the outstanding specimen for just your town and how you might publicize the fact. An on-going program could be to select the outstanding specimen of each variety. What about plaques to the property owners?

Do some trees have historical significance, or are there interesting stories about them?

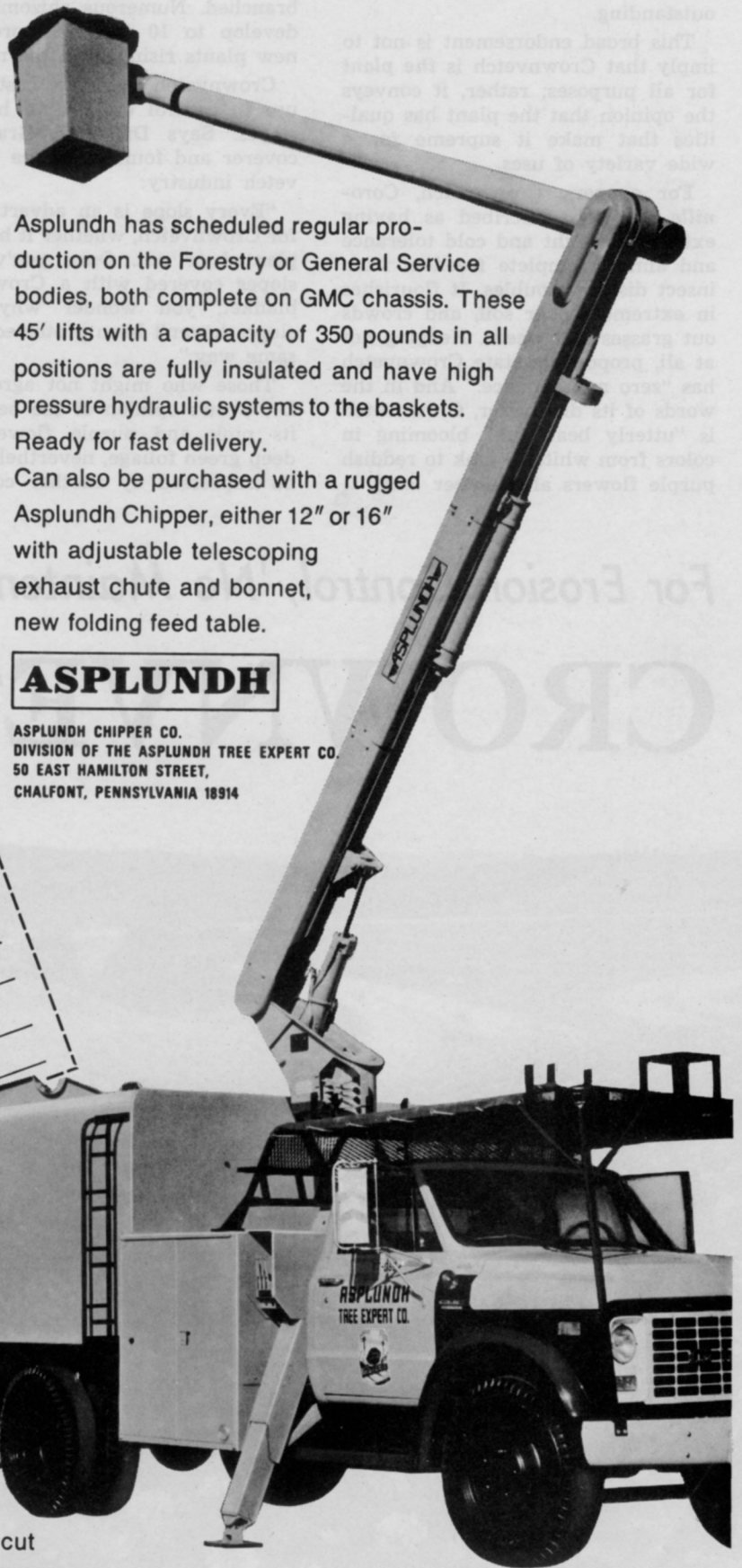
Arbor Day is the natural timing for a once-a-year a program, but events could be scheduled periodically.

You might be as surprised as Wilbur Wright, administrator of the New York State Parks, at the enthusiasm that can be developed over trees. He told the story at the shade tree conference of slum residents who descended upon a young tough bent on defacing a neighborhood tree planted in a once-treeless community.

Besides improving your company image and perhaps increasing business, a program of tree promotion could also perform a valuable industry service. With people's concern aroused over trees, there is greater likelihood that you can spray and the public will realize that rather than killing birds and polluting the air, soil and water, you're actually protecting trees and improving the world we live in. You have every right to sit in the front seat of the environmental bandwagon. Why not climb aboard?

Gene Ingalsbe

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ONCE YOU KNOW the characteristics of Crownvetch, you'll think of any number of uses. Its adaptation to environmental variations and omnipotence over natural and man-made destructive forces are that outstanding.

This broad endorsement is not to imply that Crownvetch is *the plant* for all purposes; rather, it conveys the opinion that the plant has qualities that make it supreme for a wide variety of uses.

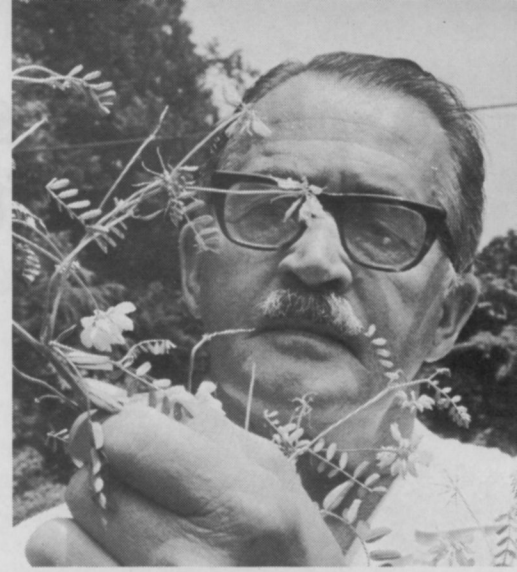
For openers, Crownvetch, *Coronilla varia*, is described as having extreme drought and cold tolerance and almost complete freedom from insect disease troubles. It flourishes in extremely poor soil, and crowds out grasses and weeds. Hedging not at all, proponents state Crownvetch has "zero maintenance." And in the words of its discoverer, Crownvetch is "utterly beautiful," blooming in colors from white to pink to reddish purple flowers all summer long.

A perennial legume, Crownvetch seeds profusely and also spreads by strong fleshy rhizomes. The Penn-gift strain (others are Chemung and Emerald) has coarse stems from two to six feet long that are strongly branched. Numerous rhizomes may develop to 10 feet or more, with new plants rising from the nodes.

Crownvetch is known best for its use to control erosion on highway slopes. Says Dr. Fred Grau, discoverer and founder of the Crownvetch industry:

"Every slope is an advertisement for Crownvetch, whether it has been planted or not. Once you've seen slopes covered with a Crownvetch blanket, you wonder why other slopes haven't been protected in the same way."

Those who might not agree with Dr. Grau's opinion of the beauty of its pink and purple flowers and deep green foliage, nevertheless will be impressed by another contribu-



Dr. Fred V. Grau, College Park, Md., founded the Crownvetch industry. He discovered the plant growing near Virginville, Pa., in 1935. He later formed his own company, Grasslyn, Inc., to produce and market seed. He's holding a white-flowering strain he hopes to market in the future. It's growing on a vacant lot in College Park near his home.

For Erosion Control, 'No Maintenance,' and Beauty:

CROWNVETCH



tion characterized by the color green—money.

Pennsylvania highway officials estimate that the 18,000 acres of Crownvetch planted along rights-of-way since 1947 are now saving taxpayers in excess of \$100,000 annually in mowing costs alone.

No estimate is possible on the amount of money saved that would have been used in rebuilding slopes that had eroded away.

The great opportunity for the Crownvetch industry, believes Dr. Grau, is in "revitalizing eroding, degenerating grassed slopes which have been improperly maintained. Success has been remarkable when Penngift Crownvetch seed has been hydroseeded into the gullied slopes without seedbed preparation."

Crownvetch is an ideal cover from the standpoints of beauty, erosion control, soil enrichment and "zero maintenance" for any hard-to-maintain area. Among these, Dr. Grau suggests medians on highways, slopes around factories, commercial buildings, parking lots, schools, parks and golf courses; ski slopes, cemeteries,

strip-mined areas, and decorative plantings around homes.

Penn Central Endorses It

Penn Central Railroad has established Crownvetch around its Big Four Yard near Indianapolis. Penn Central right-of-way specialists see Crownvetch as a "valuable ally" in maintaining yards and roadbeds where mowing is extremely expensive and chemical control not always effective.

"Chemical weed killers," a Penn Central release stated recently, "frequently defoliate but leave stalks standing which obstruct vision along rights-of-way and grade crossings until they are removed. Crownvetch hugs the ground in a dense green mass and eliminates this problem entirely."

But doesn't the mass of vines constitute a fire hazard? In the truly dormant season, "no more than any other plant," replies Dr. Grau. He adds that Crownvetch more properly can be described as "fire retardant."

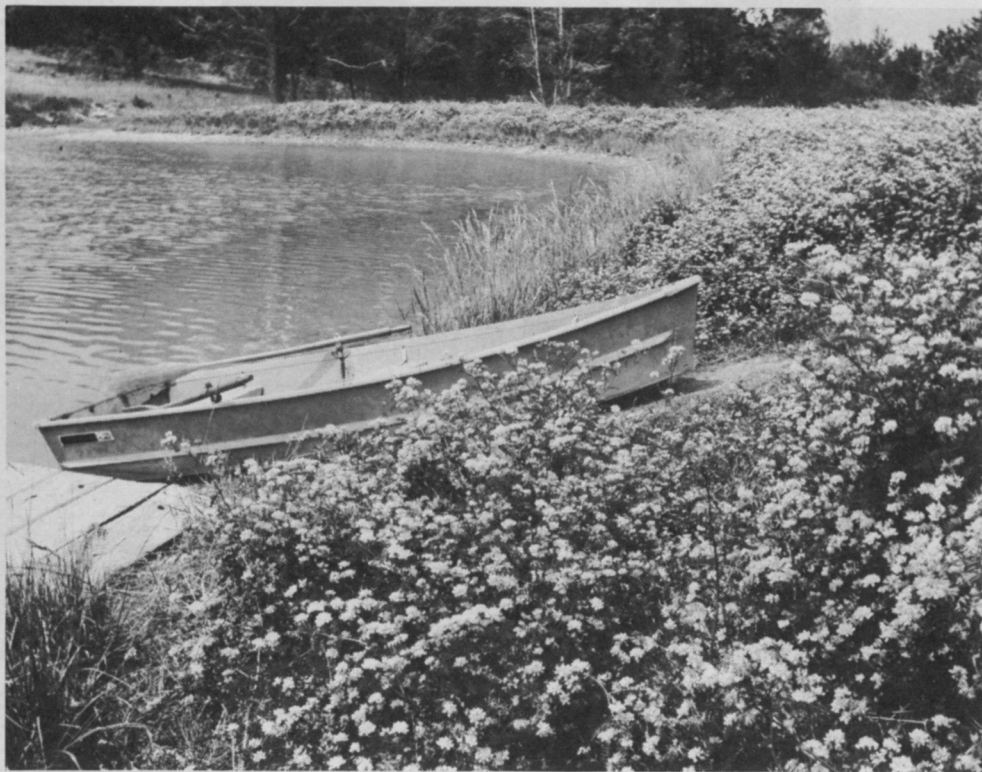
Because of the plant's exceptional drought tolerance, it stays green in extremely dry weather. Large quantities of moisture in its stems prevent flash fires as happen with grasses and weeds.

When and Where Discovered

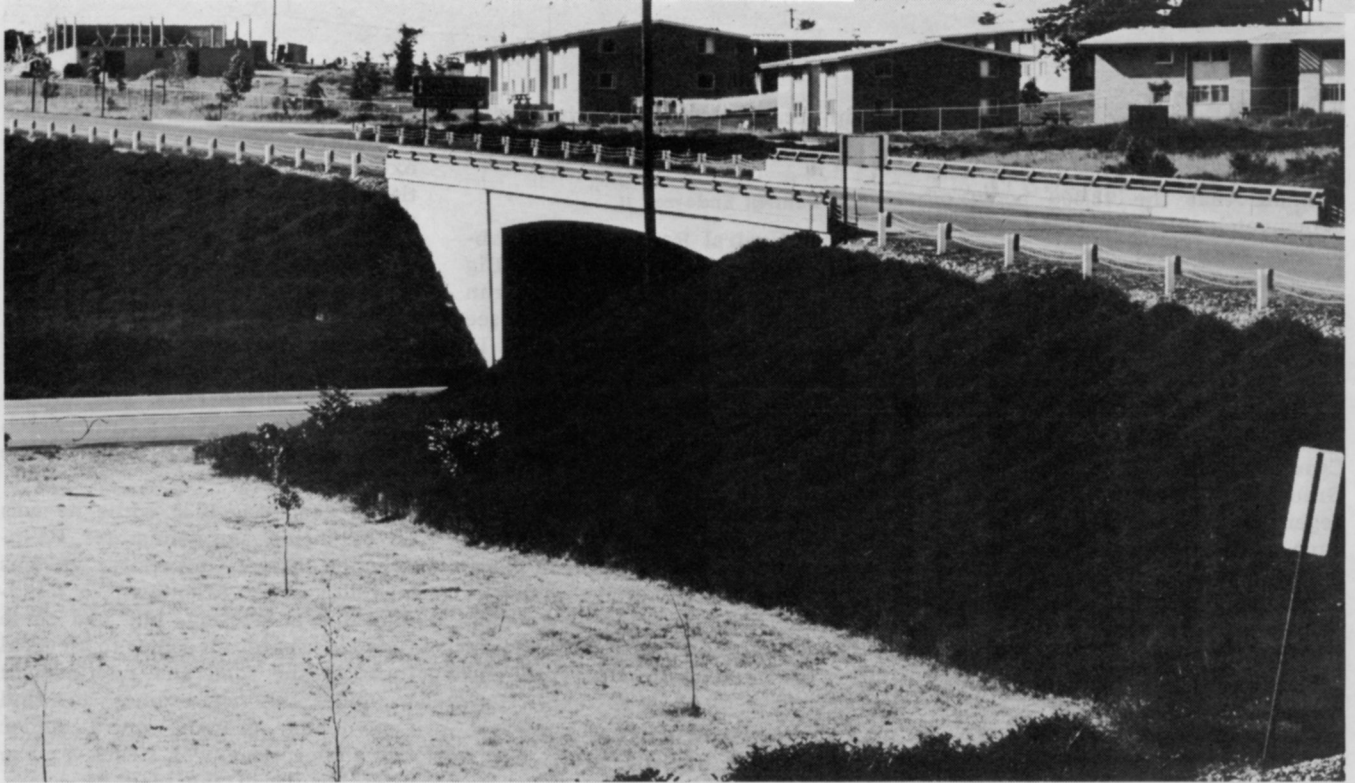
Dr. Grau, agronomist, world turf authority, and president of Grasslyn, Inc., College Park, Md., attributes his discovery of Crownvetch to his taking the right forks in the road.

The year was 1935 while he was an extension agronomist for Pennsylvania State University. "I was traveling from Allentown to Reading for a meeting, but had some time to spare. I came to several forks in the road and just happen to take the right ones to find Crownvetch growing on a cinder and shale pile. I was struck by the utter beauty of the plant."

The entire Crownvetch industry in this country is thought to have started from a single plant introduced as an impurity in an alfalfa



Highway interchanges, like the one at far left on Interstate 81 near Winchester, Va., are ideal places to plant Crownvetch. Mowing would have been practically impossible; cost of planting shrubbery prohibitive. The legume had covered almost everything except solid bedrock. Rights-of-way are steep and tiered in the mountainous region of Pennsylvania along Highway 322 northwest of Harrisburg. Crownvetch is working well to cut down erosion. Numerous uses, as for the lake bank above, serve both utilitarian and esthetic purposes.



Crownvetch offers a number of advantages over other types of plantings in urban areas. The legume soon envelopes and conceals trash. It stays a deep green through extremely dry weather, as shown above in State College, Pa., and moisture retained in its coarse stalks gives it fire-retardant

qualities. Commercial developments on land carved out of hillsides have used Crownvetch to control slope erosion. The picture at left is a business office building in College Park, Md. At right, Crownvetch worked its way into crevices of this cliff edge to Pennsylvania Highway 322.

field sometime between 1905 and 1910. The site was the Robert Gift farm near Virginville, Pa. Because of Dr. Grau's discovery on the Gift farm and the university-sponsored research that followed, the name Penngift Crownvetch was assigned for identification purposes. Other

varieties have been developed from Penngift with the help of Dr. Grau. Dr. Grau hand-harvested some seed and collected some crowns from the Gift field and started a new planting for commercial seed production in 1940. The first commercial seed harvest was in 1946;

the first ton produced in 1951. The Penngift name was assigned in 1954, and the first Blue Tag Certified seed came in 1961.

Before Dr. Grau could sell the seed to state or federal governments, he found that he had to establish his own competition to comply with

regulations requiring that more than one source be available for products purchased.

Dr. Grau, through Grasslyn, Inc., has some 2,000 acres in production now around State College, Pa., and Omaha, Neb.

Attesting to Penngift Crownvetch's ability to spread, Dr. Grau said a single clump planted eight years ago along Highway 36 near Omaha has now spread to 5,000 sq. ft.

The longest continuous highway usage, he said, is the recently completed Interstate 80 stretching from New Jersey to the Ohio line.

Though Pennsylvania has made greatest use of Crownvetch, Dr. Grau said seed or crown shipments had gone to 40 some states. It grows in most parts of the country, from almost the entire length of Trans-Canada Highway 401, to coal strip-mined areas of Kentucky to irrigation ditchbanks in El Paso, Tex. As other examples, you can view it at parks in Peoria, Ill., and Dallas, Tex.; on a golf course as Moselem Springs, Pa.; and on the slopes of a recharge water basin on Long Island.

But to really view Crownvetch "en masse," just take a drive through Pennsylvania.

University-Tested Since 1947

A joint research project by Pennsylvania State University and the state highway department was begun in 1947 to evaluate various legumes and grasses for slope control.

J. M. Duich, agronomist at Penn State, reporting at the first Crownvetch Symposium in 1964, summed up that early testing this way:

"The specific results of the tests showed that certain grasses produced an adequate cover but later showed evidence of serious thinning out, in spite of additional fertilization. In contrast, Crownvetch when seeded alone, established full cover by the end of the second full growing season, but because of the slow rate of seedling development, did not provide adequate protection during the first season of growth.

"It was very evident that, where grass-legume mixtures were used, the development of the legume was directly affected by the competition of the faster-growing grasses."

Because the study showed a grass-legume mixture to be the best for establishing a permanent cover, another series of tests was conducted to find which mixture was best.

In studies continued through 1961, Duich concluded that Crownvetch seeded with either red fescue,

Kentucky-31, or domestic ryegrass provided excellent slope protection, with the Crownvetch taking over as the permanent cover after the second growing season.

Under the conditions of the experiment, the ryegrass-Crownvetch combination showed the best indication of permanent Crownvetch cover.

Seeding rates per acre ranged from 25 to 60 pounds of grass seed to 20-30 pounds of Crownvetch seed. The recommended rate at present from Grasslyn, Inc., is 20 pounds of Crownvetch and 40 pounds of either

red fescue or ryegrass. (See Planting Suggestions).

Highway Department Evaluation

Also at the 1964 symposium, Pennsylvania roadside engineers D. R. Rodgers, H. P. Judd and R. S. Ross reported that Crownvetch had proved "highly satisfactory" on all roadside soils except where toxicity is apparently present. These soils ranged from silts to solid bedrock, with many sands, gravels, shales, clays and schists, they said.

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Penngift Crownvetch Planting Suggestions



From the top, Crownvetch is shown actual size in bloom (colors can be any shade from white to purple); seed pod; and in the dormant stage.

SEED

BEST TIME. Anytime slope is ready—spring, summer or fall.

INOCULATION. A must! Add fresh inoculant as directed on package. Use quadruple rate when hydroseeding to account for dilution. Dump into tank with seed, lime and fertilizer. Keep inoculant as cool as possible until used. Temperatures above 75-80 degrees F. weaken bacteria and make inoculant less effective.

LIME. Adjust pH levels to 6.5 to 7.0. Apply 2 tons ground agricultural limestone to the acre (100 lbs. to 1,000 sq. ft.) in absence of soil test.

FERTILIZER. Use 0-20-20 farm-grade fertilizer at 500 lbs./A and ureaform (38-0-0), Blue Chip Nitroform, Kapco-38, or equal at 400 lbs./A. Ureaform nitrogen is slowly soluble, non-leaching, non-burning, long-lasting, and gentle with the tender young seedlings. In large measure, it compensates for "no topsoil."

SEED RATE. 20 lbs. Blue Tag Certified Penngift seed to the acre.

COMPANION. 40 lbs. red fescue or ryegrass to the acre. In southern regions, use Kentucky 31 fescue at same rate. On small areas, use one pound of Penngift and one pound of companion per 1,000 sq. ft.

SEEDBED. Leave it rough and cloddy with stones and trash in place where no mowing is planned. Seed can be sown without seedbed preparation into weedy, grassy areas. Cutting the weeds and grass with a sickle or similar method on small areas will provide mulch.

MULCH. A must! Use two tons straw or hay to the acre, tied down with asphalt emulsion or by other method to hold mulch in place. On small areas, use two bales of straw per 1,000 sq. ft. tied down with twine or branches. Do not remove mulch.

HYDROSEEDING. For Penngift Crownvetch, use two-step method: STEP I—To water in tank add limestone, fertilizer, seed, inoculant and 200 lbs./A. wood cellulose pulp. The wood pulp acts as a "glue" to hold the seed tightly to the soil surface. STEP II—Immediately apply mulch. Mulch may be clean straw or timothy hay (with asphalt tack) at 2 tons/A. or wood cellulose pulp at 1,200 lbs./A. Long exposure between steps I and II will permit the sun and wind to kill the inoculating bacteria, which may result in failure.

OPTIONAL MANUAL METHOD OF INOCULATING FOR DRY SEEDING

1. Spread seed on tarpaulin.
2. Sprinkle lightly with a mixture of 9 parts water, 1 part molasses, or a sweet sweet soda pop. One-half pint of mixture should adequately moisten 100 pounds of seed.
3. Roll to alternate corners until all seeds are sticky-moist, not sloppy-wet.
4. Spread seed, scatter inoculant, roll again until each seed has black coating.
5. Spread seed, scatter cornstarch (1/2 lb. to 100 lb. seed) roll again to dry seeds for free-flowing quality.

OPTIONAL MECHANICAL METHOD OF INOCULATING FOR DRY SEEDING USING SMALL CEMENT MIXER

1. Load seed into mixer, agitate continuously.
2. Sprinkle with a mixture of 9 parts water, 1 part molasses. One-half pint to 100 lbs. seed.
3. Sprinkle inoculant.
4. When all seeds are coated black, sprinkle cornstarch (1/2 lb. to 100 lbs. seed).

CROWNS

BEST TIME. Anytime soil is not frozen or baked dry. Soil moisture is essential.

LIME AND FERTILIZER. As for seed, but spread two weeks before planting crowns.

SEEDBED. No special preparation. Crowns can be planted in bare soil or into existing cover.

SPACING. Staggered, on 3-ft. centers. Closer spacing will yield coverage sooner.

COMPANION. As for seed, sown just before applying mulch.

CARE. Keep crowns moist until planted. Pour soak-water on planted crowns.

PLANTING. Create vertical or slanting hole with mattock, pickaxe, or tree-planting tool. Pour water in hole, bury all but tip of crown, then firm soil to exclude air. Leave a depression or "rain-pocket" above crown to catch rain water. Never plant crowns in hot, dry soil.

MULCH. As for seed, but best applied before crowns are planted.