

# The Pennfine Challenge.

Name another winter grass that delivers all these advantages.

**Mowability.** Pennfine was specifically bred for soft fibers that take a smooth, clean cut.

**Texture.** University trial data indicates that Pennfine has the finest texture of any perennial ryegrass.

**Purity.** All Pennfine seed is certified. Growers are paid a premium to deliver quality seed.

**Ruggedness.** Pennfine retains the ruggedness of the old ryegrasses, takes traffic well and repairs easily.

**Smooth putting.** When mowed to "green height", Pennfine produces extra tillers for a thick, smooth putting surface.

**Play-tested.** Pennfine has been used on hundreds of golf courses as well as parks, cemeteries and athletic fields.

**Spring transition.** Pennfine is non-competitive, makes a smooth transition to bermudagrass in the Spring.

You're invited to compare Pennfine Perennial Ryegrass, benefit for benefit, with any other grass you can use for winter overseeding.

We're betting you won't find anything that measures up to Pennfine.

In five years of rapidly-expanding use, Pennfine has become the new standard for winter overseeding in the South. Hundreds of superintendents have put it to the test; we've yet to hear of a real weakness.

Other breeders have tried to duplicate Pennfine's qualities;

we've yet to see another variety that can match Pennfine's performance record. Of course, you're the ultimate judge of what goes on your course. All we ask is this. Before you select a winter grass, compare it—benefit for benefit—with Pennfine. For more information, write: Pennfine, P.O. Box 923, Minneapolis, MN 55440.



*If it has a weakness,  
nobody's found it yet.*

# WEEDS TREES & TURF®

NOVEMBER 1976, Vol. 15, No. 11

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Member, American Business Press, Business Publications Audit



Single Copy Price: \$1.00 for current and all back issues. Foreign \$1.50. Subscription Rates: WEEDS TREES AND TURF is mailed free, within the U.S. and possessions and Canada, to qualified persons engaged in the vegetation care industry and related fields in controlled circulation categories. Non-qualified subscriptions in the U.S. and Canada are \$10.00 per year; other countries, \$12.00 per year. Controlled circulation postage paid at Cleveland, Ohio 44101.

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# Government News

EPA has issued a statement on the "use of registered pesticides for control of pests not named on label on agricultural and non-structural pest control." The Pesticide Enforcement Policy Statement (PEPS) #5, defines what constitutes a knowledgeable expert and allows each state to decide whether or not to designate such experts. Experts, who must have extensive qualifying experience or a combination of qualifying education and experience, will have authority under defined limitations, to make recommendation for conditions under which registered pesticide may be used to control a pest not named in registration.

The question of plant toxicity was referred to the Consumer Product Safety Commission by the Federal Trade Commission. FTC voted to hold in abeyance other aspects of proposed plant labeling regulation.

Research on aquatic weed control and on the classification of economically important plant species will be conducted by Pakistani scientists under two foreign currency grants awarded by the USDA for a total of \$372,380. Pakistani scientists will test the possibility of using a pathogen to control water hyacinth. They will extract a toxin produced by the organism that causes water hyacinth blight, *Alternaria eichorniae*, establish its chemical structure, design a control program for its use and determine its effect on the total aquatic environment.

A two-volume study on the relationship between wildlife and the highway environment sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration is available. Highway-Wildlife Relationships focuses on past efforts and future needs for establishing and preserving wildlife habitats along the 20 million plus acres devoted to highway rights-of-way. Copies of reports FHWA-RD-79-4 and 5 can be obtained from the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, Va. 22161.

Agricultural representatives of the U. S., Mexico and Canada have signed the North American Plant Protection Agreement to unify efforts to solve "continental" pest problems. Formalizing working relations among Mexican, American and Canadian plant protection agencies, the agreement also gives legal authority to programs, standards and regulations adopted for pest control throughout North America, allows anti-pest programs to be merged when necessary and makes regulations governing such procedures as international garbage disposal and importation of used farm equipment more uniform.

A new microbial pesticide for tussock moth control has been approved by EPA. The natural occurring virus is devastating against the tussock moth but is otherwise apparently harmless. The moth is the ancient scourge of the Douglas-fir forests of the Pacific Northwest.





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## Diazinon





*Above: special aerial bucket carries enough seed for eight acres. Right: an altitude of 45 feet with a speed of 45 miles per hour yields a swath width of 45 feet.*



# Over seeding by helicopter

—a case study

*When Landscape Contractor John Perkins learned of an erosion control job for over seeding on I-35 in Iowa, he decided to go after it. He also decided to use a helicopter. Here is his first-hand step-by-step report on this successful project (from a presentation at the August Denver Symposium of Associated Landscape Contractors of America).*

For some years, the Roadside Development Section of the Highway Commission, as it was known before it became the Highway Division of the D.O.T., had used a stabilizing crop seeding on newly graded secondary, primary and interstate highways.

This seeding consisted generally of Winter Rye and Ky. 31 Fescue in the spring, Sudan grass in the summer, and Winter Rye and Hairy Vetch in the fall. In addition all areas not seeded by Sept. 30th were either rough disked, disked or mulched, with the mulch tilled into the soil with a mulch tiller and left over

winter. This would put the areas in shape for over seeding in the spring.

Iowa has for many years practiced the over seeding of legumes in the spring into areas which had been fall seeded with grasses. This was usually done with the hand Cyclone seeder. So Iowa was well organized when the D.O.T. decreed not more than 750,000 square feet could be disturbed with one grading spread before some method of soil stabilization had to be followed.

Previously when we moved onto a seeding project in the spring, we were required to disk or till up all the growth from the stabilizing crop of the previous year. Then it was suggested that if the grass and legume seed could be applied in early spring, it could be seeded directly into existing mulch without further manipulation of the soil. This would provide about six to eight weeks longer for the growing season.

The Highway Commission began letting erosion control contracts with provision for early spring over seeding of certain areas which had been seeded with stabilizing crop the previous season. The specs read: "Seeding shall be performed

between March 1 and April 15, while the soil is friable and subject to freezing and thawing action."

One of the projects in the letting for the fall of 1970 was an erosion control job that called for early over seeding of previously stabilized areas on I-35 in southern Iowa. It looked like a project that would fit our organization but I knew it would be virtuously impossible to depend on conventional equipment for the spring over seeding. Then I thought about using a helicopter.

I found an operator who was interested, but he would have to purchase a \$2000 aerial bucket. We then had to work out from the volume of the bucket how much seed he could carry by volume and weight to find out how many acres he could cover in each trip. We worked out a tentative price per acre and I eventually was awarded the project.

In Iowa the contractor supplies everything required to perform on the project — equipment, labor, seed, mulch, inoculation and fungicide. The specifications provide that legumes must be applied within eight hours of inoculation, that a fungicide be applied to all seed, and that a sticking agent be used to make the fungicide and inoculation stick to the seed. This means the seed must be mixed on the job. Contractors had been using a large auger wagon for this mixing operation and this seemed satisfactory.

Since the contractor is responsible for the entire operation, he must make arrangements with the aerial operator who supplies the plane or helicopter, the pilot and usually one man on the ground with a pickup containing maintenance equipment, fuel and a two-way radio. The

*Proper altitude and speed are essential for even seeding.*





## over seeding by helicopter

pilot is the key man. The contractor should review the project with the pilot together with the on-the-job representative of the contracting authority.

The pilot must cover the area designated for each seed load and he must do this while flying at the proper altitude, which from our experience is 30 to 45 feet. He must travel at the proper ground speed, about 40 to 45 miles per hour. The width of the swath seeded will vary with the altitude and ground speed. With the figures we mentioned, the swath will be 40 to 45 feet wide. There will be funneling and streaming of the seed if the speed is too fast. For best results the wind should not be over 10 m.p.h. and not gusty.

This means you might wait several days for proper conditions, or get underway and be forced to shut down. There are always variables, but with aerial seeding you can cover 30 to 50 acres an hour.

Another consideration is whether to use a helicopter or fixed wing plane. Our experience is only with a helicopter. It can land in tight quarters, it can get into smaller

areas, go up and down over obstacles easier, and doesn't need a runway.

A helicopter or small plane can carry enough seed for eight acres. We normally stake out two eight acre plots so that the pilot can calibrate his seeding equipment and then the balance of the project into 32 acre plots to give him some guidelines as the work progresses. To be sure the coverage is 100 percent, the seeder can be set at one half rate with two passes made over each area.

Safety is important. The contractor, the contracting authority representative and the pilot must drive through the job and note all obstacles such as high lines, bridges,

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*You might wait several days for proper conditions, or get underway and be forced to shut down.*

trees, and even fences. Some may need flagging.

The ground crew handling the seed needs to be aware that if you challenge a turning rotor or propeller you always come out second best. In order to get production, the engine must be kept running, the rotor or propeller turning, and the seed hopper filled in very close proximity.

Be sure your aerial operator is insured for liability, property damage, etc., to cover his operation while he is on your project.

In the years 1971 through 1975 in Iowa there were 352 miles of roadway consisting over 9611 acres that were over seeded. The State estimates the savings to be \$1,897,742, mostly generated by the saving of tillage, and by not applying mulch on the over seeded area.

Some contractors may think that with less dollar volume, their profit is taking wing along with the helicopter. I believe there has been enough work added, such as ditch work, to more than make up the difference. The opportunity for profit is still there for a well-managed outfit. □

