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Harvests

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BOARD RULES ON SEAL DURING WESTERN

The Lawn Institute Board voted to do the following at the Board Meeting called by President Gassner on November 10:

1. Voted that the Seal, when used on package mixtures, would command 1/2 cent per pound royalty for the 1962 calendar year.
2. Set minimum standards for use of the Seal on seed blends involving single species.
3. Instructed the Director to explore further the possibilities for bluegrass joining fine fescues in application for a mowing order.
4. Created a new category, "Sponsor" ^{marketing} membership, to enlist allied corporations ---with financial participation according to the resources and prestige of the corporation.

The following are highlights of the minutes of the November 10 Board meeting:

"President Gassner acknowledged formal acceptance of the Northern Minnesota Bluegrass Growers Association as participants in the Lawn Institute. The Board seat created for this association at the annual meeting in May is to be occupied by Mr. Gustav Kveen. Mr. Charles Habstritt of the Northern Minnesota Bluegrass Growers Association also visited Kansas City, but was forced to leave before the Board sessions, although having discussed matters of interest with Director Schery the preceding evening.

Agenda items were considered as outlined in the mimeograph sheet circulated to Board members. After considerable discussion on the royalty to be assessed against usage of the seal for 1962, it was moved by Spears, seconded by Kellogg, and passed, that the royalty be set at 1/2¢ per pound, with no qualifications as to how this money would be spent. Whether members of the Institute already paying on the processing of seed should also be subjected to royalty on the seal was discussed; it was the general agreement they should be, and that exceptions should not be made.

There was no vote concerning change of standards for seed mixtures sold in the South, but it was the sense of the meeting that the Lawn Institute should proceed slowly in making exceptions to the present grasses and their qualifications. Roy Edwards believed that in the only case where the question has come up (an affiliate of his company), that no problems would arise if hesitancy were shown in granting the seal. It was felt that the seal should be made workable for the main marketing area in the North before additional problems were tackled in the South.

Lengthy discussion ensued on what should be acceptable purity and germination standards for "straights" (blends of bluegrass, or other grass species singly). While it was recognized that eventually it might be desirable to set purity and germination figures for seed in mixtures, the problem so far has concerned only "straights", where light seed could qualify for the seal by present standards.

In order that grasses represented by the Institute gain a top reputation for performance, it was suggested that the following standards would be required for use of the seal on straights or blends within a species:

Natural Kentucky bluegrass - 90 purity, 75 germination
Merion bluegrass - 92 purity, 80 germination
Oregon fine fescues - 98 purity, 90 germination
Highland bentgrass - 98 purity, 85 germination

Upon motion by Spears, seconded by Kellogg, it was passed that these standards should pertain, subject to approval by the Oregon Fescue Commission of those figures adopted for fine fescues, and with the understanding that these figures not be considered retroactive to previous agreements for which labels and packages may have already been designed. It was further the intent of the motion that in special cases where the user of the seal preferred to emphasize Pure Live Seed, or similar indications, that these standards could be employed on a PLS equivalency basis (67.5% PLS for natural Kentucky bluegrass).

Creation of a special category of "Sponsor" membership, as outlined in the circulated mimeograph, was discussed and viewed with favor. Upon motion by Kiburz, seconded by Hottinger, and passed, it was decided that a sliding scale of payments should be established, in keeping with the size and importance of the interested corporation.

.....The Director was also asked to convey to Mr. Stanley Rollins, Acting Chief, Federal Seed Laboratory, a resolution passed unanimously, supporting the position advanced through ASTA channels that *Poa annua* should be declared a noxious weed in Federal and state seed lawn, and that sale of lawn grass seeds containing it be appropriately restricted "in order to protect the public interest, and maintain the reputation for quality so arduously built by reputable bluegrass, fine fescue and Highland bentgrass producers".

.....Director Schery reviewed briefly hopes for publicity during the coming year, mentioning publication of articles in specialized media. A Readex Survey of Better

Building Maintenance was reviewed, showing how the Institute article on lawns had achieved top reader interest in this magazine. Members might suggest to magazines in which they advertise that similar lawn articles be carried. Preparation of an inexpensive paper-back book on lawns and landscaping is underway, as are tentative plans for some short television and radio releases, which possibly can be set up on a self-sustaining royalty basis. The Director urged all members to funnel to him such ideas and contacts as would enable the Institute to reach the public ever more effectively."

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS-FINE FESCUES-HIGHLAND BENTGRASS RATE HIGH AS PUTTING SURFACES FOR SOUTHEAST

The 1961 September - October "Golf Course Reporter" presents four comprehensive discussions on the relative merits and hardiness of putting surfaces in this publication's "Winter Green's Symposium". Direct quotes from GCR should be of interest to Lawn Institute members marketing or intending to market around winter in the southeast region:

"Through February and March the fescues continued to be outstanding. *Poa trivialis* and the ryes weakened while Penncross, Seaside and Highland bentgrasses looked very good. Kentucky and Delta bluegrasses became dense and exhibited very good color.

"In April the fescues and Kentucky bluegrass had excellent appearance. Penn-cross, Seaside, and Highland bentgrasses were very dense and provided the best putting qualities.

"By the first week in May the Tifgreen bermudagrass was in excellent condition and the check plots rated as highly as any of the overseeded plots in all rating categories. Penncross, Seaside and Highland bentgrasses and Kentucky bluegrass plots rated high at this time in all departments. The fescue plots were slightly off color, but still looked very uniform and dense.

"Only the bentgrasses and Kentucky bluegrass remained by the middle of June. The bentgrass blended very well with the bermudagrass, but the bluegrass, with its very upright growth, showed a difference in texture.

"A very gradual transition was noted with all of the fescues and with the bluegrasses. *Poa trivialis* and the ryegrasses faded out in a spotty, undesirable fashion and contained quite a bit of disease from March on.

"It appeared that *Poa trivialis*, the ryegrasses, and the fescues had the best disease resistance until the first of March. The bentgrasses and Kentucky bluegrass were most tolerant from then on.

"These results would suggest that Kentucky bluegrass, fine fescues, or Highland bentgrass - or mixtures of them - make adequate putting surfaces when introduced into dormant Bermudagrass, provided proper techniques of introduction and establishment are undertaken. There is no reason why similar excellent results would

not occur on Bermudagrass lawns, if investigation uncovers an easy way of establishment for quality lawn seed mixtures of the North. Of course lighter seeding rates than with ryegrass, and some publicity to point out the much higher seed count on northern grass mixtures would need be undertaken. The market should be a good one, since it would involve annual reseeding."

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO SPEARHEAD PRODUCER COOPERATION

During the November 10 Board Meeting a committee was appointed to explore ways for joint action and merging of interests between Midwestern producer members of the Lawn Institute and non-member producers located in the Pacific Northwest. In consolidating the efforts of these groups it would be possible to realize greater effectiveness for all concerned. With the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Lawn Institute, President Gassner appointed Roy Edwards, Jr., Chairman; Ken Christensen; William Gassner, ex officio, to pursue the possibilities of enlisting bluegrass grower support in the Pacific-Northwest. It was felt in passing the unanimous resolution asking these men to serve that only through their efforts as heads of major corporations having interests in the region could progress be made in encouraging growers to share Institute responsibility for promotion of quality lawn seeds such as bluegrass, fine fescues and bentgrasses.

SCHERY STORY SCORES IN "BUILDING MAINTENANCE & MODERNIZATION"

Readex, a nationally-known organization established to determine the amount of reader interest in published stories and advertisements, recently reported extreme interest in an Institute-released story. The article, "Autumn Lawn Care" by Dr. Schery appeared in the September issue of "Building Maintenance and Modernization". According to Readex, this story was read and found to be the most interesting article in the publication by the greatest number of readers. It received the highest readership score (61%) in that issue of the magazine.

BLUEGRASS MIXTURES GENERALLY PREFERRED TO BERMUDA IN ALBUQUERQUE

It would seem that either Kentucky bluegrass or bermuda thrives in the Albuquerque area, but both depend upon watering. Bluegrass has much the longer season being potentially green nearly the year around. During a recent visit on September 16, Dr. Schery conferred with Dr. Dittmer, the Lawn Institute advisor and Dean of the University of New Mexico. Dr. Dittmer observed that watering Buffalo grass plantings, blue Grama, and even African Bermuda caused these to give way to clover, common Bermuda, or volunteer Kentucky bluegrass, which does especially well in the shaded areas. It was also noted that the presence of clover on the better lawns provided an obvious nitrogen boost to African Bermuda.

DUPONT NOW OFFERING LAWN PRODUCTS LINE

DuPont has recently introduced a complete line of dry granular lawn products with

a compatible spreader to complete this new consumer lawncare "package". Products include fertilizer, insecticides, crabgrass controls and related pesticides. No seed is handled, only chemicals. This is the first attempt by DuPont to market its own metal spreader, apparently patterned after the many drop-from-hopper models on the market.

ADVOCATES NATURAL KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS FOR AVERAGE CONDITIONS;
MERION FOR LAWNS RECEIVING EXCEPTIONAL CARE

On October 16 Dr. Schery visited Dr. James Tyson at Michigan State University and summarized Dr. Tyson's attitudes and observations as follows:

"Dr. Tyson continues to recommend natural Kentucky bluegrass for average conditions, Merion for lawns capable of being superbly tended. He feels that at least two pounds of actual nitrogen per year are needed to keep Merion, and his test area this year showed Merion to be very poor and weedy where it did not receive at least this much fertilizer - much worse than was Park or natural Kentucky bluegrass.

"One interesting observation contrary to the usual expectation, was a planting on muck soil this autumn, in which natural Kentucky bluegrass was first to sprout, followed then by Merion, and last by Newport.

"Of the varieties, Tyson feels that Park is much the same as natural Kentucky bluegrass, but should have a little more fertilizer. Delta has proven susceptible to diseases more than most bluegrasses, Newport has not exhibited the autumn growth claimed for it, CB has shown reasonably low growth and fair color.

"Growth retardants, excellent in the greenhouse, have proven of no use on the outdoor plots. In the course of the experiment, bluegrass had been let grow tall without mowing, and later when mowed back low was unable to repress weeds that had not appeared for five years in this turf.

"Under the cooler conditions of Michigan, ureaform fertilizer has not behaved well, not releasing nitrogen during the cooler seasons when it might do considerable good.

"Tyson finds little difference between existing varieties of fine fescues, although under test is one with a code designation 237 that has proven greener and fuller all through the summer. This has been one of the best years for fine fescues, which Tyson recommends for seed mixtures in Michigan. As do most turf authorities, Tyson abhors tall fescue in seed mixtures.

"Tyson dislikes including bentgrass in mixtures, and suggests that if bentgrass is to be used it be used alone, properly tended.

"Under test are a good many combinations of sand with other amendments for sustaining creeping bentgrasses on golf greens. Most of the emphasis, however, is given turf usage applicable to the home.

LAWN INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES REVIEWED FOR DOW STAFF

The history, activities, and national role of the Lawn Institute were presented by Dr. Robert Schery to the Development Department of Dow's Agricultural Chemical Division on Friday, October 13 at the chemical firm's Midland, Michigan, facilities. During his visit Dr. Schery was given an opportunity to inspect the research and test areas as well as meet several of the Dow executives including Bud Coulter (Agricultural Development) and Larry Southwick (Herbicides). The Dow staff seemed to be especially interested in building public sentiment in favor of general usage of chemicals for weed control and control of pests. Dr. Schery was the guest of the Dow group at the invitation of Mark Wiltse and during the visit had the opportunity to meet R. T. Williams of the Sales staff, and Bob McKeller and Harry Patrick of Dow's Public Relations Department.

PORTLAND SEED AMONG ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FEATURING INSTITUTE IDENTITY THROUGH SEAL AND CERTIFICATE

Portland Seed and its subsidiary, the Lilly Company, have taken full advantage of Institute Membership, by prominently displaying the membership certificate on the entry wall of the firm's newly modernized quarters in Portland, Oregon. In addition to a place of honor for the certificate, Portland also utilizes Institute sales aids, with particular emphasis on the seal stickers, which are affixed to packaged merchandise. Fred Trullinger and his staff are to be commended for the vigor and imagination they have applied to utilization of the Institute's aids.

INSTITUTE DIRECTOR VISITS JAQUET FARM IN SALEM COUNTY, OREGON

Dr. Schery had an unusual side field trip on his tour through the northwest when he visited the Don Jaquet Farm on September 25. Dr. Schery was accompanied by Hollis Ottoway, County Agent for Salem County and Fred Jans. Here are excerpts from Dr. Schery's field report:

"At the time Mr. Jaquet was spraying with IPC for weed control.....the bentgrass is ordinarily replanted about each seven years, and may be interspersed with one crop of fescue.....so much bent is in the soil that generally it just comes back without replanting.....Certification is based upon weed content and field inspection, not upon genetic characteristics.....Highland is the name given for the Colonial bents grown in this part of Oregon.....Spraying and burning are annual hygienic measures needed to keep weeds and pests in control. Beautiful clean acreage existed on the Jaquet farm."

HIGHLAND BENTGRASS AND FESCUE MIXTURES PREFERRED IN OREGON AREA

According to a field report memorandum received from Dr. Schery on the occasion of his visit on September 25 to Oregon State College in Corvallis, Oregon, Dr. Norman Goetze of the extension staff indicated the following:

"Goetze finds that some of the Eastern bentgrasses and fescues, although grown in Oregon, are less satisfactory than local selections for the climate of Western Oregon. Penncross bentgrass "fluffs" too much, and golf course superintendents can't control the thatch. Seaside is consequently preferred. Pennlawn fescue, chosen for its resistance to leaf spot in the East (which is not a problem in Oregon), actually performs more poorly than other varieties, of which Goetze would choose Illahee as best if he had to make a choice. He thinks that Chewings does not mow as well as other Oregon varieties, at least under dry conditions.

"Goetze likes Highland bentgrass, and mixtures of fescue and Highland bentgrass. At the seeding rates he uses in his test plots he finds that either of these species will push Merion bluegrass out of the picture. He has been using roughly equal parts of fescue and Merion bluegrass by weight, in these plantings.

"It was noted that on the plantings of C-1 Newport there was a lot of rust, just as much as on Merion. Other selections of bluegrass looked better at the time of visiting.

"Although Corvallis is in 'bentgrass country' very definitely, the more continental climate such as prevails around Medford, for example, makes this area 'bluegrass country'. Consequently, Goetze is making experimental plantings up and down the Willamette Valley in order to determine just what he would recommend. Eventually Western Oregon seems destined to be a patchwork of 'zones' of recommended seed mixtures."

DR. SCHERY INSPECTS UNIQUE TURFGRASS RESEARCH AREA IN CALIFORNIA

Accompanied by Stanley Wilkins, Horticulturist and consulting chemist, Dr. Schery visited the Kaiser Building in Oakland. This unusual piece of architecture is famous for its rooftop garden, complete with plantings, pools, and trees. Dr. Schery's comments on this area are passed on along for the information of all Institute members:

"Incidentally, the rooftop landscape garden at the Kaiser Building is magnificent. Several feet of soil have been hauled in, and the whole area meticulously landscaped with colorful plants, pools, trees and turf. The well kept turf is bentgrass, manicured like a golf green."

Visit was also paid Dr. H. M. Butterfield, Extension, University of California, Berkeley. It might be of interest that Dr. Butterfield feels perennial ryegrass does as well as bluegrass in the shade in the Bay area. Associate members in the area have discussed the possible employment of the Seal on mixtures containing more than our present allowable perennial ryegrass content, for the Bay area only.

An afternoon was spent with advisor Dr. John Madison, at the Davis experimental growers of the University of California. It may be of special interest to our

Highland bentgrass associates to have some of Dr. Madison's observations at Davis. He finds that Highland bentgrass will do well if "scalped" once in autumn. In summer it should be maintained about 7/8 inch high as optimum cutting height, or at least somewhere in the range of 3/4 inch to 1 inch. Otherwise it develops "false crowning" and looks stubbly. He recommends also a spray against insects in August.

Natural Kentucky bluegrass and Merion would be rated about equally in the Davis plots. At the time of visit, all bluegrasses were looking good, except Delta (which was the poorest). There is a cool surge of ocean air at night up the Sacramento Valley, enough to make bluegrasses do well even as far inland as Davis.

Among the fescues, Pennlawn was one of the poorer, Rainier the best.

Madison experienced the same results reported by researchers elsewhere, that the ureaforms were deficient in nitrogen release during cooler weather. Strangely, summer fertilization helped the northern species control Bermuda invasion, contrary to expectations.

INSECTICIDES POINT WAY TO SOD WEBWORM CONTROL IN OKLAHOMA

Dr. Schery conferred with two of the Institute advisors, Dr. Wayne Huffine and Dr. Sam Wiggans of Oklahoma State University, on September 15, at which time various problems peculiar to that area and climate were discussed.

Sod webworms continue to be very troublesome in Oklahoma, but their control is believed possible with hydrocarbon insecticides (no evidence that insect resistance has built up). "Spring dead spot" continues to be troublesome on Bermuda, with the causal agent unidentified, and the control application of an insecticide (dieltrin has been effective).

A great deal of the turfgrass research at Oklahoma centers on herbicides. Interestingly enough bandane, the isolate presumed effective in chlordane, has worked poorly in both pre-emergence and post-emergence crabgrass control. It has given no burn. Better liked for general weed control in Bermuda or St. Augustine turf is simazine at 1 to 2 pounds per acre, or diuron on newly sprigged varieties of Bermuda. At an 8 pound rate, Bermuda is injured.

Dr. Huffine questions the use of ryegrass, for wintergrass seeding in Oklahoma. It tends to persist and repress comeback of the Bermuda. However, not a great deal of winter seeding is done in Oklahoma, other than on golf courses. He would recommend vertical mowing before seeding a wintergrass into Bermuda, or if that proved impossible alternate rakings and mowings. If weeds are controlled in Bermuda, then the general brownish color is not objectionable, says Huffine.

Oklahoma may be releasing a dwarf St. Augustine, and a Centipede variety. But a disease has been a problem this year on the St. Augustine.

In Dr. Huffine's estimation *Poa annua* is the worst weed, followed by goosegrass and crabgrass. Because of unusually temperate summers the last three years many golf greens have held *Poa annua* as a perennial.

Dr. Wiggans has received bluegrass, Oregon fescues and Highland bentgrass from us, which will be tested for wintergrass interseeding this autumn.

DR. SCHERY ADDRESSES EASTERN OREGON FESCUE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

During his tour of the northwest Dr. Schery had an opportunity to address the Eastern Oregon Fescue Growers Association at a supper meeting sponsored by the members. Earlier in the day Dr. Schery was accompanied on field trips by Ted Sidor, County Agent at La Grande, which is situated in the heart of the fescue production area of the Grande Ronde Valley. Farms visited were those of Bill Howells, George Royes, and Clayton Fox, former Fescue Commission representative on the Lawn Institute Board.

Dr. Schery observed that row planting is practiced in this area, where fescue may be kept for five years or more, and bluegrass has been known not to require replanting for as much as ten years. The chief bluegrass is Merion.

Soil tests indicate need is almost solely for nitrogen. About 80 pounds per year are applied to the fescue, 90-120 pounds for Merion bluegrass. There is less concern in Oregon about lodging from too much nitrogen than in Midwestern bluegrass fields, since pickup rakes ahead of the combine lift fallen seed stalks.

Annual burning, and generally spraying for sod webworm and tarweed are a general practice. Without burning, disease and insects gain such a foothold as to reduce yields materially.

While a crop is said possible without irrigation, it is increased up to 65% with irrigation, so that this is usually practiced.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING TEST PLOTS SHOW BLUEGRASS-FESCUE AND HIGHLAND BENTGRASS SUITED TO RIGOROUS CLIMATE

On October 2, Dr. Schery conferred with Lloyd Ayres, Horticulture Department of the University of Wyoming at Laramie, where bluegrass has stood the test of the areas rigorous climate. The following observations were made for the record in Dr. Schery's field report:

Laramie is in a very severe climate. The elevation is 7,200 feet, normal rainfall only 10 to 12 inches. Non-hardy plants kill out readily in winter, and without irrigation it is difficult to establish first-class turfs. Where irrigation is possible, bluegrass is thought by Ayres to be far the best. The school athletic field is sown to natural Kentucky bluegrass, as are most lawns and the local golf course fairway.

Ayres finds that in Wyoming there is no advantage to varieties and premium blue-

grasses compared to natural Kentucky bluegrass. Kentucky bluegrass or Kentucky bluegrass mixtures constitute his standard recommendation for lawns.

The test plots show fescue to survive well too, although doing better on low fertility rather than on high.

Clover has been found to winterkill in open winter, as has some Colonial bentgrass received from Washington. However, Highland bentgrass from Oregon has proven perfectly hardy.

Chewings fescue is often represented as "not rhizoming". Yet plantings of this species on Ayres test plots show spread around the edges of the plot of several inches. This would seem justification of our considering Chewings fescue as rhizomatous in qualification for the seal of approval.

As of the present, turfgrass diseases are not much of a problem in Wyoming. Part of the reason is that there is no extensive monoculture of a single pasture grass as there occurs in most parts of the country, for the range is left to the mixed population of wild grasses.

SATURDAY EVENING POST WRITER INQUIRES OF LAWN INSTITUTE

Jim Skardon of the Saturday Evening Post called the Lawn Institute national headquarters in Marysville, Ohio, on October 2. Mr. Skardon indicated that he was assembling material for a future article and had been referred to Dr. Schery for information.

NATURAL "BLUEGRASS" THE WORKHORSE SPECIES ON PURDUE CAMPUS

During a recent visit to Purdue University, Dr. Schery inspected the campus plantings and experimental plots that are supervised by Dr. W. H. Daniel of the University. The following are excerpts from Schery's field report:

"The turfgrass in general seemed excellent at Purdue this year, both because of favorable (cool) weather and weed control. It shows that central Indiana is good bluegrass country, and in spite of all the ballyhoo for 'fancy' strains, the campus is still workhorse natural bluegrass. One of Dr. Daniel's former students is now in charge of grounds maintenance at Purdue.

"Pre-emergence crabgrass killers show up markedly at this season with coarse, yellow-green sod where prevention has not been practiced. Kentucky bluegrass is a very tough customer, resisting harm from any of the presently marketed crabgrass killers, unless extravagantly over-applied. All crabgrass killers are showing excellent results, with essentially crabgrass-free bluegrass turf where properly used. Some of the earliest plots were of calcium arsenate, at 24 pounds per M. Dr. Daniel has found that a 'booster' application is needed to keep them entirely free from crabgrass, and suggests one-half rate the second year, and

one-fourth rate the third. Where booster applications were omitted slight infestations of crabgrass were beginning to show up.

"One of the interesting tests is abandonment of fertilization, to see how long there is carry-over from previous fertilizing practices. Natural Kentucky bluegrass is not the heavy feeder that Merion is, so the results don't show as strikingly as with Merion. But on the Merion plots, when fertilization is withheld, the turf looks quite poor in comparison to fertilized areas. Results shape up to indicate that fertility effects are lost within two years. Fertilization practices for three years in a row will have some carry-over effect until the second year, but not beyond. As might be expected, those fertilizers containing ureaform type nitrogen (slow-release) have the most prolonged residual effect, although they may not have as strong an immediate influence as soluble forms."

DR. SCHERY IS GUEST SPEAKER AT SEED SALES CONFERENCE

Dr. Schery spoke to an audience of regional dealers through the invitation of the Teweles Seed Company, on October 25 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The audience was composed of representatives of the Coast-To-Coast retail chain, providing an excellent occasion for stressing the importance of quality seed to a group who have daily contact with the seed-buying public. Dr. Schery also discussed methods and practices that make for better lawns, relating them to basic seed types and acceptable chemicals. Coast-To-Coast executives expressed appreciation of the chance to introduce an educational feature to a dealer group, something other associate members might like to consider. Reprints were distributed at the meeting, and an added supply left with Coast-To-Coast for mailing to their dealers nationally.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE INQUIRES OF LAWN INSTITUTE

The Lawn Institute has received a request for information from H. O. Graumann, Chief, Forage and Range Research Branch of the USDA, concerning the number of man-years currently being expended in industry as well as by foundations and associations on turfgrass research. The survey is funded and directed by the House Committee of Appropriations of the 87th Congress.

According to USDA preliminary estimates, a rather low figure had been projected for both industry and others, assigning a dollar expenditure of twenty-five thousand dollars as equalling a professional man-year unit. Dr. Schery's evaluation of these estimates suggested that at least five man-years appear in the final Congressional report. Correspondence from Mr. Graumann establishes that he and his staff are most grateful for the assistance extended by the Lawn Institute.

BLUEGRASS RATED HIGH FOR ORCHARD COVER

At a recent seminar of the AIBS held at Purdue University a paper entitled "The Influence Of Sod's And Mulches Upon Root Environment And Tree Performance" by

Ronald B. Tukey and R. G. Langston, was the object of discussion and interest. Here is Dr. Schery's report on this paper:

"Their findings favored bluegrass over all other species, in improving fruit production; but bluegrass was last in stimulating tree growth. Of course the two things are in a sense antagonistic, and I believe most people would settle for better fruit production rather than tree growth, at least in mature trees. Comparisons involved a great many organic mulches, as well as other sod and legume combinations, of which we might consider tall fescue at the opposite extreme from Kentucky bluegrass (in this sense competitors in the tests).

"I might mention that all mulches and treatments proved superior to none, as far as moisture relationship, nutrient uptake and so on are concerned. Greater soil temperatures (generally considered undesirable) developed under inert materials such as gravel, foam rubber and glass fiber, as compared to organic mulches such as corncobs, peanut hulls, straw, etc. No mulch or sod at all gave the lowest soil moisture readings, also an undesirable feature.

"Tukey's explanation of the beneficial response under bluegrass sod mulch was that bluegrass utilized more nitrogen but released more potassium for tree growth than did a species such as tall fescue. Apparently the tall fescue permitted a higher nitrogen content (which stimulated tree growth) but a potassium deficit (which hindered fruit production). The results of these tests would suggest that bluegrass seeded into orchards would be an excellent soil protector and mulch, in line with what we reported in the 'Fruit Grower' magazine last year."

Another session Dr. Schery attended had to do with "Weather and Organisms". He comments that, "There seemed to be a good deal of interest in drought, arid climates, and water evaporation from plants. Not much of this is pertinent directly to lawns, at least in our main marketing climate. Speakers pointed out such well known facts as that the plant itself is a mass of water in a structural framework, and all its physiology operates through the medium of water. Adequate water in arid areas may result from such things as paving on a highway, or even the mulch effect of boulders in a field. A good many tests are now underway, under polyethylene 'bubbles', to determine just the amount of evaporation from certain types of vegetation as compared to others, particularly in watersheds in the arid West. Eventually some of this may have a bearing on lawns and turf, and there was some suggestion that hexadecanol might retard the evaporation and use of water in plants, just as it does when applied to the surface of lakes in the West."

FILM NOTE:

"BLUEGRASS BEAUTY" WAS INCLUDED IN THE RECENT LISTING OF PRINTS AVAILABLE THROUGH MODERN TALKING PICTURE SERVICE WHEN THIS FIRM MAILED OUT SOME 60,000 COPIES OF THEIR BROCHURE.

PRESS RESUME FROM FALL PRESS KIT MAILING PROGRAM

On August 8 of this year over 700 comprehensive press kits were mailed from the Institute's public information office in Kansas City, Missouri. This mailing contained not only the history and background of the Lawn Institute, but also contained five timely articles pointing to the autumn as time for seeding and selling good grasses. These items were prepared by Dr. Schery and were titled: WHAT'S NEW FOR STARTING TURF; SPECIAL LAWN GRASSES FOR SPECIAL USES; INSURE LAWN PLANTING WITH FERTILIZER; AUTUMN LAWN SEEDING IS BEST; and THE LAWN INSTITUTE SEAL OF APPROVAL. All releases carried a July date line, thereby providing ample time for interested editors to correspond directly with the Institute for additional help and guidance on fall lawn features. The kit also contained reprints, photos, and other pertinent materials with a covering letter from Dr. Schery.

In analyzing over 500 clippings it is evident that these press materials were favorably received by the editors and writers. More often than not the Lawn Institute received by-line credits as well as verbatim publication without the usual "blue pencil" rewrite. It is most evident from this cross-section of clippings that the Lawn Institute was directly responsible for generating timely fall lawn-care articles. It is interesting to note that some of the most respected major dailies in the United States were the Institute's strongest supporters (see PRESS QUOTES IN THIS "HARVESTS" for specific quotations from this press kit mailing).

PRESS QUOTES:

"Kentucky bluegrass, of which Merion is a variant, also rated 'excellent'. It is considered a better buy than Merion if one does not intend to give the good care that Merion requires - feeding three times a year, mowing once a week (oftener in periods of rapid growth) and regular watering. Kentucky can struggle along without this pampering. Moreover, Kentucky is cheaper."

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

"Kentucky bluegrass - fine fescue seed mixtures do best when sown in autumn, but need the boost of abundant fertility to become well established before freeze-up."

NATIONAL FERTILIZER SOLUTIONS ASSOC.

"Plant winter grass now if you plan to keep your lawn bright green during the cool months ahead. There are three temporary grasses to choose from - Italian rye, Kentucky blue and Redtop. Of the three, Kentucky blue has the nicer color, texture and quality and is relatively free of diseases."

SUN, Gainesville, Florida - Hervey Sharpe
(Florida Agricultural Extension Service)

"It's not too hard now, if good quality seed is used for the red fescue varieties make quick cover, while the Kentucky bluegrass knits a tight sod by its vaunted rhizoming, says Dr. Robert W. Schery, Director of the Lawn Institute, Kansas City."

EVENING UNION-BULLETIN, Walla Walla,
Washington - Claude M. Gray

"You might also request pamphlets of The Lawn Institute, Suite 600,
1016 Baltimore Street, Kansas City 5, Missouri."

STAR-LEDGER, Newark, New Jersey

"Kentucky bluegrass-fine fescue seed mixtures do best when sown in autumn, but need the boost of abundant fertility to become well established before freeze-up. -- Nor do Kentucky bluegrass and red fescue varieties get out of hand from heavy feeding in autumn. At this time of year it is normal for bluegrass to produce low, short leaves in response to declining day length, --. Tests at the Lawn Institute have shown that fertilizers applied to frozen ground -- have a beneficial influence."

GAZETTE, Janesville, Wisconsin - Tom Carlson

"Best chance for establishing a good bluegrass-red fescue lawn is from autumn seeding. That is the contention of The Lawn Institute, -- bluegrass seed mixtures can be successfully sown in spring, but autumn results are even better."

TIMES - Hammond, Indiana

"The unidentified blight strikes Merion bluegrass, a strain which was adopted by golf clubs all over the country after its recommendation by the U. S. Golf Association. -- Large acreages have begun dying out recently. Since the seed is expensive, golf courses are losing not only fairways but a sizable economic investment."

STAR-LEDGER, Newark, New Jersey -
Dr. Couch

"Since only a few grasses are recommended for use in this area - Kentucky and Merion bluegrass, creeping red and Chewings fescues, --obviously the others contained in most mixtures are open to question."

STAR, Washington, D. C. - Bill Youngman

"By reading the label, you can tell the percentage of each kind of seed, and the percentage of the seed that is expected to germinate. In this area the mixture should contain large amounts of Kentucky bluegrass (or varieties) and red fescue."

JOURNAL-STANDARD, Freeport, Illinois

"Read the label and see what the package contains. It should contain a high proportion of Kentucky bluegrass, red fescue and for shade, Chewings fescue."

STAR, Washington, D.C.

"Kentucky bluegrass and its relative, Merion Kentucky Blue, are the backbone of most good mixtures sold in the northeastern United States..... The best advice is to leave blending the lawn seed mixtures to the experts. But be sure you read the content of the package before you buy it. Many so-called bargain mixtures contain a high percentage of 'annual grass'".

COURIER-EXPRESS, Buffalo, New York -
George Abraham

"To me Kentucky bluegrass is still the backbone of all grass mixtures."

DEMOCRAT & CHRONICLE, Rochester, N. Y.
George Abraham

"CLIPPINGS & GLEANINGS" from LAWN INSTITUTE Correspondence

"You have indicated that you would be willing to point out some of the high-lights of horticultural developments. I would appreciate having this information from you from the standpoint of your broad experience in horticulture, high-lighting interest in basic scientific developments in horticulture and new public interest phases would be very welcome."

- Dr. Lee Burkhart, Department of Horticulture,
University of Arizona

"It will be appreciated if you will review the attached research work on turf establishment form and make whatever corrections and recommendations you might think appropriate."

- R. L. Nicar, Landscape Engineer
Commonwealth of Virginia

"Thank you for the package of reprints -- as well as your recent letter. I had not realized that your pen is so prolific. -- Shall enjoy reading the articles. -- At Shaw's Garden -- I am in charge of horticulture. I also set up a grass exhibit. -- Drew quite a lot of interest. I have been in several meetings where you have been on the program."

- Nelson L. Russell, County Agent
Saint Louis County, Missouri

"Second, as I feel the popular information you prepare is excellent material and much to the point I would like to obtain about 15 copies of each release if possible. I can use it in my college teaching program and certainly in some of the extension work --. If you have any back material that you could send, in this quantity, I will assure you that it will be well used. -- Will send you data as soon as (research) is complete."

- Dr. C. R. Skogley - University of Rhode Island

"It will be a relief to get that very prominent spot in decent turf and properly graded for a change."

- Dr. Fred J. Nisbet, Superintendent of the
Biltmore Estate, Asheville, N. Carolina

"I have an Aero-thatch machine coming next week and will run a demonstration on the renovation of a crabgrass, foxtail turf. The bluegrass will be over-seeded on this area. When established, this bluegrass turf will be of value to us for other treatment purposes. We appreciate the Institute's providing us with this seed."

- Dr. Eliot Roberts - Iowa State University

*"I read your letter and your articles which you recently posted to me with great interest. Of course, it all makes sense. It is a natural and logical approach to the lawn program. -- And to be quite candid, can we get two people to really agree on what is right? -- I still have an open mind on the subject. --- I would appreciate very much in the future if further bulletins could keep me informed."

- Harold Calverley, White Flower Farm,
Litchfield, Connecticut

*See next page.

*ED. NOTE: Mr. Calverly cites over thirty years' experience in England where he had not encountered great use of bluegrass and apparently is not too familiar with its great and undeniable success in America.

"Recently I read your lecture to the Ohio Park Association in May, 1960, which was published in 'Parks & Recreation' November, 1960.

I would appreciate a list of publications from your Institute, as I was most impressed with your address.

In Australia, at the moment, I feel that there is too much information from the seed merchants and not enough from independent institutes.

My work includes advice on lawns on Commonwealth property throughout Australia, and any information you have would be of great value."

T. Arthur
Arboriculturist
C/-Department of Works
Yarra Street, Hawthorn
Victoria, Australia

"Concerning The Lawn Book -- I am going to get in touch with the other agents and recommend that it would be a good source of reference for them. I have your book pretty nearly fully reviewed and I congratulate you on the job. It is something that one can use."

Dr. Leroy J. Higgins
University of New Hampshire

"What's New for Starting Turf?" with by-line, appeared on page 19 of the September 22 issue of 'Seed World', with the usual admonition to post this on the bulletin board or feature it for customers in the retail seed stores and garden centers."

SEED WORLD