

## 2 New Turfgrasses Developed at Penn State

Seed is now available for two new turfgrasses developed at Pennsylvania State University.

The one is Pennstar Kentucky Bluegrass, which turf scientists believe may be one of the best all-round turfgrass varieties available in the United States.

The other is Pennfine Perennial Ryegrass, the most fine-leaved perennial ryegrass on the market and difficult to tell from Kentucky Bluegrass.

Both varieties are available from commercial seed companies. They were developed and released by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State.

Field trials at Penn State found Pennstar Kentucky Bluegrass highly resistant to all three of the

common diseases affecting Kentucky Bluegrass—stripe smut, rust, and leaf spot. Pennstar has been under study at Penn State and at other leading universities since 1950.

This new Kentucky Bluegrass has survived extended drought. Pennstar required only the moderate management typical of most bluegrasses. It is adapted to a wide variety of growing conditions and does well from California to the East Coast. It needs only moderate to low fertility.

Both Pennstar Kentucky Bluegrass and Pennfine Perennial Ryegrass were developed by Dr. Joseph M.

Duich, professor of turfgrass science. Aiding with the breeding, development and introduction of Pennfine were Dr. Herbert Cole Jr, professor of plant pathology, and Dr. A. Thomas Perkins, former assistant professor in agronomy.

Pennfine Perennial Ryegrass is described as having "ryegrass toughness with bluegrass beauty." Turf experts rate it outstanding for mowability, texture, disease resistance, and compatibility with Kentucky Bluegrass.

The new ryegrass is recommended for establishing quality turfgrass that will persist under heavy traffic. This includes seed mixtures for planting athletic fields, golf courses, cemeteries, public grounds and parks, sod farms, and home lawns.

## Two DES Violations Are Reported

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently reported finding diethylstilbestrol (DES) in two animal liver samples since a mandatory certification program for the growth-promoting hormone went into effect January 8. Samples of muscle tissue from both animals were negative for DES.

One liver sample, containing 3.3 parts per billion of DES was from a lamb grown by Brant George of Kanosh, Utah, and slaughtered January 27 in Ogden, Utah. The other liver sample, containing 4.15 parts per billion of DES, was from a steer produced by Parnel Green, of Layton, Utah, and slaughtered February 1 in Gooding, Idaho.

The certification program gives a producer three options. He may certify that the animals were not fed DES or were withdrawn from DES seven days prior to slaughter. Alternatively, the grower may have the animals held at the slaughter plant seven days prior to slaughter, or he may have the animals

slaughtered and retained pending the outcome of testing for DES.

In both cases, the producers had certified that the animals were taken off feed containing DES seven days before slaughter.

Each incident has been reported to the Food and Drug Administration for possible legal action against the producers. The

FDA has jurisdiction over additives to animal feed.

A preliminary investigation of the sheep incident indicates DES was still in the feed during the period when the sheep should have been withdrawn from DES. If so, officials observed that illegal feeding practices and a false certificate are both involved. They said the steer incident is still under investigation.

## Farm Labor Study Made

The majority of farms that rely heavily on seasonal labor hire their workers directly rather than through contractors, according to a report issued recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

USDA's Economic Research Service recently studied the methods used to obtain seasonal workers, the number of seasonal workers per farm, and hours of such labor per farm by type of farm and production region.

The study looked into the two practices of hiring seasonal

labor—direct hiring and contracting. Under direct hiring, the farmer does the hiring, supervising, and paying of his workers. Contract labor is provided by labor contractors, crew leaders, and custom machine operators to plant, cultivate, harvest, and haul crops.

The percentage of farmers hiring any labor varies from 58 per cent of the Nation's livestock farmers to 84 per cent of the fruit and nut growers.

The heavy labor users—producers of vegetables, fruits, tobacco, and "other field crops" (potatoes, sugarcane, broom corn, and sugar beets) hired most of their workers directly.

In contrast, cash grain and livestock farmers, who hired seasonal labor, obtained labor by contracting for custom services. Combine crews comprised the bulk of the contract workers on cash grain farms.

Most of the farmers in the Northern and Southern Plains, Mountain and Lake State Regions used contract labor.

In the Southeast, except for the fruit and vegetable farmers, much of the seasonal labor was employed directly by the farm operator.

Size of farm also affected hiring practices: Less than a third of the vegetable farms with under \$5,000 in sales used contract workers, in contrast to 50 per cent of the largest farms. Use of contract labor also increased with size of tobacco farms. However, on cash grain and livestock farms, importance of contracting decreased as size and sales increased.

A copy of "Direct and Contract Hiring of Seasonal Farm Labor," SB 478, is available free on postcard (please include zip code) or telephone (388-7255) request from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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