

225 attend turfgrass field day

HIGH POINTS HEIGHTS, Md. — About 225 persons turned out for the first research field day and equipment show at the University of Maryland's new Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Highpoint Heights (Prince Georges county) on Aug. 2.

Located across Cherry Hill road from the Hopkins plant research farm near Calverton, operated by the university's Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, the turfgrass facility was dedicated on Sept. 29, 1983.

The morning tour of experimental plots featured research being conducted in the areas of turfgrass fertility, weed control, plant growth regulators and non-target effects of fungicides. There also were studies on tall fescue seeding rates, zoysiagrass establishment and management,

and cold hardiness of bermudagrass.

Other tour stops included:

- Rooting effects of transplanted sod treated with antitranspirants and wetting agents;
- Comparisons of perennial ryegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and fine fescue cultivars under the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program;
- Establishing bermudagrass under plastic covers.

At the latter stop, it was pointed out the best results in this one-year study were obtained from Midiron bermudagrass sprigged under plastic in the fall.

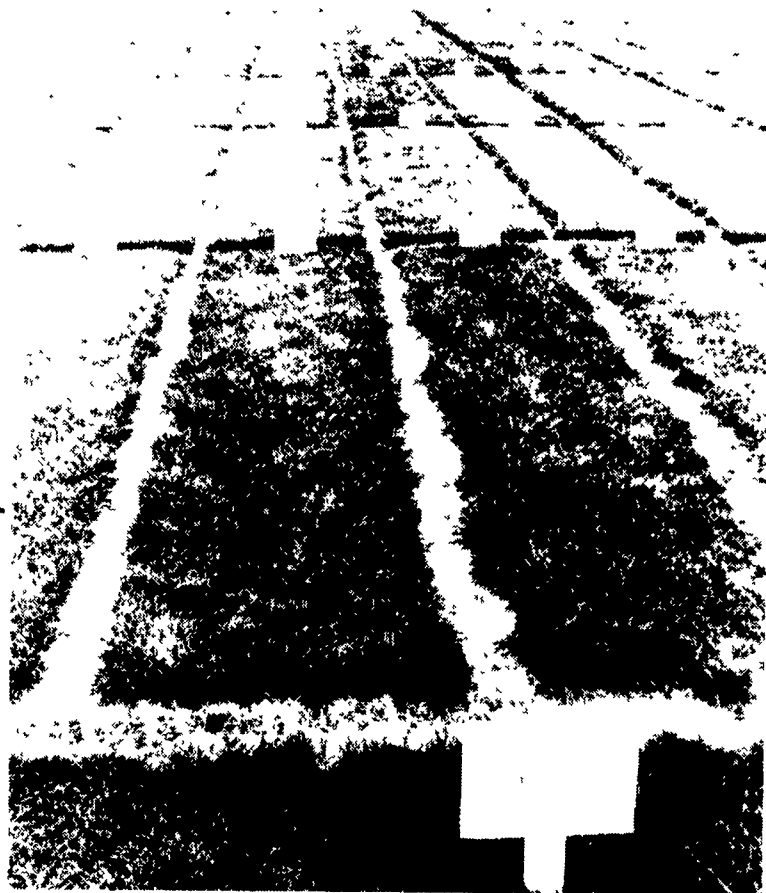
Trying to establish bermudagrass under plastic during summer months gave no advantage over sprigging under straw or on bare ground. In fact, most varieties suffered some heat

damage were established under plastic in the summer. Tufcote was the lone exception.

Field day coordinator was Dr. Peter H. Dernoeden, Extension turfgrass management specialist and assistant professor of agronomy at the University of Maryland in College Park.

The Maryland Turfgrass Council sponsored a crab feast at noon. Afterward, field day visitors heard short talks from University of Maryland agricultural administrators, participated in informal tours to research plots of particular interest, and viewed product displays and demonstrations by commercial exhibitors.

One of the products displayed was a commercial ryegrass seed purported to have genetic insect repellent qualities.



Variations in green color intensity among turfgrass varieties create checkerboard pattern in fungicide test plots at the University of Maryland's new Turfgrass Research and Education Facility in Highpoint Heights (Prince Georges county). Darker plots in rear are perennial ryegrasses.



Visitors to the University of Maryland's turfgrass field day on Aug. 2 get close look at Kentucky bluegrass varieties being compared under the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program conducted jointly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Results from this test will be used in formulating variety recommendations for Maryland and Virginia. Exactly 22 of the 84 varieties being tested are already on the "recommended" list.

Clearview Farms

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identification number.

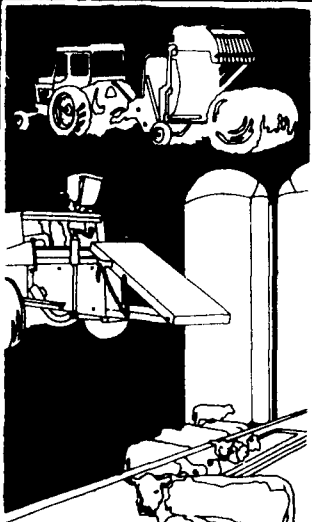
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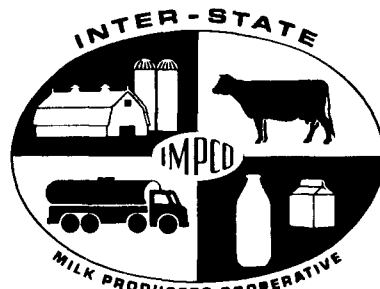
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