

LANDSCAPE & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE COUNCIL FORMS

Representatives of several green industry groups met last winter in Chicago to establish a national, industry-wide coalition, which will be known as the Landscape & Environmental Resource Council.

Groups represented were the American Society of Landscape Architects, American Sod Producers Association, Associated Landscape Contractors of America, International Society of Arboriculture, Irrigation Association, National Arborist Association, and Professional Lawn Care Association of America.

Establishment of the council recently moved a step closer to reality when elected and staff executives of nine green industry associations met and agreed to draft governing documents for the group.

Participating in this second organizational meeting, at which Randy Tischer, American Sod Producers Association president, served as chairman, were the original participants plus the Professional Grounds Maintenance Society and the Lawn Institute. Those present emphasized the continuing need for a unified voice on issues that affect the represented industries, as well as an improved means to cooperate

with each other more fully on joint projects.

Advancing several projects initiated at its first meeting, the Landscape & Environmental Resource Council agreed to undertake an economic profile survey of its member groups. The council also agreed to circulate appropriate publications in development for review and potential endorsement; expand its listing of educational programs and publications; identify legislative and regulatory issues of potential importance to the groups; define environmental benefits provided by all segments of the groups represented; and develop computer-linking specifications and procedures.

At its next meeting, scheduled for March, the council intends to act on a mission statement. Formal guidelines for governing the organization, issue identification, reporting, public relations, and funding will also be developed.

VETERAN AGRONOMIST PROPOSES STUDY ON QUACKGRASS

Dr. Fred Grau, a former extension turf specialist and turfgrass breeder, believes that a noxious weed can be turned into a

useful tool for managers of low-budget athletic facilities.

The weed Grau is talking about is quackgrass, *Agropyron rapens*. "Quackgrass is like tall fescue with rhizomes," he states. "It is drought tolerant, requires minimal fertility, and provides a smooth, solid surface for sports such as soccer and football. Its growing range extends from Canada to Mexico. If we devote our energy to encouraging quackgrass instead of trying to kill it, we might be able to provide a better playing surface at low-budget facilities."

Grau realizes his idea is controversial and requires research. The aggressive grass would have to be contained to avoid spreading into other turf areas. Production of seed would be difficult since it represents a threat to the purity of other seed fields and is difficult to eradicate. "We clean thousands of pounds of quackgrass seed out of other crops during processing," Grau points out. "Some of this is purchased by chemical companies working on herbicide efficacy. The rest is destroyed."

Working with Paul Thomas, superintendent of grounds at Towson State University in Baltimore, MD, Grau hopes to plant test plots of quackgrass this fall on an intramural field. The two will compare the durability of quackgrass to zoysia, common bermuda, and tall fescue.



Our FAX No. is
416-247-6540

The pros say we dress better than the copycats.

The Bannerman TURF-TOPPER has been the world's leading topdresser for large turf areas for the past 5 years. **TURF-TOPPER is the original.** The other fellows sell one which resembles it, but the pros say "Ours is best". Perhaps we can arrange a demonstration for you through our nearest distributor (U.S.A. or Canada). Ask for complete details.



Gordon Bannerman Ltd • 41 Kelfield Street, Rexdale, Ontario M9W 5A3
Telephone 416-247-7875

Quilt-Tuft™



PLUS



GOLF MAT AND MATTING

Finally! A mat that will sustain golf cleats while the shoe is cleaned by the brushing action of Quilt-Tuft fibers. Mats are made in various sizes with a 1" vinyl border. Colors - Tan, Red, Gray, Dark Brown, Charcoal or Green. For entranceways to pro shops and clubhouses or areas surrounding the ball washers.

FOUR SEASONS FLOORING LTD.

DIAMOND PAINT

(708) 351-7007
DEBBIE WILLIAMS

PLEASE CALL FOR PRICE QUOTE AND DELIVERY.