

# TURF TWISTERS

## LASER BEAMS

**QUESTION:** I've heard about plastic drain lines being installed with the aid of laser beams. Does it work? (California)

**ANSWER:** Yes, but the laser beam is only used to establish and maintain a precise grade for the drain line installation. A light detector mounted on the tractor receives the laser beam and controls plow depth as a plastic draintube is pulled into the soil. Using the new corrugated, flexible plastic tubing, drain lines may be rapidly installed in this manner and with the proper amount of fall.

## NOT QUITE READY

**QUESTION:** For the overseeding of bermudagrass greens, I've heard some talk about Medalist 2. What is it? (Alabama)

**ANSWER:** This is a seed mixture of Pelo and NK-100 ryegrasses and is believed superior to common ryegrass for overseeding purposes. There has been a scarcity of seed in the past, but it should become more plentiful as seed production increases.

## FOR GYPSY MOTHS

**QUESTION:** The Gypsy Moth was a serious pest and defoliated many trees in New England in 1970 and 1971. How was it introduced into this country? (Mass.)

**ANSWER:** In about 1869 a naturalist who was a resident of Medford, Mass. introduced a few egg clusters of the Gypsy Moth for the purpose of conducting experiments on silk culture. Some moths escaped during the experiment. For the next few years a careful check was made to destroy any that could be found. They thought they had destroyed all of them. About 20 years later, the neighborhood was invaded by swarms of caterpillars which were later identified as the Gypsy Moth. Its slowness in getting a foothold was later attributed to forest fires, insectivorous birds and other natural enemies. In 1970, DDT was banned in several states and severe defoliation of forests resulted. The beauty and attractiveness of most cities, residential areas, and golf courses depends on the strategic use of trees. We trust, therefore, that satisfactory controls will be found.