I. Introduction

The production of a good quality permanent turf that can be maintained successfully depends upon sound establishment practices. These include the preparation of complete plans and specifications for the job, and all of the preliminary operations of land clearing, trash removal, provision for drainage and irrigation, and soil modification. Establishment also involves all grading and tillage operations, the correction of soil acidity, fertilizer use, and final seedbed preparation.

"Built in" mistakes at the time an area is being prepared often are directly responsible for failure to maintain a satisfactory turf and may necessitate major expenditures when it is found later that they must be corrected. Good quality turfgrass cannot be maintained on areas where poor drainage, either surface or internal, is a chronic problem, and poor soil conditioning and preparation invariably result in inadequate stands of grasses. These and many other construction errors are the direct causes for much of the poor quality turf that is characteristic of so many turfgrass areas. Many serious mistakes can be avoided if the entire operation is adequately planned before actual construction begins.

II. Initial Planning

Advance planning is essential to provide assurance that there will be timely completion of all operations incidental to seedbed preparation. Optimum seeding times vary in different climatic regions. If best results are to be obtained, construction operations must be so adjusted that their completion will coincide with the best time for seeding in any locality (See Chapter 3). Also it is desirable in order to avoid confusion and unnecessary "backtracking" after actual construction begins, and to ensure that the various operations will progress in a systematic manner. Finally, it can prevent many irritating and often costly delays due to failure to have materials, equipment, and labor available when needed:

A. Drawings and Specifications.

The preparation of a complete set of working drawings is an essential part of the initial planning of any construction operation. These