Course supts. study bent grasses as one exhibit of Pennsylvania State College Fall Field Day.

Penn State's Turf Research Viewed on Field Day

Details of the renewed and expanded experimental program on turf at the Pennsylvania State College were viewed, reviewed, inspected and discussed at Penn State's annual Fall Turf Field Day. More than 100 greenkeepers, golf club officials and others interested in fine turf from Pennsylvania and nearby states joined in the full day's program.

Visitors started the day with an inspection of the experimental greens on the Penn State college golf course, where tests are under way with different strains of bent grasses. Next, the group had a chance to see a new serifier machine, along with experimental work under way to determine and measure the effects of the new machine on root systems and the depths of growth resulting from use of this latest mechanical aid.

Full extent of the new experimental program at Penn State was disclosed at the afternoon program. This started with a trip to the station's plant nursery where 18,000 individual plants are growing in testing various strains resulting from the plant breeding project. Most of the attention in the plant breeding is devoted to bent grasses, bluegrass and the fescues.

Next came inspection of the fertility experiments. One section is devoted to a study of nitrogen availability, while others are designed to determine the response to applications of potash. The design of these experiments was explained and plans outlined for further expansion of the fertility work as facilities and time permit.

From here, the group had the opportunity of seeing actual results with 8 different types of chemical weed killers being used in the weed control studies. The chemicals were applied to 2,500 plots, some in solution, and others, in dry form, mixed with the fertilizers. The weed control experiments are continuing, both in the tests with various types, and in numerous concentrations.

The turf experimental work at Penn State is under supervision of Prof. H. B. Musser, of the agronomy faculty, who accompanied the field day crowd from place to place to explain the work as well as answer questions. Background for many of the problems involved in the experimental work was explained by Dr. Fred V. Grau and George Harrington, of the USGA green section.

Plans are now being completed for the annual turf conference to be held at Penn State March 3 to 6, 1947.

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