Selection of Grass

Selection of the right grass is important. The choice for those who seed is limited to seaside or one of the colonials. Polycross now called Penncross is not available and will not be for another year in all probability. Seaside is frowned upon in the far North because of its susceptibility to snow mold. It does not do well in regions of prolonged hot humid weather. Colonial behaves badly as a rule under these conditions.

Cohansey (C-7) is doing well in Oklahoma and Louisville. It has many staunch champions in those regions. The region for it should include the belt from Washington to Kansas City. Arlington (C-1) and the mixture of Arlington (C-1) and Congressional (C-19) are behaving well. Those who use the mixture, plant one bushel more of Arlington than Congressional because it spreads more slowly. Arlington is less popular when used alone farther North, but Congressional is liked because it resists snow mold and holds its color well in fall and spring.

Toronto (C-15) has its admirers and Washington is still doing well on many courses. The newly named Pennlu selection promises to be another good bent. It has been outstanding at Penn State and has done well at Purdue.

Danner Solves Weed Problem

Golfers' demand for perfect turf conditions regardless of weather, money and labor available, and the golfers' own neglect of courses continues to increase.

In amazing jobs of meeting this demand the golf course superintendents have employed many resourceful and effective ideas this year. Turf problems in many areas were accentuated by prolonged drought which always makes the weed situation on golf courses troublesome. Some progress in contending with labor shortage was reported.

Charlie Danner, supt., Richland GC, Nashville, Tenn., tells of a satisfactory solution of a persistent weed problem.

Says Danner:

"This past season I have been much impressed and pleased with the work done at my club on weed control. Until this year crowfoot has been one weed we have had to fight the hardest on our Bermuda
greens and tees. Now we have chemicals to eliminate this weed.

"This year we had wonderful success controlling crowfoot using 3 oz. PMAS mixed with 1 oz. 2,4D in 5 gal. water to each 1000 sq. ft. This mixture was sprayed on with a power sprayer. Two applications three weeks apart completely killed all crowfoot in our greens. We also treated the fringes and approaches to the greens with equal success.

"This treatment turned the Bermuda grass slightly off color and slowed the growth of the grass but after one week the Bermuda regained the color and started growing vigorously again.

"Later in the summer after observing results on the greens we started spraying our tees and by this time we were dealing with mature crowfoot plants but we found that the chemicals worked equally as well on mature plants as on seedlings.

"It has been quite an improvement over the days when we had to hire extra labor to take crowfoot out of the greens with a knife."

Williams Outlines District Course Maintenance Report

Robt. Williams, supt., Beverly CC (Chicago dist.) and chairman of the Educational committee of the Golf Course Superintendents' Assn., prepared a paper on golf course maintenance in the Chicago district which was presented at a spring meeting of the Minnesota GCSA.

Williams' picture of Chicago district maintenance was printed in GOLFDOM.

We've found that the Williams' outline is sound editorial procedure in getting informative material for GOLFDOM's readers and in providing supt.s with a working basis for reports they prepare on regional conditions.

Here's the outline:

A.—INTRODUCTION
  a.—Size of the area (miles long and wide.) Number of courses.
  b.—General topography of the area (elevation, etc.)
  c.—Climatological data (winds, temperatures, humidity, snowfall, rain and length of growing season.)
  d.—Soil types of the area. (Amendments used in new construction of greens etc.

B.—LABOR
  a.—Supply, rates, benefits, annual employment, number men employed at average course, off season work,
  b.—Any special problem of labor; training etc.

C.—GREENS
  a.—Strains of grasses generally used.
  b.—Disease organisms most prevalent. Controls.
  c.—Insects and control.
  d.—Topdressing; frequency and amount.
  e.—Thatch or grain control.
  f.—Irrigation. (Methods and frequency.)
  g.—Height of cut. (Private or public course. Seasonal change.)
  h.—Traffic. Amount of play.
  i.—Fertilizing practice; amount, frequency and kind.
  j.—Weeding. (Crabgrass, clover, etc.)
  k.—Aeration. Need, type equipment, etc.
  l.—Rebuilding greens. General summary of amount of rebuilding done by average club.
  m.—Special features of green maintenance such as collars, double greens, etc., and problems.

D.—TEES
  a.—Strains of grasses used.
  b.—Height of cut.
  c.—Fertilizer, amount etc.
  d.—Fungicide applications.
  e.—Divot repair (methods, results.)
  f.—Reconstruction; size, grass type, shape etc.
  g.—Special problems.

E.—FAIRWAYS
  a.—Grass species, height of cut, aeration, irrigation, fertilizing, insect and weed control.
  b.—Special problems.

F.—ROUGH
  a.—Grass types, height, fertilization, insect and weed control.
  b.—Special problems.

G.—TRAPS
  a.—Type sand, lips, banks and refurishing of sand.
  b.—Trend toward elimination of some?

H.—LOCAL ASS'N. ACTIVITIES
  a.—Advisory committees, constructive suggestion committees, educational, research and publication work.
  b.—Cooperation with district golf ass'n. and USGA.
  c.—National GCSA affiliation and benefits.
  d.—Local meetings etc.

October, 1954