Turf Meetings Biggest Bargain in Maintenance

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CARVED IN STONE above the entrance to the N.Y. Stock Exchange Institute are the words “Grow or Go.”

It’s the right motto for golf course superintendents. Grow grass or get out. Grow mentally or you go nowhere.

I am writing this after a day at the Midwest Turf Foundation conference at Purdue. What’s this day meant to my club and me?

The work that all of us looked at today represents an investment of more than $50,000 in turf research, yet it belongs to each one of us at a cost of less than $100 a year.

Not one of us could do the full time work being carried out for clubs and supt.s by the turf experimental stations throughout the country. But we have available what we couldn’t do—or couldn’t afford.

The plots have given us Merion, Pennlu, the zoysias, fine Bermudas as tremendous accomplishments in comparatively short time. Other great golf grasses are being developed, at a small pro rata cost to each of the courses that will be benefitted by them.

Few of us in course maintenance selected it as our careers when we were in school or college. Now the turf conferences do a great deal to meet our need of education in our business. From hundreds of miles we come to the conferences, study and discuss problems with practical men who are specialists and some who are practical men with the versatility a successful supt. must have.

We not only learn, but we learn how to learn about this complex and rapidly developing responsibility of ours.

Now, although some club officials may not realize it, the turf conferences are at the point where it may be a reflection on a club when its supt. has to ask if he can go to the Midwest Turf Foundation conference or the GCSA annual convention. The officials who know what is going on make sure that their supt.s do go to these meetings. There’s too much involved in course condition and the budget to miss the gain and the protection of working knowledge acquired at the conferences.