Noer — Turf Roundup
(Continued from page 70)

The production of seed heads in creeping bent grass nurseries is responsible for off-type strains. Some growers attempt to stop seed production with weed burners. At Purdue William Daniel prevented seed head formation by using maleic hydrazide. Positive results were obtained even with very light dosages of this chemical.

Soil Sterilization
Cyanamid and methyl bromide have been used mostly for soil sterilization before sowing grass seed or planting stolons. Both are good. Several weeks must elapse between the use of cyanamid and seeding or planting. It does not kill underground Bermuda grass rhizomes. Methyl bromide is very effective, and kills the rhizomes of Bermuda and quack grass. It fails with some hard coated seeds of clover. Seeding or planting can proceed within 48 hours after treating. The liquid is introduced into sealed polyethylene tents. The methyl bromide changes to a heavy gas which sinks into the soil. It is allowed to act for 24 hours. Then the tent is removed and soil is left for another 24 hours before seeding or planting. Treatment cost is high.

A new soil sterilant, "Vapam", looks promising. It is diluted and sprayed or sprinkled over the surface. Drenching with water immediately to wash the Vapam into the soil is essential and said to be the secret of success. Seeding or planting can start in 10 to 14 days.

The turf nursery of Toronto bent at Maple Lane CC in Detroit is pure bent. Even poa annua is absent despite its presence in the area alongside the nursery. Clarence Wolfram follows this program before planting stolons in late fall, and thinks it the secret of weed and poa annua control. The nursery area is prepared by plowing or discing. Then sodium arsenite is sprayed over the surface at 1 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. with a minimum amount of water. The area is worked with a spittooth harrow to bring deeper soil to the surface and sodium arsenite is used again at the same rate. He sprays and cultivates six times in all and then plants the stolons.

Faster Play Facilitated by New Maintenance Ideas

Bill Brady, supt., Maple Bluff CC, Madison, Wis., suggests that the supt. and the green chmn. keep their eyes on chances to enable players to get around the course faster, but in having the game made too easy it isn't fun.

Brady says "The greatest improvement in playing condition at Maple Bluff this year has been the lowering of the cut on the blind holes. We used to have a 4 1/2 ins. heavy bluegrass rough and this slowed up play while golfers looked for balls. By lowering the cut to 1 1/2-ins. out about 150 yds. the balls are easily found; yet, there's still rough that is somewhat of a hazard. The player who doesn't get 150 yds. already has lost enough distance and should be penalized more.

"We also left a 10 ft. to 12 ft. strip of protective rough along out-of-bounds fences to keep the ball in the course. Especially along hard and dry fairways such strips save time and money for the player as much of our out-of-bounds is bordered by railroad bank and road."

Research Does the Job

"Research has done a tremendously valuable job for us in providing chemicals with wider range of effective use. We formerly had to buy four or five chemicals for different diseases and go to the expense of applying them separately. Now one chemical will control several diseases in all kinds of weather and without shock or burn to the turf.

"Research that would be of high value to our course would be that developing a hardy grass for our iron-shot tees. We are too far north for good results with zoysia. The grass, we need, preferably of the texture of zoysia, must be able to stand the low cut of our bent tees."

Areas Around Greens, Rough and Ladies Tees Need Study

Areas adjacent to greens and the rough often provide opportunities to step up maintenance with results that are conspicuous and pleasing to the players and the supt., says Walter Leix, supt., Shannopin CC, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Leix relates that at Shannopin this year areas adjacent to the greens and tees were limed and fertilized but, because of topography of those localities, couldn't be aerified. The rough was aerified, limed and fertilized. The Shannopin supt. calls attention to the usual case of budgets being stretched to the limit to do everything possible for the greens, collars, fairways and tees. Due to those primary demands, other areas often get less grooming than the supt. and chmn. would like to give them. When you can get around to giving rough, green and tee areas some special attention the work does a whole lot to make the whole picture of the course sparkle.

At Shannopin, several of the ladies' tees were enlarged. "Women's golf is increas-
ing so much at most clubs that the ladies
tees, which commonly are only makeshift
jobs of design and construction that have
been in 20 years or longer at many courses,
can stand studious reconstruction,” Leix
points out.

This year Leix has had excellent re-
results in applying the new crabgrass con-
trol chemicals and advises that this appli-
cation of one result of research alone
has been worth a great deal to his club.

As far as the program for golf turf re-
search is concerned the Shannopin supt.
opines: “Burt Musser of Penn State has
the experience, knowledge and about every-
thing else but money and additional qual-
ified men to develope turf research along
lines that will do most good for golfers.
Golf course supts. and chmn. know how
difficult it is to get the budgets they
need and, of necessity, have tight operat-
ing policies. Practically every man re-
ponsible for course maintenance in Penn-
sylvania can testify that every penny Mus-
suer and his associates has spent in turf
research has paid dividends to golf.”

Suggests Turf Research
Under Playing Conditions

Lawrence Huber, supt., Ohio State Uni-
versity courses, Columbus, O., voices the
opinion of numerous supts. in saying he
would like to see more turf research con-
ducted under actual playing conditions.
Some subjects that, in Huber’s judgment,
need scientific study on courses where
thousands of rounds are played are crab-
grass elimination, poa annua control and
compaction. The great practical value turf
research has meant in course operation
would be substantially increased if research
specialists and supts. could devise pro-
cedure that would present conditions of
actual golf turf use as the basis of re-
search projects.

Huber says that in his own case his
practical experience is kept closely co-
ordinated with what he learns by ob-
servation of the tests made at the Midwest
Turf Foundation plots at Purdue and
other experimental stations, and with the
experience of successful supts. he meets
at the GCSA annual conferences.

One point that Huber stresses in com-
menting on this year’s course maintenance
operations is that standards of “house-
keeping” at courses have been noticeably
better than ever before. He says “better
grooming definitely has improved playing
conditions. Better equipment and more

California Groups Hold
Turf Conference

The annual joint meeting of the North-
ern and Southern California GCSA was
held at the Sunnyside CC, Fresno, Oct. 9.
The joint meeting of the two groups has
been an established custom for many
years and was attended by more than 100
supts.

Verne Conklin, pres. of the northern
group was host with Jack Baker, Valley
Club, Santa Barbara, pres. of the southern
group, assisting.

Winton Strong of Fresno State College
gave the luncheon talk on soils and irri-
gation. Using test tubes, flower pots, coffee
cans and orange juice cans, Strong told
his audience much about water and its
use, soils, soil compaction, irrigation and
methods of making simple soil tests to
aid management and irrigation practices.

Washington Junior Program

The Junior Golf program of Washing-
ton, D.C., now in its 29th year, is keep-
ing 400 boys “off the streets and on the
fairways from April until fall,” ac-
cording to Frank Emmet, director, who
has long played a leading role in pro-
iding recreation for youthful clubswingers
in and around the nation’s capital.

This year, the Washington Junior group
sponsored three high school leagues and
promoted five tournaments. In past
years it has played host to the USGA
Junior championship. Simpson Cup (In-
ternational team matches) and Western
Junior championship. The USGA Junior
tournament is scheduled to be held under
its auspices again in 1957.

Arrangements also were made to
send Washington Junior stars to lead-
ing national tournaments this year in
Massachusetts, North Dakota and Toronto.

Sixteen pros have graduated from Wash-
ington Junior ranks and more than 50
amateurs who have won local or national
recognition as star golfers got their start
in the program. Golf Writer Merrell
Whittlesey of the Washington Star was
also introduced to the game through the
Junior program.