Rain Bothered South

Outside of a cool, wet spring the South didn’t suffer too much in 1959 because of the weather. This is the opinion of E. A. Shields, supt. of Capital City CC in Atlanta. Due to a prolonged wet spell weeds got a head start on the Bermuda grass and clubs that hadn’t carried on rather concentrated spraying programs in previous years were quite hard hit. At Capital City, crab and dallisgrass had been pretty effectively eliminated in 1958 and on June 15, 1959, fairways there were 90 per cent free of these species. Later, because of subnormal rainfall, crabfoot became a menace. But a program in which 2-4-D and arsenicals were used and mowing and dragging done more frequently than usual, resulted in effective eradication of this weed.

Bill Lyons, supt. at Firestone CC in Akron, O., had the twofold job of preparing for the Rubber City Open, which was played in late August last year, and the long range task of getting ready for the 1960 PGA Championship, which will be played this July. If these weren’t headaches enough, Bill had the 1959 blight to contend with. He thinks that close mowing from May through July left the turf in rather poor condition to withstand the August heat, humidity and rain. But at Firestone there was enough poa annua mixed with Bermuda, which had been planted for each of the five preceding years, to pull the fairways through in reasonably good shape.

It was Lyons’ observation that courses with watering systems fared worse in some instances than those that didn’t have them. Soil tests at a few of these irrigated locations showed pH as low as 4.5, low potash content and phosphorous too high. Mowing at these courses in all cases was below 1 in. Lyons came to the conclusion that the more water that is applied the more lime and balanced fertilizer that are needed to offset possible leaching.

Cassier is Midwest President

Emil Cassier of Sycamore (III.) GC has been elected pres. of the Midwest GCSA for 1960. Vps are Ted Woehrle, Beverly CC, Chicago and Marvin Gruening, Mid- west CC, Hinsdale. Don Gerber of Wheaton CC is secy-treas. Directors are John Ebel, Joe Canale, Ed Burke, Bert Rost, Herman Woehrle and Ray Gerber.