Turfgrass interests united

The idea of a unified voice for turf has been discussed for many years. Until there was recognition for this newest agricultural entity, there was no point nor any chance of developing a voice. In the first place, no one would listen. In the second place, the dedicated workers in turfgrass were too few and too far apart (geographically and mentally) to develop unanimity.

Perhaps no one ever will be able to pinpoint the precise time in turfgrass history when the idea of a turfgrass council was born. Pennsylvania’s Turf Advisory Committee, long headed by the late Joe Valentine, began about 1930 and, soon after 1950, gradually integrated into The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. Its first meeting was held in April 1955. Year by year its position has strengthened and it has served as a model for other coun-

continued on page 16
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Q.—We plan to lay a great deal of sod this year. We have had conflicting recommendations about preparing the sod bed. How would you do it? (Maryland)

A.—The first consideration is limestone. Apply enough finely ground dolomitic limestone to bring the pH value to 6.5-6.7. Incorporate the limestone several inches deep. Calcium moves very slowly in the soil. Phosphorus also moves slowly so get it worked in before the sod is laid. Superphosphate (20 per cent) at 1,000 pounds to the acre (25 pounds to 1,000 square feet) is fairly standard. It may be incorporated with the limestone. The only other immediate consideration is nitrogen. Slow-release material (38-0-0 ureaform or equivalent) is favored for its lasting effect. Apply not less than 10 to 12 pounds to 1,000 square feet raked.

continued on page 18

Grau

continued from page 14
Windsor "plays" better

This improved variety of Kentucky bluegrass feels like velvet—but with resiliency. The ball sits on it invitingly. It forms dense turf that repairs itself rapidly. It can be cut safely to any height. Needs no pampering. Not surprisingly, it is being planted on more and more courses, coast to coast. For technical information, write Scotts, Golf Course Div, Marysville, Ohio 43040.

Q.—We are continually bombarded by advertisements, leaflets, radio and newspaper ads that say this grass and that grass are the very best. The fact that they are more expensive is beside the point—if they are better. Where can we get the unvarnished truth?

A.—Go first to your county agent; he usually has an office in the county seat. Next, through the agent, seek the help of the extension specialist in turf. In most cases you need go no further. Both rely on the research personnel at the university level, who determine by unbiased tests the qualifications of all important turfgrasses. Also you may seek advice from turfgrass associations or councils. If you keep asking, the chances are good that you will get an answer.

Q.—Several years ago you strongly recommended "hydroseeding" for overseeding thin turfgrass areas and for establishing new areas. Have you changed your position in any way?

A.—No. Hydraulic distribution of seed, fertilizer, lime and other materials has much to recommend it—simplicity, uniformity, rapidity. Results speak for themselves. Buck Whetzel, now with Fairfax County (Va.) Park System, formerly at Tantallon-on-the-Potomac, has purchased several hydroseeders, one for each golf course.