TURF SCHOOLS: WHAT AND WHY?
When one begins to catalog the turfgrass conferences held throughout the country, one develops a suspicion that there is a preponderance of emphasis on golf turf. This is not so very surprising, considering that there has been a lot of influence and pressure exerted by the United States Golf Assn., by the Golf Course Superintendents Assn., and by state and local superintendent associations.

This apparent channelization has been broken in a number of instances. Rhode Island has a day set aside for general turf. Several states have sod field days and conferences. New Jersey separates lawn and estate turf from golf turf. Purdue has a broad approach to the field of turf. These are only a few instances.

Now, I wish to talk about turf schools, which are conducted specifically for landscapers, nurserymen who deal in turf, homeowners, commercial people who talk turf to the homeowner, the estate owner and the industrial firm that wants beautiful turf to improve its image. A case in point is the Southeastern Pennsylvania Turf School, which has completed its 10th successful year. It is sponsored jointly by the Pennsylvania State University Extension Service and the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council. The council acts as treasurer. The committee that plans and executes the school consists primarily of county agricultural agents with a council representative. Golf course superintendents are not turned away, but are not specifically invited. They have their golf-oriented conference at Penn State in February. Attendance has varied between 250 and 400.

The success of the Southeastern School has given rise to the first annual Southwestern Turf School, which was held in East Pittsburgh in January. Attendance topped 200, and the conference was considered a rousing success. Many are looking forward to 1974. It, too, is sponsored by the council and extension.

This writer first participated in a turf school in 1935 at Haverford College, Philadelphia. Charles Hallowell, then county agent, developed it with the help of the Philadelphia Gardeners Assn. That was the prototype, which was very stimulating and successful. These turf schools deserve the utmost consideration so they can reach the many local operators who are in contact with those who want better lawns, parks, athletic fields, and so on. A late bulletin says that similar turf schools are being conducted in Harrisburg and in Allentown (Pa.). This movement deserves to grow.

MANNA FROM HEAVEN?
Q—Practically every golf club in the world is the beneficiary of some development in equipment, improved turfgrasses, more efficient safer pesticides, new and better fertilizers, and so on. The folks at our club have wondered “from whence comes this largesse?” Is it manna from the sky or did it cost someone money, time and effort? We depend, for example, on fine-textured hybrid Bermuda-grasses, Penncross bent, several of the new bluegrasses and ryegrasses and a range of pesticides and improved long-lasting fertilizers. How can we contribute to the improvement of turf? (North Carolina)

A—To coin a phrase, “I’m glad you asked that.” To give financial support to research and teaching programs in turf, several states have organized and developed turfgrass councils. These councils provide memberships for firms, golf