For many years progressive superintendents have recognized the importance a golf course sod nursery plays in solving turfgrass management problems.

To the late Harry Mesloh, superintendent of Clovernook CC in Cincinnati, his Washington bent nursery became a source of funds during the Depression. By selling some of his excellent bent sod to less fortunate, neighboring clubs, he was able to purchase essential new equipment throughout that time of economic crisis.

Mesloh used his nursery in other ways, which expanded its importance to the course. It was an experimental laboratory, and Mesloh’s understanding of the relationship of the nursery to the golf course was an education to younger superintendents. For example, there were no fertilizers especially mixed in formulations for golf courses, the only fertilizer available then was an agricultural one, 10-6-4. It was literally a “hot” item. Many superintendents couldn’t even distribute it without burning their turf. Mesloh came up with the idea of splitting the application—one half the required amount was applied at right angles to the initial distribution pattern. His trial-and-error experiment on the nursery paid off. The resultant growth pattern was uniform and burn free, because no heavy amounts of fertilizer accumulated in a single area. This principle is still followed today.

Other lessons coming out of that era also helped to establish the proper relationship between the club’s sod nursery and good turf management practices.

Before the development of the fungicide, Suspension Calo Clor and Thiram in its initial form in the late 1930s, the main source of hot weather disease control was Calomel and bi-chloride of mercury. This combination was more compatible when common salt was used to help dissolve the two chemicals before they were placed in solution in the spray tank. This was another “hot” item. The solution yellowed the bent greens considerably following application. Again, the nursery areas of Clovernook were used to advantage. It was found that by using slightly more than the usual amount of water in application and by using a larger spray nozzle disk, thereby avoiding the dew-type solution application, it could be spread more evenly and burned less.
that wet moment arrives.

that mid-winter thaw when your

treat the greens during

. . . keep AQUA-GRO GRANULAR

WATER REQUIRED

PLAN YOUR SPRING
VACATION EARLY

Pack away your overly wet greens
that are susceptible to SNOW
MOLD and WINTER INJURY and
treat with 1-Gal. AQUA-GRO
GRANULAR per 2000 sq. ft.

NO SPRAY
EQUIPMENT OR
WATER REQUIRED

Yes, you can make a late fall ap-
plication of Aqua-GRO Liquid, but
with AQUA-GRO GRANULAR you can still treat the greens during
that mid-winter thaw when your
spray equipment is shut down.

Spring is just around the corner...
. . . keep AQUA-GRO GRANULAR
on hand to drain the greens when
that wet moment arrives.

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application, the burning problem was
eliminated.

In 1941, at my own bent nursery
adjacent to the eighth tee at Cin-
cinnati CC, a large area of land
was made available to the DuPont
Chemical Company to experiment
with a new fungicide formulation
with a sulfur base.

This fungicide was destined to
play an important role to all golf
courses during World War II. Du-
Pont was in the final stages of de-
veloping Thiosan, now known as
Thiram. It subsequently became the
only fungicide available to superin-
tendents when the mercuryes were
placed on the priority list.

Now that the Environmental Pro-
tection Agency (EPA) has curtailed
the use of many favorite turf pro-
tection chemicals, modern superin-
tendents again have turned to their
turf nurseries as the proper place
to confirm the safety and effectiveness
of new chemical substitutes. With
the EPA and related state agencies
banning such old timers as DDT,
mercury, the arsenicals and the
chlorinated hydrocarbons, many
alternatives now are being offered,
usually with less residual qualities
and sometimes questionable effec-
tiveness.

The sod nursery is the place to
determine the effectiveness of some
of these substitutions—not the
playing 18 greens. The usual,
advertisement slogans such as “just as
good,” or “totally safe,” must not
be taken for granted. Our reputa-
tions as professional turf managers
are on the line and must be guarded.

Along with the new demands on
the golf course superintendent to
find new and safe chemicals for the
protection of the turf investment at
his club, goes a certain responsi-
bility to properly calibrate the appli-
cation equipment to conform with the
manufacturer’s recommendations.
If any mistakes are to be made, let
them happen on the sod nursery.

There are other equally important
reasons for establishing an adequate
bent nursery. At the Philadelphia
CC, the 20,000-foot nursery was be-
gun prior to a major tee enlarge-
ment program. When the club was
started in the 1920s, the teeing
grounds served around 12,000
rounds of golf a year. In the 1960s,
they were being mauled by nearly
30,000 golfers a year. The result?
Bad tees. Don Pakkala, the super-
tintendent, completed the project
in the spring of 1972 (following my
departure for Congressional CC).
We had found that a properly man-
aged bent nursery sown in April
could be harvested in November,
using the winter work force for
whatever improvements were needed
in the club’s playing facilities.

Another contingency that justifies
the existence of a bent nursery is the
universal problem of vandalism, the
victims of which almost always are
the delicate greens. Very few clubs
escape this social problem. Flag-
poles, detergents and sometimes
lighter fluids are used to destroy
property. Motor bikes and four-
wheeled vehicles rip open fairways
and greens. Damage to the course
requires instant sod to repair the
scars and a green thumb to make
the job professional.

There is a little “monster” about
the land that is an insidious crea-
ture. His presence in the soil can on-
ly be properly determined by a
scientist trained in identification
through the examination of soil sam-
plies through a microscope. Long re-
ognized as a detriment to Southern
agriculture, his progression and
adaption have made him famous as
far north as Minnesota and Michi-
gan. I refer, of course, to the nema-
tode.

Turf managers have viewed his
presence in their turf as a new, un-
controllable turf disease. Perhaps,
they reason, their best fungicide
isn’t what it used to be or, as I
raised the question to Dr. Herb
Cole of Penn State in July of 1969,”
“If I don’t have a turf disease, what
do I have on the fifth green?”
Having exhausted his bag of tricks,
Dr. Cole turned the soil sample o-
ver to a nematologist. It showed
that our soil was loaded with them.
Having sodded the “problem green”
three times in four years from my
nursery, I was desperate for a new
approach and a solution to the
problem. Proper treatment was be-
gun immediately, and I was grate-
ful for having had a nursery.

Aside from the need, convenience
and practical application of oper-
ating a bent sod nursery, many su-
perintendents are facing up to an-
continued on page 46
Litterbug Larry

We can't help you with Litterbug Larry.

But if you've got dollar spot, large brown patch, Fusarium blight, Pythium blight, stripe smut and powdery mildew, we can help you there.

With Chipco Spot Kleen. A new systemic fungicide that can effectively control these turf enemies. And it does it so well, it controls a lot of turf diseases as well.

Chipco Spot Kleen helps keep your greens (and fairways) in the pink.


Chipco Spot Kleen.
From Rhodia Chipco Products.

"When they shoot, dummy. When they shoot!"

For more information circle number 169 on card

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NEW Stafford VERTICAL BAG RACKS

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Your members will like the extra convenience and care. Your pro shop profits from 40% more space these racks make available. Double unit shown holds 16 bags, size 2' x 4' x 6'-6" high, gives 12" x 12" space for bags. Single unit holds 8, size 1' x 4' x 6'-6" high. Sturdy steel. Bags set solid on tapered shelves. Send us your floor measurements, we will plan a layout and quote you — no obligation. U.S. and Canadian patents. Send for folder.

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other, ever-increasing annual problem—that of repairing damage from golf cars in the concentrated use areas. Identical to the program here at Congressional, many superintendents are establishing nurseries of either common Kentucky bluegrass or the more wear-resistant Kentucky 31 tall fescue or bermudagrass. Many superintendents devote considerable time to transferring the sod from the nursery to the objectionable worn spots on the course each winter.

Former Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America President, Bob Shields of nearby Woodmon CC believes and practices the multiuse principle, as did Mesloh, in the management of the four distinct areas of sod nursery at Woodmont, all closely related to his 36-hole operation.

Shields’s bent nursery is always ready to back up his continuing drive for perfection on his two courses. He grows some of the latest introductions of bluegrasses, ryegrasses and bent to determine their tolerance to the Washington D.C. climate. Because he maintains two distinct types of fairway grasses—cool season, Kentucky bluegrass on the North Course and warm season, bermudagrass on the South Course—he has a wide margin from which to choose to make decisions affecting the course. Over the years he has moved sod to all of the collars, replacing an inferior bent-Poa sod with bluegrass from the nursery. On the South Course, he continues each year to move nursery-grown P-16 bermudagrass to those fairways using the slit sprigging method.

At present, Shields is relocating a green on the North Course and will use nursery-grown Kentucky bluegrass on the collars. Instant turf is possible when one maintains an adequate club sod nursery.

Most clubs have room somewhere on the grounds for a nursery area. I have never talked with a progressive superintendent who did not want a nursery. Commercial turf nurseries seldom grow putting height bent sod. Usually, a golf course nursery equal to the size of the average green is considered sufficient back-up to an 18-hole oper-
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...other purposes on the property generally are twice the size of the bent area.

Basic clay or loam soil needs some modification with peat moss and sand to bring it closer to the soil type prevalent on the playing 18 greens. This procedure of incorporating the materials into the basic soil is well within the scope of the turf manager, his crew and existing equipment. Water is necessary and usually available from the irrigation system close to the selected nursery site.

In the cool season grass-growing regions of the country, August to late September is considered the best time to establish either bent or bluegrass nurseries.

With all the changes in the grounds operation of a golf course, with vandalism on the upswing and with the normal uncertainties of managing a golf course, instant turf is necessary for repair work. The practicality of having a private multi-purpose sod nursery is good business.

LABOR  from page 50

produced information on worker alienation, which is useful for any employer of a labor type force (large or small). The results showed that assembly line monotony, a condition prevalent where one person executes one type of assembly repeatedly each day with no change in work type or schedule for the conduct of that specific work, was conducive to low efficiency, heavy absenteeism, many labor-management disputes (flooding the established grievance procedure), which were only symptoms of the real problem—monotony and generally repressed hostility on the part of workers with accompanying interpersonal friction and low morale.

The company claims to have affected some relief from many of these problems by training each assembly man to do not one, but all steps on his assembly unit. Under this plan, the worker also has a say in when he can change from one assembly job to another. The company says this method has created little confusion and that the initial low efficiency caused by the necessity for the worker to reorient himself when periodically tackling a new step, is compensated in surprisingly short order, making over-all efficiency greater than when mono-job assembly training was used.

The general result of this new plan (instituted only in certain plants; in others they feel the nature of the assembly precludes multi-job training where each assembly step is very complicated), has been to heighten the worker's self-esteem and thereby to increase his motivation.

A leading golf equipment manufacturer has attempted a plan that is revolutionary in the field of mass production organizational development. The company has instituted periodic employee assembly, almost taking the form of a seminar at which workers are asked to help solve certain management and production problems (employees are at liberty to present to management at these gatherings their suggestions for solving other problems the existence of which management may not be aware).

This program acts as a balm for labor-management strains and frictions, which grow as a result of worker alienation and job monotony. It hypens employee motivation and morale because the worker sees that although his job function may be insignificant when compared to the over-all operation, he does have a voice in changing aspects of the system he dislikes. These meetings have been particularly effective because they lessen the necessity for the worker to use the costly (in downtime) and complicated grievance procedure that oftentimes carries a stigma for the worker who may feel he is regarded as a complainer who shuts down at his job to file a grievance. Thus, under this kind of a system both worker and management benefit.

Worker alienation, job monotony and the insuring low morale and lessening of motivation are not unique to large industry. Golf club administrators could undoubtedly benefit from applying some of the above techniques to their labor management relations problems. Training each grounds maintenance worker to use the variety of available course equipment and giving him the opportunity to function in all or many of the turf maintenance procedures, from labor to administration, would surely increase job interest and effectiveness and could help make his work attitude approach the ideal—a labor of love.

This would apply equally to the dining room and pro shop personnel. Training people to double as bartenders, waiters, second cooks and so forth also gives the club manager a more versatile staff. Gathering them for periodic interchanges of ideas on how the dining room could operate more efficiently and attract more business could not help but be fruitful.

The lesson learned by industry (that nobody knows more about a specific job than the man who does it day in and day out), is also applicable to golf club employees. Don't short suit your grasp of club management by failing to get the views of the person closest to each job—he does it every day.