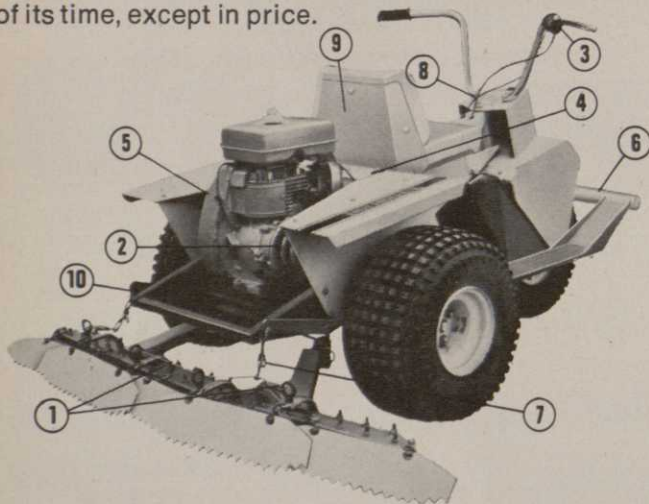


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GRAU from page 11

we have the right weather conditions. This will be true with any bermuda-grass in southern Maryland, but more severe with the Arizona common seed.

Q—Your *Q & A* in last February's issue on superintendents becoming managers has raised some serious questions. Members of our group disagree heartily with your concept of the relationships. Superintendents represent an honored profession, as do managers. We think that the two should remain separate and distinct with no crossover, even though many of us are trained both as turf managers and as businessmen. True, our profession does not have the glamour because our operations are removed from the hub of things. We are not proud when one of our "greenkeepers" moves to the other side and becomes a manager. None of us can condone consolidating "the two most important functions of the club." Any light that you can shed on the reasons for your position shall be appreciated. (Illinois)

A—In considering your thoughtful and honest letter, I can't get my mind off some of my long-time "greenkeeper" friends who have become effective and honored club managers. The golf course superintendents who work with them enjoy a favored position, because they operate in conjunction with a manager who understands the problems of coping and working with nature. When a manager has technical and sympathetic understanding of golf course conditions, I see a harmonious relationship that is good for 1) the superintendent, 2) the manager and 3) the club.

When a superintendent gains the expertise to cope with a manager's problems and frustrations and goes into it with his eyes open, why should I oppose it? I see a gain for the superintendent.

I see no good reason for anyone to consider the "greenkeepers" as one faction and managers as another, continuously at odds. Why should not these two most important functions of a club be harmonious? Both serve the same club and the same members. This unwillingness to "give and take" does not seem to be in the best interests of those you serve.

I have no desire to change your way

continued on page 18

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GRAU from page 12

of thinking, especially because you endorse the views of one of your group who has been in print and is heartily opposed to any "crossover." You and he should never become managers because of your adamant stand on the subject. My advice to a friend to go ahead and become a manager has a sound foundation. He was ready and the club wanted him. For him the future is bright as is the future of the superintendent at the club at which both are employed.

My friendship for you and for those in your group who hold views similar to yours will in no way be diminished. I do not attempt to influence superintendents on any score, but when I see a situation that will benefit everyone, I exercise my prerogative to express my view just as one of your group published his.

Q—*This is not exactly a question, but more a plea for recognition. Ours is one of the more than 500 golf courses in the Commonwealth. Everyone in the club, members and employees alike, believe that our grounds were meant to serve a function beyond that of simply pleasing golf members. We like to feel that our club property is one of the best bird and wildlife sanctuaries around. The grounds crew is dedicated to serving this end. Naturally, no shooting, trapping or hunting is allowed on the premises. Should we not be accorded some recognition from the Game Commission, and, perhaps, receive suggestions on how we can improve conditions?* (Pennsylvania)

A—Bravo for your common sense approach to helping our wildlife. This should make a good story for a magazine. We will see to it that a copy of this issue of GOLFDOM reaches the Game Commission in Harrisburg. Keep up the good work.

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