



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents did not hold a regular monthly meeting in August. We spent Tuesday, August 4, viewing the turfgrass experimental plots at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland. There was quite a large turnout for this annual event and we were joined by others from all over the country including a few visitors from Canada.

The Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Maryland is where the United States Department of Agriculture conducts most of its research program. The contributing agencies to the Field Day were: the U.S.D.A., Crops Research Division, Forage and Range Research Branch, and the Grass and Turf Section.

Dr. Felix Juska, Research Agronomist for the Grass and Turf Section, was our host and master of ceremonies for the day. The day was one full of activity, starting with registration at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until late in the afternoon. Plots of many varieties of grasses were to be seen at different heights of cut and rates of fertilization. Both cool and warm season grasses were included in the tests.

One area of turf was devoted to pre and post emergence control of crabgrass and other weeds. Many weed control plots were on exhibit allowing us to evaluate the use of old and new herbicides. Also, for the first time in several years, space was set aside showing the different creeping bents suitable for putting green sod.

After luncheon the group assembled in the station auditorium for a session of talks. Dr. A.A. Hanson in charge of the Grass and Turf Section gave an outline of the turfgrass breeding program at Beltsville. Dr. F.V. Juska spoke on the fertilization of highway turf. Mr. Charles K. Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Director of the U.S.G.A. Green Section, brought us up-to-date on golf course problems as they have existed so far in 1959. Dr. O.J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, gave an interesting summary of what has happened turf-wise in his thirty years of experience in this field.

Dr. Juska and his co-workers deserve the highest praise for their accomplishments at Beltsville. The scope of their work is expanding and improving every year. We of the Mid-Atlantic are indeed fortunate to have research work of this nature available so close to us and we should view it at every opportunity.

Two recent turf bulletins have made some very pertinent observations and comments of interest. The Mid-Continent Turfletter of the U.S.G.A. Green Section notes that where winter-kill of putting green turf was severe this past winter, recovery was hastened through frequent aerification and proper watering. The method of watering was a syringe program similar to that used in hot weather for wilt.

We also quote from the Turfletter an interesting comment: "That greens which were designed and built 20 to 40 years ago for a small amount of play, perhaps no more than 50 or 70 rounds a week, are simply unable to stand up under present day demands of 200

or more rounds per day. Reasonable cupping areas on many of these old greens are restricted to one or no more than three areas; soils are layered, hard and compact; surface and sub-surface drainage is limited or non-existent. Is it not true that Foa Annua and other undesirable species of plants have encroached and covered the most used cupping areas?

Consideration of these various factors reveals the reasons why it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain greens in top shape. The conditions are such that greens just cannot stand the traffic^m.

Bulletin # 65 of the New York Turfgrass Association contradicts a recent release by a well known commercial house which advised lawn owners to water their lawns by saying- " Light watering, if done frequently, is by far the best. " Bulletin #65 says this - " Watering recommendations unchanged. " The article further says, " On the contrary, deep watering, eight to ten inches into the soil at a time, at a slow, even rate is best. " So, we have a controversy over how to properly water a lawn, but being a bit old fashioned, we lean to alternate wetting and drying of our soils, fully realizing that water application to a putting green is a subject entirely different from lawn watering.

FROM THE NATIONAL

The Executive Committee of the National Association has appointed a committee known as an " Ad Hoc " Committee for the purpose of investigating the possibility of an improved method of representation and voting at National meetings.

For a number of years some members have felt that we should have geographic districts set up and each district should be allowed an equal number of votes. Some members have felt that the large locals of Philadelphia, Midwest, Cleveland and California dominate the voting due to their large numbers.

In order to clear the air on the subject you are asked to seriously consider the following questions and come to the next meeting prepared to express your opinions.

1. Each GCSAA member is presently entitled to one vote. Do you believe this policy should be changed?
2. Do you feel that large locals (in numbers of GCSA members) should have more voting strength than small locals?
3. Would we accomplish anything towards equality in voting if we were to eliminate delegate voting and have all members vote in person ?
4. Do you know of one or more instances where large (voting strength) locals have abused their position and voted for propositions that were detrimental to the advancement of the Association ?
5. Do you approve of individuals collecting large numbers of proxies and voting them?
6. Would you like to see the 60% clause eliminated so that all locals could vote for all of their GCSA members?
7. Do you feel that we could accomplish anything by attempting to divide the country into sections (geographic) ?
8. Do the GCSA members in your area feel that they do or do not have proper representation