

NEW SOIL TESTING SERVICE OFFERED BY MISSISSIPPI STATE AND GREEN SECTION

The Green Section of the USGA has entered into an agreement with Mississippi State University whereby the latter will test soils and make recommendations for putting soil mixes based on the Green Section Specifications. Dr. Coleman Y. Ward will be in charge of the laboratory work. The opening of the laboratory again makes it possible for golf courses and golf course architects throughout the country to utilize the latest information in putting green soils research.

The new laboratory is equipped to carry out a complete physical analysis within a week to ten days after receipt of material. This includes a study of sands, soils and organic materials received; the synthesis and testing of trial mixtures; and recommendations for a suitable mixture for putting green construction. For this complete study and recommendation, a charge of \$100.00 is made and payable to Mississippi State University.

A laboratory analysis will require a minimum of one gallon of sand, soil and organic matter available to your club. If there is a choice of sands, soils and organic materials, send samples of each together with a note indicating your preference based on cost, easy accessibility, etc. The laboratory will attempt to use your preferred materials in the recommended mixture.

Soil materials should be addressed to:

Mississippi State University
Attention: Mr. Coleman Y. Ward
P. O. Box 5248
State College, Mississippi 39762

NEWSLETTER MAILBAG

The following letter was received from Mrs. Jim Reid, whose husband was the former superintendent at Suburban Country Club, Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Members of the Mid-Atlantic Association:

Jim, as some of you know, has been sick for a long time. In fact, it was six years ago last May when he broke his leg and he hasn't been well since.

He has always had a great interest in the Mid-Atlantic Association and that interest has not diminished in the least. I read portions of every Newsletter to him and he always wants to know where the next meeting will be held.

If he could see to read, time would pass more quickly. His throat muscles have become so weak that it is very difficult to speak so that he can be understood. However, he tries. His mind is clear and that is a great blessing. He is in a wheel chair for a few hours each day, the rest of the day he's in bed.

He appreciates mail and I'd like to say "Thank You" to those of you who have written letters or sent cards. His address is still Chapel Hill Convalescent Home, Liberty and Robosson Roads, Randallstown, Maryland 21133.

Sincerely,

Esther Reid

NEW MID-ATLANTIC MEMBERS

The following people have been approved for membership in our Mid-Atlantic Association, pending our 30 day approval period.

- (1) Robert Novelli - class D
- (2) Jerome Robine - class D
- (3) Thomas Lavery - class H
- (4) F. Leslie Futrell - class E

INFRARED HOLDS PROMISE FOR TURFGRASS

The following article is reprinted from the January, 1972 issue of Weeds Trees and Turf.

Aerial infrared photography could become a quick and efficient tool in turfgrass management. That's what Robert L. Fleming of Environmental Surveys, Inc., a California based firm, told members of the 26th annual Turfgrass Conference at Texas A & M University last December.

Fleming reported that surveys not only detect plant vitality but can show irrigation efficiency and loss of plant vigor before serious damage occurs.

Infrared filming saves time, he reported. It locates sub-surface rock conditions, moisture, movement, sprinkling profiles and soil types. He cited a number of uses of infrared aerial photography. One was the problem of finding soil deep enough to reforest a mountainside. Infrared detected streaks of soil that would take the trees.

Possibly the most interesting and promising project underway, Fleming said, is a survey of 12,000 to 15,000 acres in California to determine the most likely place to tap tremendous steam resources 3,000 to 8,000 feet below the ground surface.

Such steam fields offer an almost unlimited source of power for electricity generation, he said.

WORLD GOLF - SOME FACTS

The United States has more golf courses than any other country. There are over 8½ million golf courses, which means one for every 950 golfers.

Iceland has a very short season for their nine courses, but they have a 24 hour playing day without artificial lighting.

Japan has only one golf course for every 4,000 golfers. Most of the courses are private. People wait for hours to get on a public course and when they get on, they stay all day. Japan thrives on driving ranges because land is precious and confined. Tokyo has a driving range three stories high with players driving from all three levels. The caddies are kimono-clad ladies. Caddie fees are pro-rated by the pound - fewer clubs, light bag - cheaper caddie!

The roughs of the Royal Hong Kong course are rented for cattle grazing.

In Mexico, all of the 41 courses are private. There is little play in the afternoons because of siesta time.

(Editor's note: Do the superintendents take afternoon siestas too?)

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The words of Jonathan Swift take on a renewed meaning and still hold true.

“Whoever could make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.”

Quote from PROTURF ISSUE FOUR, O. M. Scott & Son publication.

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