

# Fifty-Five Years of Experience

by William M. Dest, Conn. Clippings

Who can boast of 55 years of experience in golf course maintenance? This is the number of years the U.S.G.A. Green Section has been in existence collecting and distributing information of value on golf course maintenance to golf clubs around the country. The numbers of visits made to golf clubs over the years by Green Section agronomists are too innumerable to count. The myriad of problems and solutions rendered would easily fill a volume of books.

Most of us are familiar with the visitation service to golf clubs that the Green Section offers for on the course consultation. This is unique to the Green Section but is only part of the story.

The U.S.G.A. Green Section has also supported turf-grass research since its formation. The results of this research have been evaluated impartially by Green Section agronomists ultimately benefitting all golf courses whether member clubs of the Green Section or not. Improved grasses (how many can remember the old pie shaped greens?), fertilization concepts, thatch control, and specifications for putting green construction along with the soil testing service are but a very few examples of results born out of research sponsored by the Green Section.

The Green Section periodical now known as the U.S.G.A. Green Section Record has been published since 1921. How many remember the Eastern Turfletter with its timely tips. Other publications have been written as the need arose. "Turf Diseases and Their Control" by Monteith and Dahl, 1932, was a classic in its time. "Building Golf Holes for Good Turf Management" by the Green Section Staff and on and on the list goes. It publishes the ever popular book, "Golf Course

Management." The resource material for ready use by all its inexhaustible.

The Section holds its own conference on Golf Course Management each year in conjunction with the U.S.G.A. annual meeting in New York. Green Section agronomists participate in regional and national Turf Conferences and at local Golf Course Superintendent Association meetings throughout the country. On occasion section agronomists will attend local meetings and conferences spending time in discussions and consultation with Golf Course Superintendents.

The Section Agronomist consult on golf course preparation for U.S.G.A. sponsored tournaments and will assist in P.G.A. tournaments if called upon. A great service to have around for a big event as this author will testify.

Consultation by telephone is always available. If the Agronomist is not in his office at the time you call, you can be sure your call will be answered promptly as soon as he returns.

Eight agronomist presently serve 800 of the 4000 plus U.S.G.A. Member Clubs throughout the United States. The Greens Section seeks only to cover its cost of operation, yet the small service fee covers just part of the cost. For the Green Section to carry out its mission to the fullest, it needs the support of every golf club.

The Green Section has made a solid contribution to the field of golf course maintenance and management. It functions solely in the interest of better turf for better golf. Most of us I'm sure will agree that experience is a good teacher. The U.S.G.A. Green Section accumulated 55 years of it.

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