

Turfgrass Field Day Is Wed., August 6

This year's Maryland Turfgrass Research Field Day and Equipment-Products Show will be held Wednesday, August 6, at the University of Maryland's new research facility next to the Hopkins Plant Research Farm on Cherry Hill Road near Beltsville. Tours of the research plots begin at 9 a.m. and last until 12:30 p.m. when lunch will be served (cost about \$7). Demonstration of turf products and equipment will be held during the afternoon.

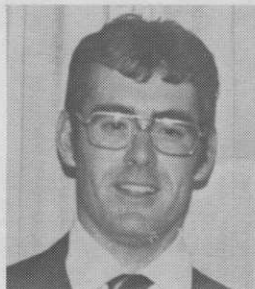
The tour will cover research being conducted in connection with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, weed control, disease control, plant growth regulators, and general management studies. Practical information developed during this research will be featured, along with updates on chemicals, equipment, plant varieties, management practices, and specific problems to be diagnosed. Questions regarding this field day should be addressed to Peter H. Dernoeden, Department of Agronomy, U. of Maryland (301-454-3717).

To reach the farm, leave the Beltway at Exit 23N (Rt. 29) if coming from Frederick, Rockville, or Rt. 240; head north, turn right at Randolph Rd. traffic light, proceed 1 mile to farm. Coming from southern Maryland, Eastern Shore, or Rts. 4, 50, or 202, leave Beltway at Exit 27 (Rt. 1). Head south toward College Park, turn right at first traffic light (Cherry Hill Rd.), and follow signs for 4 miles to farm on left.

Collecting Grasses for the USGA-GCSAA Research Program

by Patrick M. O'Brien
USGA Green Section, Mid-Atlantic Region

Did you ever want to discover a new grass? This opportunity is very possible for anyone who looks carefully at their grasses. The Mid-Atlantic region of the United States is an excellent area for collecting both cool and warm season grasses for our plant breeders. The extreme climate causes good variability in most grass species.



Probably the best locations on any golf course to search for improved grasses are the fairways and putting greens. The give-away to the searcher is usually a circular patch of grass with a slightly different color. I have observed many of these patches as large as four to five feet in diameter.

Obviously, if you spot some different-looking grasses, they should have some desirable characteristics. The most desirable traits include the following:

1. Dark green color
2. Heat tolerance
3. Cold tolerance
4. Drought tolerance
5. Vigorous growth

In my travels I have seen some grasses which exhibit some of these characteristics. I observed Bermudagrass growing in a fairway in Erie, Pennsylvania, and a very fine textured Bermuda on a fairway in Philadelphia. There is also a very vigorous strain of bentgrass growing in a fairway in Butler, Pennsylvania. I have also seen some nice looking perennial *Poa annua* types on putting greens in Virginia and in the Carolinas.

Historically, some of our finest grasses today were found by golf course personnel. Richie Valentine showed me the location adjacent to the No. 17 tee on the Merion East Course where Merion Kentucky bluegrass was discovered. Tommy Davis, a laboratory technician at Virginia Tech, discovered the Vamont Bermudagrass variety while he was working at the Oak Woods Country Club in Wilksboro, North Carolina. This valuable Bermudagrass was growing naturally on his No. 17 fairway. I am sure there are many valuable grasses like these now growing unnoticed at many golf courses.

MEETING (Continued from page 1)

bluegrass fairways three times a week to 3/4", and tees and collars to 5/8". Greens are treated under a spray program using Turf Cal (3 1/2 qts. per 1,000), with plans to include fairways later this year. Repaving the cart path system is projected for this summer, and a new clubhouse is planned for three or four years down the line.

Host Rudinski is a 1961 graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School of Agriculture. After further training under the late Richard Silvar in New Jersey, he came to Maryland in 1969, working at Bonnie View and then Baltimore C.C.'s Five Farms course. He says that a heart attack in 1977 caused him to rethink his life goals, and he then moved to Annapolis and the Eisenhower post.

Directions to Eisenhower are as

follows: From the Eastern Shore, take Rt. 50 to Annapolis (Rt. 450 exit), turn left at the stoplight, stay on West St. (don't turn left at 450), to the course 3 miles on the left. From Baltimore, take the Beltway to Rt. 3 south, Rt. 3 to Rt. 178 (Crownsville), turn left on 178, to course about 6 miles on the right. From Washington, take the Capital Beltway to Rt. 50 east, leaving Rt. 50 at the Annapolis exit and turning right onto West St. (Rt. 178); course is on the left after 3.2 miles.

July 8's program is:

Lunch - 11 a.m. (cost, \$12; no coats or ties)

Meeting - 12 noon

Golf - 1 p.m. (call for starting times, identifying yourself as MAAGCS member; crossover system in effect, using both #1 and #10 tees)

NEW MEMBERS

Dean Zeller, Class B
Assistant Superintendent
Maryland Golf & Country Club
Bel Air, Md.

Christophor J. Paradis, Class C (Student)
Assistant Superintendent
Hobbitts Glen Golf Course
Columbia, Md.

Charles R. Tasker, Class F
President, Atlas Stump Removal
Silver Spring, Md.

John Hoover, Change to Class A
Superintendent
Hillendale Country Club
Phoenix, Md.