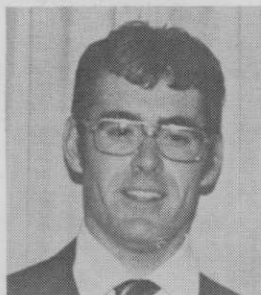


THE USGA-GCSAA Research Reference Library

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

One of the first steps in the USGA-GCSAA Research Program aimed at developing better grasses for our golf courses was a turfgrass computer data base library. This project was assigned top priority at the initial Turfgrass Research Committee meeting on March 1, 1982. This certainly makes sense, since our researchers must know what has been accomplished to-date.



The first decision of this important project was to choose the site of the library. It was a unanimous decision of the Research Committee to select Michigan State University, where the famous O.J. Noer Turfgrass collection of early books and manuscripts was already located. We were thus able to start at a library with one of the best turfgrass book collections in the world.

The next step was to hire a librarian to organize and collect our literature. Dr. Richard E. Chapin, the Director of Libraries at Michigan State University, and Peter LePoer, the Turfgrass Information File Project Coordinator, were chosen. Their work began in the spring of 1984, and Peter Cookingham, who holds an M.A. degree from Illinois, is the new Project Manager.

These men have made tremendous progress. The library has purchased an Alpha Microsystems Computer, which has a capacity of 70 megabytes. They have now entered over 7,500 citations which have used up about 24 megabytes. Over 95% of the file entries have been published since 1968, reflecting the emphasis on recent information. Hopefully, over 20,000 entries will be in our computer. The STAR information software runs the computer.

There are now over 2,000 data bases like the USGA-GCSAA Reference Library. It is a big business now. The key selling point is access to information quickly, and the system is making index cards obsolete. The goals of the Research Library are as follows:

1. To develop and maintain the O.J. Noer collection.
2. To provide computer access to the entries in the collection.
3. To deliver documents or copies from the collection to the user.

Golf course superintendents, researchers, extension specialists, and anyone else who might need this information now have access. Simply call the Michigan State University Library at (517) 353-7209 and ask for Peter Cookingham, or write him in care of the Turfgrass Information Center, W-212 Library, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. This valuable facility will be even more useful as the librarians continue to add to the data base. The scope of the file is now quite extensive. Over 70 journals are now being processed. By the way, the books are rarely added to the file, since their information is not considered to be on the cutting edge.

The librarians are currently developing a program that will permit access to the Alpha computer via an IBM personal computer or other computers compatible with the IBM. Information on how to connect to the system will be distributed once everything is working. An electronic mail and bulletin board system will also be available by computer. This software will probably be available within the next 60 to 90 days. This is just another excellent justification for a personal computer as a standard tool for the golf course superintendent.

You as a golf course superintendent can help this program. Please contribute any materials written, edited, or distributed by yourself, club, association, or corporation. The more information processed by the Center, the more that is online. Please place Peter Cookingham on your mailing list, or send to him reprints of your publications.

Over \$224,000 will have been appropriated to the Research Library by the end of this year. This is approximately 18% of the total USGA-GCSAA Turfgrass Research budget through 1986. It has been money wisely spent.

Finding "Arm Pit" Of Turf Growing

by Douglas T. Hawes

Although the St. Louis area has been referred to by experts as being the "arm pit" of turf growing, that is, the worst place to manage creeping bentgrass greens, I would add Tulsa, Kansas City, Dallas, and Washington, D.C. as close contenders for that dubious claim to fame.

Dallas makes the list more on length of season than humidity, and St. Louis is probably more consistently hot and humid than the others, but let's look at some weather data. If we use Toro's Rainfall-Evaporation Data for these cities, we find that the Washington area has the least difference between evapotranspiration and rainfall in the summer months, which allows superintendents there the least potential for cooling off greens by evaporation from a light syringing.

The chart below shows the potential inches of water that could be lost to evapotranspiration above average rainfall from June through August, using one location just west of Washington and one just east:

Arlington, Va.	— 6.60 inches
Hyattsville, Md.	— 6.84 inches
Kansas City	— 8.20 inches
St. Louis	— 9.21 inches
Tulsa	— 11.76 inches
Dallas	— 17.46 inches.

Other factors that must be considered are average night temperature and humidity, plus the length of the summer as measured by night temperatures above 70°F. The lack of sunshine during humid weather can be a factor, since a series of warm cloudy days can be very detrimental to the cool-season grasses. Of these cities, Washington tends to have slightly less hours of actual summer sunshine than St. Louis, and the other three cities receive more sunshine. Washington has slightly higher humidity than St. Louis, and Dallas and Tulsa are hotter than the others and less humid.

Based on this evidence and personal experience, I'll vote for Washington, D.C. as the true "arm pit" of turf growing. What's your choice?

NEW MEMBERS (Continued)

Jack D. Ellinger, Class D (NR)
Assistant Superintendent
Spottswood Country Club
Harrisonburg, VA

Thomas S. Lipscomb, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Penderbrook Golf Course
Fairfax, VA

Michael A. Hambach, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Evergreen Country Club
Hay Market, VA