What About the Drouth?

The drouth situation for 1930 and for 1931 up to the middle of February is summarized by J. B. Kincer, chief of the division of agricultural meteorology of the U. S. Weather Bureau in a bulletin issued by the bureau. "The year 1930 was exceedingly dry and abnormally warm," Kincer writes.

The spring and summer combined, that is, the months from March to August, were the driest of record in Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, he adds. The rainfall in these nine states averaged for the six months only 58 per cent of the normal.

"For the year, as a whole, 40 of the 48 states had less than normal rainfall," he says. "The relatively driest state for the calendar year was Maryland, with 56 per cent of normal, followed by West Virginia, 59; Virginia, 60; and Kentucky, 61 per cent.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Drouth conditions continued during January, 1931. "This month," Kincer says, "was the driest of record over a considerable area of the East-Central United States, and had large deficiencies in precipitation nearly everywhere, except in the west Gulf area.

"Much of the interior valleys received less than one-third of the normal rainfall, while deficiencies of 50 per cent, or more, were rather general east of the Rockies, except in the more southern and northeastern states.

"For December and January, combined, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky had the least rainfall of record, while for the period from October to January, inclusive, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York established new low records."

The mechanism of a drouth is well known to meteorologists but the causes for it are still a considerable mystery.

NORMAL WEATHER CAUSE

Normally, there is a succession of low pressure areas moving across the United States, these "lows" being followed by high pressure areas. As long as these areas continue to move across the country there is fairly normal weather. The general direction of movement is from west to east.

Drouths occur when there is a stagnation of the air, causing an interruption of the general movement of the "lows" and "highs" across the country.

"Rain is produced by a considerable cooling of a great volume of humid air," Kincer says.

"During the drouth of 1930 atmospheric pressure persisted relatively high in more southern, especially southeastern, sections, and low, with high temperatures, over the northern United States and Southern Canada. This general stagnant condition caused a nearly contin-
30

The National Greenkeeper

June, 1931

DIAMOND STEEL CENTER
TRACTOR SPUDS

Long wearing and sharp until completely worn out—because of hard tool-steel center—outside wears away faster. Made in all sizes to fit any size or make of tractor.

If your dealer can't supply you, write direct for sample or literature.

DIAMOND CALK HORSESHOE COMPANY
4700 Grand Ave.
Duluth, Minn.

uous flow of descending, hence dry, air from south to north over the surface of central and eastern United States.

"In other words, the normal movement of 'highs' and 'lows' was interrupted by a persistently stagnant state of the atmosphere.

"Conditions attending drouths are well known to meteorologists, but just why these should establish themselves, and persist, as in 1930, has not as yet been determined."

New Jersey Field Day

A field day program devoted entirely to turf culture will be held at the New Jersey State Agricultural Experiment station on Monday, June 15, 1931. The meeting is sponsored jointly by the New Jersey State Golf Association, the New Jersey State Greenkeepers Association, and the State Agricultural Experiment Station. It is expected that a large number of people interested in producing and maintaining turf on lawns, golf courses, parks, etc., will be present.

The program will begin at 3 p.m. (Daylight Saving Time) on the experimental turf plots of the Agronomy Department at the College Farm, New Brunswick. Each of the several hundred plots will be labeled, so that visitors may draw their own conclusions as to the effects of the various treatments and conditions. A discussion of the field experiments will be conducted during the afternoon.

At 6 p.m. the group will adjourn to the Hotel Woodrow Wilson, where dinner will be served at a cost of $1.50 per plate. Following the dinner, there will be an evening program of talks on turf culture and a discussion of problems. Several speakers of national reputation will address those assembled.

Lakeland Municipal Course

The municipal golf course at Lakeland, Fla., is the rather famed Cleveland Heights course, built for the developers five years ago by Toomey and Flynn. It is a standard 18-hole championship course, rolling in its surface with no two shots alike. Not only is every green a different sort of a shot, but the course runs its way through a citrus grove so that in season players may pick oranges from the trees as they go along.

Dickinson Comes West

The next meeting of the Green Section of the Central Ohio District Golf Association, 513 Chamber of Commerce Bldg., Columbus, Ohio, is to be held at Scioto Country Club on June 12th, under the leadership of Prof. L. S. Dickinson. His subject is "Greens and Fairway Mowers."

This meeting is to be opened to the public, and would appreciate it if you would announce it in your next edition of the National Greenkeeper, stating that the only charge will be for lunch. It will be necessary, however, for them to make a reservation, so that arrangements can be made for lunches.

WASHINGTON STRAIN BENT GRASS


HIRAM F. GODWIN
Box A, Redford Station
DETOIT, MICHIGAN

What They Say About—

10-6-4 TURF BUILDER
"We used Turf Builder on our greens last year and are using it again this year. Our experience has proved that Turf Builder is the ideal fertilizer for holding up color and developing healthy turf," writes Frank Balding, Greenkeeper at Sunny-side Golf Club, Decatur, Illinois.

O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO.
Golf Course Seeds
Marysville, Ohio