

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN TURF IN 1950

The standards of turf maintenance are much higher today than they were thirty years ago. The users of turf demand that it approach perfection.

The improvement of turf and the demand for that improvement have grown together. The program of turf research, education and extension that has been carried on cooperatively by the United States Golf Association Green Section and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, for the past thirty years, has resulted to a large extent from the demands of golfers and other turf users for improvement. At the same time, progress along the lines of better grasses, better management practices, and better pest control measures has provided items of interest for the users of turf and has stimulated their desire for higher standards of turf quality. We may say that research, education, and extension do much to satisfy the demands of turf users for improvement, but on the other hand that very improvement tends to increase the demand for higher standards. Turf research has been accelerated greatly in the years following World War II. About half the state agricultural experiment stations in the United States presently are engaged in some activity relating to turf. These states and their activities are listed elsewhere in this review.

It seems appropriate at this time to document the progress that has been made in turf research since its inception in this country and to establish a point of departure upon which to base subsequent turf research reviews.

Turf research, turf extension, and turf education are all interrelated and interdependent. The establishment of research fellowships provides an opportunity for the education of a graduate student in the field of turf (and for the training of a future leader) and it assures the accomplishment of a significant piece of research. Turf extension specialists disseminate new information that is developed by turf research workers - and they bring back to the research man their findings relative to problems that exist in practice and news of practical applications of research results. There is need for exceptionally close liaison between extension workers and research workers and there is need for the research and extension workers to cooperate in carrying on educational activities. Only by close cooperation among turf workers may the maximum benefit be derived from the research work that is being done.

The United States Golf Association's new book on Turf Management, H. B. Musser, editor, provides an excellent foundation for an understanding of our present position with regard to our knowledge and our accomplishments in the field of turf culture. This book is well suited for use as a text by the student and for use as a manual by the practical grower of turf. It may be regarded as a compendium of facts gained from the combined experiences of many practical men and from research findings of the various institutions which have conducted investigations in the field of turf.

Research is progressing at the present time at an accelerated rate. Some information has been developed since the publication of Professor Musser's book. It is the purpose of Turf Research Review to record the turf research efforts being expended and the results of that research, bringing our readers up to date.