

## T A R P - Turfgrass Adaptive Research Program - Clifford A. Wagoner

TARP has been in action for six years. Those of us who have been associated with it since its inception believe that a great deal of information useful to the golf course superintendent has been developed. The program was designed to tackle ongoing problems and disseminate the results of research to the clubs via group meetings and demonstrations. We are indebted to Bill Davis of the University of California Extension Service and the Board of Directors of the Northern California Golf Association for their support.

In July the TARP Committee will meet with Bill Davis to review where we are and the future. If any member has suggestions for projects which could be included voice your opinion to me or any member of the Board of Directors (GCSA of Northern California)

Bill Davis lists the results and accomplishments for the sixth year as follows:

### Second California Golf Course Superintendents' Institute

The second Institute of our proposed five year course of study for practicing superintendents was held for five days at Asilomar this past March. It takes a full year of planning working with speakers and superintendents to develop the type of educational experience we want for our superintendents. We trust the benefits of this Institute are reflected in the management of their individual courses. This year the entire program centered around Pest Control Management as related to the golf course. Enrollment was up to 52 superintendents. Some 23 different staff members participated for one or more days giving each superintendent the opportunity to listen, discuss, eat, and sleep with some of the best authorities in their respective fields. Next year our March Institute will deal with "Personnel and Personnel Management" - How to Communicate with Club Officials, Members and Employees to Produce the Best Golfing Facility.

### Putting Green Management by Topdressing

This major experimental project was carried out over the top of our experimental green. The U.S.G.A. contributed some funds over a two year period directly to Dr. John Madison to get this phase of research underway. A satellite project similar in scope was also carried out at the Rossmoor Golf Course in Walnut Creek. The basic work has been completed and one full evening at the March Institute was devoted to a discussion of results. Also a paper was submitted to the U.S.G.A. Greens Section Record for publication this spring. Final measurements will be taken this spring and our recommended practice will be superimposed over the entire experimental green for a long-term evaluation of the practice.

### Reducing and Relieving Compaction

Plans were well underway for several projects both on the campus and at two selected golf courses when we lost our technician. The two

campus projects have been re-established this spring and this coming fall we hope to re-establish the other field projects. The major one on campus will be done on a 20 year old student practice green. It was the original bentgrass turf plot John Madison established on campus in the early 1950's. Color motion pictures of the existing green will be taken over a two year period. We will attempt to make this weed and bermuda infested area into a year around good to excellent putting surface.

We also hope to use salary savings from this year's budget to purchase the new, deep (6 inch) positive piston aerator. Where rocks are not present, this machine may prove to be one of the best tools for renovating compacted areas so that a good stand of turf can be established and maintained.

#### Nutrition and the Experimental Green

Once we establish a uniform management system over the surface of the green, we will be able to study what nutrients are in the green and how much are being leached out of the green. The experimental green with its drainage systems is so constructed that all leachates from 1/3 of the green can be collected and analyzed. We will be managing the green for excellency as a putting surface with a minimum level of fertilization. At selected periods we will increase rates of nitrogen.

#### Removing Invading Bermuda Green Apron

While not planned as a project this year we were able to supply labor and funds to our Weed Control Specialist to set up three projects which we hope will be beneficial to many courses where bermuda is the basic fairway grass. The projects are located on the Peach Tree Golf Course in Marysville, North Ridge Golf Course in Sacramento and the main entrance to the Davis Campus Administration building. A new herbicide has been shown to give a quick (three week) and complete kill of bermuda as well as all other grass. The herbicide is translocated through the leaves to stolons and roots of the bermuda. Two weeks after a September application the area can be aerated, verticut and overseeded with desirable grasses. By taking 1/4 to 1/3 of the area around a green out of play for a short period of time, we could greatly reduce this management problem. This herbicide decomposes rapidly and does not sterilize the soil. Because of TARP this project went ahead.

#### Testing Sands and Mixes and Topdressing Material for Individual NCGA Courses

We have reactivated our program offered three years ago to run tests and evaluations for individual NCGA golf courses. Most golf courses are now actively practicing more frequent aeration and topdressing, and the supply of better sands for their greens may not be readily available. We have repaired our compacting equipment and tooled up our lab assistant to run these tests. To date we have not advertised this service except through farm advisor contacts with individual course superintendents. We are already spending considerable time rendering this service.

TO BE CONTINUED IN AUGUST NEWSLETTER