

That Man Who Makes the Grass Grow

Continued from Page 2
West, or Riviera.

Tugging on the other end of the rope are the recreational types who want the fairways widened, the rough cut short, and maybe even a couple of traps taken out. Why not make the course easier and more enjoyable, they reason.

Every golfer is a course designer just looking for a chance to show what he can do, and the superintendent is caught in the middle of a pack of experts who are, after all, his members. And if he's not careful, he might actually put some of their more vocal recommendations into effect thinking it's a chance to bring about some harmony, and *really* alienate everyone else.

Preventing this is relatively simple. The superintendent ought to answer to the golf and greens committees, and to no one else. And since the committees in most cases represent a cross-section of playing levels and therefore of "improvements" that should be made, clubs should set up regular meetings between the superintendent and the committees- or at least the committee chairs-where suggestions can be aired and debated in a constructive atmosphere.

And the superintendent? He'd be wise to make himself as visible as possible so he can get to know his employers-the members. It's not difficult. I know of one who makes it

a point to personally cut the cups on the practice green on Saturday and Sunday mornings, as a pretext for falling into conversation with the players. He feels it's a simple way to get a good idea of how satisfied they are with things, and a friendly way to learn their suggestions, which he himself can then bring to the committees.

Think of your superintendent as a referee, who can't possibly please all of the people all of the time. Think of him too as a professional, especially when it comes to delicate combinations like chemicals and turf. But for everyone's sake, don't think of him as just the man who makes the grass grow.

Article by John R. Johnson, a landscape architect with the golf course architecture firm of Arthur Davis and Associates in Gainesville, Georgia.

Article submitted by Rich Lavine, CGCS, Meadowood Resort, St. Helena.

GOLF DIVISION UPDATE

Sunnyvale's Golf Division is assisting the University of California Cooperative Extension Program with a creeping bentgrass variety trial. The project turf plot will be seeded in October 1989 and will run for at least three years; and based on the initial results, may be extended to five years.

The plot will be located at the Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course under the direction of **Dr. Ali**

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

Harivandi. The maintenance will be monitored daily by course superintendent **Pete Sandoval** and his staff. Support of this research was offered, and accepted by several interested vendors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Bill Tavener** of Pacific Sod, **Craig Stenehjen** of R.V.Cloud, **Ted Moore** of Shelton Transfer, **Don Naumann** of Sierra Pacific and **Mike Ginelli** from Westar, for their support of our industry and its future.

The bentgrass will be evaluated in three separate tests; a green established on native soil, a green established on modified sand, (USGA or similar soils), and a fairway test. Plot size will be one hundred square feet replicated three times. Each test will probably contain fifteen to twenty varieties.

Total square footage for each test would be approximately six thousand square feet. The seed will be provided by the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) which is sponsored by the USDA and Maryland Turfgrass Council. Follow up comments on their project will be offered by Ali and Pete on semi-regular basis.

Ken Saki, CGCS
Director of Golf & Tennis
City of Sunnyvale

INFORMATION WANTED

If you have an article you would like to see printed in the Golden State Fairways, please submit the

information to Jean LaDuc. The deadline for the next issue is March 1,1990. Quality colored slides or black and white photographs are needed.

MEMBERSHIP OCTOBER

PENDING EXAMS

CLASS A

Evaristo Hernandez, Jr.
King City
Rogelio Martinez
Salinas Fairways GC
Gregory Sherwood
Sea Ranch Golf Links
Jean LaDuc
Vets' Golf Course

Class B

Dana Waldor
Meadowood Resort Hotel
Roy Enos
Santa Rosa G&CC
Gary Feliciano
Corral de Tierra

LAKE CHABOT GOLF RESULTS

Low Gross

Scott Lewis	74
Romain Roberts	77
George Singh	78

Low Net

George Bell	65
John Lloyd	66
Rich Lavine	68