
JB VISITATIONS:

North Carolina - January

Presented talks before the Northern Carolina Turfgrass Conference on xeriscaping issues and new trends in sports turfs. A report was presented by a graduate student at North Carolina State University involving the cooling of greens by mechanical fans. The studies involved comparisons of various types of fans and their placement relative to the amount and uniformity of cooling that can be achieved. Will report more to you as soon as the first research paper is available.

Arizona - January

Participated as a speaker in the American Sod Producers Annual Winter Conference in Scottsdale, including a panel discussion on environmental issues, plus a talk on international highlights in sod production. American growers are very much interested in developments in other parts of the world. They also are very optimistic that a turnaround in the sod market has finally occurred in the United States after several slow years.

Texas - February

Participated in the International Golf Course Conference and Show at Dallas, sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Presented a two-day seminar on Basic Botany and Physiology of Turfgrasses followed by a lecture summarizing the second year of studies on rolling greens. A summary of that paper was included in the January-February Turfax™.

During the conference Dr. Jeff Krans presented a summary of some very interesting studies on algae problems of greens. The basic difficulties appear to be a diverse range of different species of algae that cycle in-and-out on putting greens throughout the growing

season. Perhaps this is one of the reasons the algae problem has been so difficult to control in the past.

One item generating considerable interest at the equipment show was battery powered triplex greenmowers. Environmentalists are raising the issue of noise problems on golf courses. The state of California has passed a law limiting the noise levels of turf equipment. Time will tell how widely this new innovation is used. Battery driven mowers are not new and in fact date back as far as the 1930's when the first units were commercially marketed for use on lawns, plus one walk-behind greenmower.

Minnesota - February

Participated as a speaker in a one-day clinic on nitrogen carriers in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There are winterkill problems of the low temperature kill type in the area. It is highly variable depending on how the cold fronts passed through and whether the ground was covered with snow when the severe early freeze occurred in late fall. Exceptionally low temperatures occurred quite early, with *Poa annua* greens being particularly prone to kill, if not covered with snow.

Also visited Dr. Don White at the University of Minnesota to observe their breeding program on annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). It is a very intriguing, one-of-a-kind program that has been under way for some time. Development of stable perennial cultivars is not a simple research problem. The on-going research is of great interest, but it will be some time before commercially available cultivars can be released.

DO THINGS EVER CHANGE?

"the putting greens have reached so high a standard that we have become spoilt and pampered" by Bernard Darwin in *Golf Courses*, Martin A.F. Sutton, editor, 1933.