

# Greenkeepers' Library

by DAVID WHITE



Harold Hilton: one of the great golfers of his day

**T**urfgrass Science, Agronomy Monograph 14', provided students, teachers, researchers, golf course managers and others with a source of information pertaining to the historical, technical and applied aspects of turfgrass science and management. Published in 1969, more copies of this have been sold than any other in the series. Now, the state-of-the-art information on turfgrass is available to you.

**Turfgrass, Agronomy Monograph 32**, updates some of the topics from the first monograph and offers detailed information on many new topics. As such, Turfgrass complements information contained in the earlier monograph and various turfgrass textbooks and reference books. The monograph is divided into five primary sections. The first explores the turfgrass industry and includes chapters on historical aspects of research and education, current status of the industry, and artificial turf. The turfgrass physiology section focuses on ecological aspects, energy relations and carbohydrate partitioning, and stresses due to salinity, temperature, shade, and traffic. The third section is on soils and water and emphasises soils and amendments, nutrition, fertilisation, water requirements, and irrigation. The management section offers chapters on energy conservation and efficient maintenance, integrated pest management, turfgrass management operations, and plant growth regulators. The last section addresses research techniques related to field and controlled-environment research, diseases, insects, weeds, and breeding.

The chapters include: 1. Turfgrass Science – Historical Overview, 2. The Turfgrass Industry, 3. Artificial Turf, 4. Ecological Aspects of Turf Communities, 5. Energy Relations and Carbohydrate Partitioning in Turfgrasses, 6. Salinity and Turfgrass Culture, 7. Physiological Effects of Temperature Stress, 8. Shade and Turfgrass Culture, 9. Effects of Traffic on Turfgrass, 10. Soils, Soil Mixtures, and Soil Amendments, 11. Nutritional Requirements and Fertilisation, 12. Water Requirements and Irrigation, 13. Energy Conservation and Efficient Turfgrass Maintenance, 14. Integrated Pest Management, 15. Turfgrass Management Operations, 16. Plant Growth Regulators and Turfgrass Management, 17. Field Research, 18. Controlled Environment Research Methods for Turfs, 19. Research Methods and Approaches to the Study of Diseases in Turfgrasses, 20. Methods of Research in Turfgrass Entomology, 21. Turfgrass Weed Science Research Methods, 22 Breeding Improved Turfgrasses. Though aimed essentially at the American market there is much that the British and European greenkeeper can learn from such a learned work, though I would have to admit that much of the technical data went straight over my head!

Published by the American Society of Agronomy, **Turfgrass Science, Agronomy Monograph 32**, hardback 828 pages, is available from the ASA, 677 South Segoe Rd, Madison, Wisconsin 53711-1086 USA. The cost is \$42.50 including postage. Prepayment in US dollars is required.

**H**arold Horsfall Hilton came to the golfing scene when golf was exploding into a popular sport with new clubs being started all over Great Britain. Hilton was to some extent a very private man but his famous win of The Open in 1892 brought him to the forefront of the great golfers of the day. Incredibly he won The Open again in 1897 before taking the Amateur Championship. He lost the finals of the Amateur Championships of 1891, 1892 and 1896 and it was not until 1900 that he first captured the trophy. Hilton went on to a repeat victory in the 1897 Open and also took the Amateur Championships of 1901, 1911 and 1913. He became the first and even now the only British player to win the US Amateur. Perhaps his greatest year was 1911 with his win of the Amateur Championship, a near miss in The Open and his victory at Apawamis, perhaps the greatest jewel in his crown, ending with the controversy of the 'rock' incident – which is fully explored.

The stories of these contests and all Hilton's other major tournament appearances are related in detail creating delightful sus-

pense as the events proceed. The author, John Garcia, has traced Hilton's golfing life and brings out his eccentricities, his achievements and his disappointments, giving a unique picture of one of the greatest ever amateurs. **Harold Hilton: His Golfing Life and Times**, is a lively account of perhaps the greatest British amateur golfer and of his contemporaries. It is enhanced by a foreword by Herbert Warren Wind.

Limited to 750 numbered and signed copies, **Harold Hilton: His Golfing Life and Times** is priced at £25 including postage, available from Grant Books, Victoria Square, Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 8DE.

**T**here can be no doubt that environmental issues raised in Britain are not likely to lessen or go away, even though we are perhaps a long way from having the draconian laws which our American cousins are forced to abide imposed upon us. Ours is perhaps a simpler task in a less complicated environment, for we have only a smattering of pests in number compared to those in the USA, and a far easier climate. Nevertheless, it is important that every golf course manager be properly armed in every aspect of his craft and environment is no different from any other. Thus I can recommend the latest American publication **Golf Course Management and Construction: Environmental Issues**, as being worthwhile armory.

The book is described as a summary and assessment of the technical and scientific research on the environmental effects of construction and management on turfgrass systems, though in running to 951 pages, I would have to say – some summary!

The book is organised into eight chapters. The intro provides an overview and historical perspective regarding turfgrass management and environmental quality. Chapter 2 discusses the relationship of turfgrass management to the critical issues of water resources and also focuses on the issues of water use, water quality, soil and water conservation, and movement within the water cycle. Chapters 3 and 4 provide a state-of-the-art scientific review and assessment of the literature regarding the environmental effects of nutrient and pest management practices. Chapter 5 provides an introduction to concepts necessary for development of integrated management systems for turfgrass. Chapter 6 covers the direct and indirect effects of golf course management and construction on wildlife and aquatic organisms. Chapter 7 is an introduction to the issues of conservation and protection of wetlands which is emerging as a critical environmental concern of the 1990s, whilst an appendix, Chapter 8, (418 pages!) contains tables of toxicity tests related to the effect of chemicals used for turfgrass management. Each of the chapters includes a section on research and information needed to resolve the issues surrounding the positive and potentially adverse effects of turfgrass management. The book's intention is not to suggest or recommend site-specific turfgrass management practices. However, the information presented may be used as an introduction to the general principles for evaluating the potential environmental effects of turfgrass management.

Good textbooks should always have a highly detailed index, though some publishers fail miserably in this aspect. I am pleased to say this book is awarded top points on that score, for like the aforementioned 'Turfgrass Monograph 32', it leaves nothing to chance: seek and ye shall find! One could hardly describe it as a 'good read' and certainly I didn't, indeed couldn't, read it from cover to cover in a single stretch. In places I found it unnecessarily complicated for my admittedly limited scientific taste, nevertheless I feel it has a place in our library as a useful tool of reference.

**Golf Course Management and Construction: Scientific Issues**, edited by James Balogh and William Walker, is published by Lewis Publishers, 121 S.Main St. PO Box Drawer 519, Chelsea, MI. 48118, USA. The cost is \$78 US currency, or may be ordered through any major bookshop in the UK, such as Foyles.