

## AN EXTENSION VISIT

Dr. William H. Daniel

One purpose of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation was to provide extension activities as well as basic research. The visit of Dr. Payne and myself to the Golf Courses in the Chicago Area on May 13-14-15 was in many respects the ideal visit.

Many thanks are due the committee who worked in planning a schedule to visit twenty courses Don Strand, Bob Williams, Al Johnson, Ray Gerber and many other superintendents went out of their way to help us see your conditions, and operations. The report at the associational meeting at Butterfield C. C. gave us an excellent chance to sum up a quick view of many courses.

Root penetration in our 50 putting greens was checked during the visits. Their depth of penetration may be divided, roughly, into 3 classes as follows: (1) Those with thatch and mat, which limited aeration, had only 4-6 inches of roots. (2) Those with ordinary aeration, and fair subsurface drainage had 8-10 inches of root penetration, usually into the subsoil material. (3) A few greens with good open topsoil, and excellent subsurface drainage had roots 11-14 inches deep. At that time, May 15, most of the greens had received no supplemental irrigation. Roots will grow in the area where the air-water relations are best, so if these deep roots are to retain during the summer, as much air will need to be encouraged in the soil as possible. How? (1) By aeration, to be sure both water and air can move into the soil. (2) By watering only enough to wet the soil—not keep it saturated. (3) By having a break in the water schedule long enough for the extra water in the soil to move out or be used by the roots and thus allow air to move in.

Poa Annuia is a severe problem all over the Midwest, and many of the greens in your district were surprisingly free from Poa. Those superintendents using a fast growing grass and one growing in late fall and early spring seemed less troubled. Toronto, C-15, creeping bent appeared very good; the fast growing Washington was very good. Cultural practices to control Poa are at best uncertain and safe chemical control are lacking as yet.

Several superintendents were interested in using poa trivialis on tees, particularly shady ones and mowing at one-half inch to keep it growing upright. Many courses now have a nursery where one year old "thin" sod is grown. This is cut very thin when placed on the green to get almost as smooth a surface as when stolons are used. With such sod green renovation can be accomplished in late fall and by opening date the green is playable.

Those are some of the ideas gleaned from a most enjoyable three days. Since visiting your district May 13-15 I have visited 7 others (by June 15) and certainly you are to be commended on the excellent organization and the interest in improvement as reflected in the excellent condition of your golf courses, even with labor shortages



## COMING EVENTS

Association Picnic Arrowhead C. C., Wheaton, Ill. July 23, 1951. Bill Oates our host.

The August meeting—Roselle C. C., Roselle, Illinois. August 6, 1951. George Roloff our host.

Joint meeting Midwest and Wisconsin Greenkeepers Association, Fox Lake C. C., Fox Lake, Illinois. Bill Krafft our host.

N.G.S.A. Championship Tournament—Purdue University Golf Course, Sept. 17-18, 1951.

Pro-Superintendent Tournament—St. Andrews C. C., Oct. 1, 1951. Joe Jemsek and Amos Lapp our hosts.

## NEW MATERIALS FOR CRABGRASS CONTROL

D. E. Snyder, Horticulturist, Standard Oil Co. Ind.

Among the newer products now available for use in controlling crabgrass in lawns and other turf areas is STANDARD Crabgrass Spray, a Standard Oil Company (Indiana) product. This product is a straight petroleum, oil-base, selective action herbicide. The herbicidal action of the oil is confined, with the exception of bent grass, entirely to crabgrass thus making the product safe for use on most lawns. The product is applied undiluted—just as it comes from the package.

The killing action of STANDARD Crabgrass Spray is gradual, the final results not being immediately apparent. Within a week after the first application crabgrass plants will start to turn red or purplish in color, then shade into yellow, with most of them injured so badly they will soon die. Following the second or third application (15 to 30 days following the first) all the crabgrass plants will die, becoming dry and brown. Even if the amount of spray applied is slightly less than recommended and complete kill is not obtained, the crabgrass plants will be stunted, turn red or purplish in color, and will not produce seed. It must be realized that ungerminated crabgrass seeds already in the soil may remain alive for two or three years. As a result of the germination of these seeds over this two or three year period, it may take some time to achieve complete eradication of this pest from your lawn. The purpose of the second and third applications are to insure complete control by furnishing a knockout blow to those plants that may be injured but not killed by the first application and to kill young plants which have come from seeds germinated after the first application.

Under ordinary circumstances STANDARD Crabgrass Spray will produce no injurious effects on the desirable lawn grasses—blue grass, red top, fescue and clover. Since bent grasses are of an extremely sensitive nature, the use of STANDARD Crabgrass Spray is not recommended where bent comprises the predominant stand of grass in the lawn or turf area.

At least two and not more than three applications are required to provide excellent control. For most effective control, spraying should be delayed until one is reasonably sure that most of the seed germination which is going to occur during that particular growing season has taken place. The first application should not be delayed beyond the time when the oldest crabgrass plants have spread out and show some indication of seed head formation. The recommended rate for application is one quarter per one-hundred square feet of lawn area. At this rate one gallon is adequate to provide treatment of an area of two-hundred square feet for an entire season.

Dr. Burford Grigsby of Michigan State College has been very active in the experimental and testing program which led to the development of STANDARD Crabgrass Spray. For this reason the product was sold in Michigan only in the 1950 season. Because of the extremely favorable results reported both by customers in Michigan and by test cooperators throughout the Midwest last year, the sale of STANDARD Crabgrass Spray has been extended, for the 1951 season, to encompass most of the Midwest, including the area cover-



Warren Roseman recently attended a Heart of America Greenkeeping Association meeting held at Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas. A turf experiment station was established there this spring by Dr. Pickett and Professor Keene of the College. Plots 10' x 30' have been established and each individual plot will be cut at varying heights with light watering practices. Chet Mendenhall of the local group was speaker of the day. Guest speakers were the College president and Dr. O. J. Noer. After reviewing the turf plots, an equipment demonstration was held. ed by this publication.