

A LETTER FROM FRED GRAU, Director of the U.S. Golf Association Green Section.

Dear Bert. (Rost)

I Was mighty pleased to receive your letter of July 11 and to hear about what you have done in connection with the University of Illinois at the Morton Arboretum at Lisle, Illinois. This sounds like real progress. Much credit is due the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents for bringing this development about. I recall with interest discussing this very subject with Harold Clemens, Frank Dinelli and others when I was at the Green Section Turf Gardens on the Lasker Estate in 1931. This is a sounder proposition because it will be supported by and supervised by your own state experiment station.

Quite naturally we are very much pleased that you have given us an opportunity to work with you and with the University in developing the plans for the turf gardens. It is so extremely important to lay sound plans for years to come and you may be assured of our complete cooperation in developing these plans, in furnishing planting materials and anything else that makes for further progress.

I have every expectation of being called back to the University of Illinois Golf Course at Champaign in the near future. At the same time, I may be called upon to consult with the athletic department concerning their football field. It would be an ideal situation if we could go into the development of plans for the turf garden at the same time. The man who has arranged for me to come out in the past is Mr. Webb, Manager of the golf course. I have two open dates for planning something around this visit. I have some free time starting August 13 and again September 17, which I tied up with the turf field days at Purdue. I shall bend every effort to make it possible to discuss plans with Dean Searles, Dr. Weinert, Dr. Tehon, and Dr. Birkland as soon as possible. I am assuming of course that the Midwest Turf Research Committee would sit in on and pass on all plans in collaboration with the officials of the University and with the USGA Green Section.

I am looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to working with you folks in developing these plans.

Yours for better turf,  
Fred Grau.

## TURF REPORT

Grub damage is very widespread thruout the Chicago district from the farthest north to the far south side and thruout the west. Grubs in all stages are found in fairways and roughs and are serious even in watered fairways. Fairways that have been treated with Sodium Arsenite are apparently grub proofed during this, the worst infestation in recent years. The favorite control is to apply 10 pounds of technical Chlordane to the acre. All formulations seem to be effective.

## CALLS FOR LEGISLATION TO REGULATE RAINMAKING

Rainmakers producing rain artificially in distant states may be responsible for the Missouri and Kansas floods, according to Sen. Case of South Dakota.

He called for a congressional investigation to determine whether the rain makers are to blame, and for legislation to regulate rain making.

Silver iodide was used in "seeding" clouds in New Mexico in 1949 and 1950 and simultaneously serious floods occurred in the Mississippi valley.

Rain makers have been seeding enormous areas this year in Oregon, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and the Dakotas. The silver iodide mist may have drifted down wind from the northwest, causing the floods.

Sen. Case said that Dr. Irving Langmuir, Nobel prize winning scientist of the General Electric company, has reported that the seeding in New Mexico affected rainfall as far east as Buffalo, N. Y. He said another G. E. scientist Dr. Bernard Vonnegut, has told a Senate committee that silver iodide might affect the weather 2,000 miles away.

Rain makers have been hired this year by farmers' organizations in dry areas.

---

Editor's Note: Wonder if golf courses will ever hire rainmakers.

---

Brown patch is the main hot weather disease on bent greens. It and the other principal turf diseases are caused by parasitic fungi, otherwise known as mold. A plentiful supply of moisture promotes the growth of fungi. For example, mold never appears on sale bread, but is common on fresh bread stored in a damp atmosphere. The difference in moisture content is the reason. Likewise with grass, brown patch is worse where turf stays wet and soil contains an excess of water than where grass leaves are kept dry and soil moisture is just below the optimum content for growth.

Where overwatering is the rule, time of watering is immaterial. The over-wet soil aggravates disease. But where the correct amount of water is used, early morning watering is best in hot periods of high humidity where heavy dew is a daily occurrence. Watering then destroys the dew droplets and dries the grass. This tends to check disease. Night time watering makes and keeps the soil and grass wetter so by withholding water until early morning the effect is to keep soil and grass drier and make for less disease.

O. J. Noer

---

The Chicago Golf Club, located on the Northern edge of Texas and well out on the Western edge of the Chicago Suburban area was the scene of an old time cattle round up early Thursday the 16th of August. 23 cows from a near by dairy got loose on the course, milled around No. 16, 2 and 5 greens, making mud holes of these greens. Nels and his crew of trusty and howling Cow Pokes riding the light course trucks without saddles, rounded up the cattle and rode night herd on them until the owner's representative appeared thru the morning haze, accused Chicago Golf of rustling and drove his herd away. The club manager watched the potential T Bones disappear over the hills with tears in his eyes and Nels went out to supervise the working in to the greens of the vast supply of natural free fertilizer. If the greens seem to be especially verdant during our October meeting we will all know why.