

RESULTS OF LIFE INSURANCE PROPOSAL

The results of the vote taken by members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association by mail ballot upon the proposal for the adoption of a group insurance plan and the increase in annual dues to cover the cost of the premium for the same showed results as follows:

Total votes cast	379
Voided ballots	5
For the adoption of a group life insurance plan ...	252
Against the adoption of a group insurance plan	122

As the vote indicated the adoption of the proposal, the group life insurance plan will become effective January 1, 1953, and each member in good standing of this Association will be issued an insurance policy in the amount of \$1,000.00. A \$15.00 increase in the annual dues will also become effective January 1, 1953.

—O—

SHADE TREE DISEASES IN ILLINOIS

In recent years three destructive diseases have struck shade trees in Illinois. One is slowly being checked. The other two not only remain unchecked, but appear to be spreading.

Two are diseases of elm trees. The most widespread is called phloem necrosis, a virus disease. Spread by a small insect called a leaf hopper, it has caused the destruction of thousands of elm trees in cities and towns downstate.

The second is Dutch elm disease, a fungus ailment spread by the European bark beetle. It first appeared on a single tree on the eastern side of central Illinois in 1950. Last year the infection was found to have spread to 8 to 10 trees between Champaign and Lawrenceville.

Dr. L. R. Tehon, chief botanist with the Illinois Natural Survey, Urbana, reports that this year six trees infected with Dutch elm have been found in Urbana-Champaign. Several others are known to exist between those cities and the state borders.

The third disease is oak wilt, a fungus that attacks oak trees. No oak is exempt. The fungus is so devastating that it kills trees of the red oak group in a single season.

Of this trio, oak wilt is the only one that has appeared in the Chicago area. It has destroyed scores of oaks in the Cook county forest preserve district.

Although scientists are working hard on the three tree scourges, they have thus far failed to find a cure for any of them. Attempts to control the two elm diseases have comprised spraying trees with DDT to kill the insects that act as carriers. These are preventive measures, not cures.

There is not even a preventive spray for oak wilt. Most effective control measures thus far consist of destroying and burning infected trees and trenching around them to cut roots and prevent spread of the disease thru root grafts with other trees. Oak wilt is known to spread thru root grafts and it is possible that birds and perhaps insects also may help transmit the disease, altho this is not definitely known.

Dr. Tehon reports that of the three, phloem necrosis is the only one that seems to be slowing down in this state. With the exception of an isolated patch of infection in Rockford, phloem necrosis has not been found north of a line extending thru Danville, Urbana, Bloomington and westward. Scientists now believe climatic conditions in northern Illinois are not conducive to its spread there.

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT OF THE G.C.S.A.

The Annual Golf Tournament of the Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held at the Columbus Country Club, Columbus, Ohio, on Monday and Tuesday, September 22 and 23, 1952.

The host group will be the Central Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association. Committees in charge are; Prizes & Golf; John Zoller, Jack Kidwell, Herbert Grozinger. Publicity; Clyde Hodson. Entertainment; Jack Kidwell, William Utzinger, Lawrence Huber.

The Tournament will include five flights; Championship Flight, Senior Flight, Team Flight (best four scores of members of the same district association), Associate member Flight, and Guest Flight. Also Blind Bogey. All players must show GCSA membership cards at No. 1 tee.

Registration fee has been set at \$15.00 and includes two noon meals and the banquet at the Club, golfing fees and prizes. Entertainment for the ladies is being planned, so pack them along with the clubs and let's have a big turnout.

—O—

ASPHALT MULCH PROTECTION

A thin coating of hot asphalt sprayed on new seeding immediately after seed is sown is the quickest way to get the grass seedlings started.

Prof. H. M. Smith, soils technician at the University of Illinois, has tested the spray over a three year period and believes it's an excellent answer to the old problem of holding soil, seed and fertilizer in place until the seedling grasses are well established.

The asphalt makes a dry covering less than 1/16-inch thick which does not stick to your feet. Grass comes right thru this covering.

Recommended spraying rates are from two to three-tenths of a gallon per square yard and slightly more on steep slopes. The asphalt stops the soil from washing while the seedling develop, but breaks down within a year. No bad effects on the soil have been found.

In the tests, Smith observed that seeding under asphalt sprays always came up a week or two earlier than on untreated check plots, a point to remember for fall seedings.

The black asphalt seems to absorb more heat and seal in some of the moisture, producing earlier germination. Yet enough small cracks develop in the coating to let moisture in. It's best to sprinkle the area before seeding and coating in dry weather.

Smith warns that ordinary road construction asphalts should not be used for this purpose. Special "asphalt mulches," produced by oil companies, have given good results in the tests.

At recommended rates of application, Smith figures the cost would be 5 to 8 cents a square yard, in some cases, cheaper than a straw mulch and the asphalt won't blow away and there is no danger of fire or weeds.

The cut back asphalt mulch must be heated to 170 degrees and sprayed, not sprinkled on the soil.

—O—

Ray Gerber, Information Committee Chairman, says that the Midwest survey answers are not coming in as fast as he would like. Send them in, boys.

—O—

Lawrence Marczinski, Supt. of Rolling Green Country Club, did an outstanding job of clover control last fall. Larry used 2-4,5,T. and according to those who have visited his club this spring, there just isn't any clover left.