

MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF FOUNDATION TURF CONFERENCE

The conference at Purdue on March 2-4 had a total registration of 342 and in the estimation of this writer it was the best of a long string of outstanding turf conferences held at Purdue. Often holding a dim view of Superintendent participation at these conferences, we saw the light at this one. The boys did a splendid job in the role of panel members on various subjects and we think these panel discussions were the high point of the conference. These smaller groupings of the men interested in various subjects certainly were much more favorably received by those attending than the general conference meetings. All in all it was a great conference and our hats are off to Dr. Bill Daniel and those assisting him. We were very happy to see the return of Dr. Gerald Mott as M.R.T.F. treasurer succeeding Dr. Kenyon Payne, who had left Purdue. Dr. Mott was instrumental in founding the Foundation and organized the first conferences. We consider ourselves very fortunate to associate with him again.

At the Foundation Membership meeting the following were elected to serve as directors; C. O. Borgmeier, Leo Bauman and Frank Dunlap. At the Directors meeting Taylor Boyd was selected as President to succeed retiring President Mal McLaren and Frank Dunlop was selected as Vice Pres.



THE MARCH MEETING

The meeting was held at Acacia Country Club with Herman Drafke as our host. The meeting was called for two o'clock in the afternoon and there were 40 members and guests in attendance. There was quite a discussion at the meeting pertaining to the date of the National Turf Conference and Show to be held in Miami in 1954. Also there was discussion as to how the conference should be scheduled and our Association went on record as favoring three or four half days of educational conference instead of two full days and as favoring holding the National golf tournament at Miami either before or after the Turf Conference and Show. Bob Williams, Educational Chairman, presented the following men from the Rustoleum Paint Company who gave a very interesting talk and pictures on coating wire fences with their paint. They were Pete Simmons, Steve Serbula, Jim De Boer, Ray Le Grande and Herb Lund. We were treated to a most delicious roast beef dinner and our sincere thanks go to Herman Drafke and the Acacia manager for such a splendid meeting.



ROSEMAN SPRING OUTING AND EQUIP- MENT DEMONSTRATION

Warren Roseman announces that the Roseman Tractor Equipment Co. is having a Spring Outing and Outdoor Equipment demonstration on Monday, May 4, 1953 at Chesterfield Country Club, Glenview, Ill., from 11:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. and extends an invitation to all Superintendents and club officials to attend. Warren will have the new Ford Tractor and a complete line of equipment and will demonstrate them all. There will be refreshments, noon buffet lunch, all on the house.

NEW WONDERS OF PLANT WORLD ARE CONFUSING

If you are confused over the many kinds of insecticides, fungicides, and other "wonders" which we are being bombarded with today, you are not alone.

Never have we been offered so many improved things to make our job "easier". We have super-insecticides, super-fungicides, super-fertilizers, super-grasses and a lot of other super-supers.

Several thousand insecticides alone have been registered with the Agriculture Department. Although only a few of these are in common use, the testing of them goes on. When one shows promise it is offered for sale, and an advertising campaign is started to acquaint the public with the new product. New products have been added recently to increase the confusion; growth retarders, soil conditioners, systemic insecticides and chelated fertilizers.

But don't let all this stuff throw you. We'll all come out on top in the long run if we can just live long enough. The scientists who are working out these new chemicals that are changing the agricultural picture are themselves having growing pains. (Don't tell anybody, but these fellows are just about as confused as you and I. They've got a bear by the tail and now must find a way to let him go.)

We have seen many agricultural wonders during the past decade. The latest is the soil conditioner. This chemical when applied to clayey soils changes their condition as though you had mixed peat with the earth.

The growth retarder, which we are starting to hear about, also looks promising for us in special situations, such as on traps, along banks of streams and other hard to cut spots. We are a little skeptical about it being any good for the grass, for we all know that any plant must grow to live. However, we have an open mind and are willing to be shown.

Chelated minerals is another discovery which comes to us from Florida. These chelated minerals have an important property. They cannot combine with other minerals that are in the soil to make insoluble and inert compounds.

The so-called "wonder insecticide", DDT, was thought highly of when it first came out. Claims were made for this stuff which proved to be fantastically optimistic. But if DDT did not live up to all the claims made for it, we have other insecticides which promise to do even better.

These are the phosphatic insecticides. They were developed in Germany, and the Nazis intended to use them on their enemies, namely us. Modified formulas of these deadly chemicals were developed and they are now widely used in agriculture and horticulture.

Parathion is one of the phosphatic insecticides. It is highly poisonous to humans as well as to insects, and must be handled with great care. A related product, malathion, is extremely poisonous to insects, but is less toxic to humans than is parathion. These, incidently, are the only insecticides which are effective against nearly all scale insects.

Another phosphatic insecticide is being used as a "systemic poison" in the fight against insects. The chemical is sprayed on the foliage and is absorbed by the plant parts. An aphid, for instance, can poison himself by sucking the juice from the plant.

The fungus preventing chemicals also are very effective.

So, although the picture looks very confusing right now, like the product of a mad artist, the future looks pretty bright. All we need is a little patience and the constitution to keep us living a long time.