

## THE QUESTION BOX

(taken from our Aug. 10th meeting, educational prog.)  
Panel members, Bill Stuppel, Emil Cassier, Frank Mastroleo, Frank Dinelli, Geo. A. Davis.  
Moderator, Bob Williams.

Q. Why does Poa Annuua go out on turf areas adjacent to putting surfaces right to the line where the putting green mower cuts and yet the Poa seems to survive rather well on the close cut green?

A. Several clubs reported various ways that they would make a project for University research. We think it might be a matter of compaction, power mower abrasion or merely a height of cut factor.

Q. What are the results with Merion blue grass on local courses up until this time?

A. Straight Merion is doing well at various heights and with varied cultural practises, in both tees and fairways. Mixed with bent, the bents are crowding out the Merion.

Q. What chemical should be used for crabgrass on fairways and in rough?

A. PMAS has been doing a promising job on various areas when applied as per manufacturers recommendations.

Q. What might be done about "MONDAY GOLF" at the clubs where employees bring in excessive numbers of guests and show little or no consideration for the course and its upkeep.

A. Several clubs reported various ways that they are trying to stop unauthorized use of the courses on Mondays when the club is considered to be closed. Some of the means were, using written passes issued by the Pro, Manager or Supt. Opening the club to regular membership play on Monday the same as any other day, stop all play of employees and guests.

Q. Is there any control for pythium blight on established turf?

A. Calo-chlor and other mercuries have been reported to stop the disease. Also Cadmium compounds and dusting with lime have reportedly given control. Usually the damage has been done before control may be affected. Guarding against super saturation of the soil is best preventive measure.

Q. We have a green that is constructed with a soil that is very heavy with organic matter and have difficulty in dry and wet periods with the turf puffing and sinking. Will topdressing help this condition?

A. Yes, if you work out some of the thatch in the Fall or Spring and then topdress.

Q. When is the best time to seed bent seed?

A. Last two weeks in August and the first two weeks in September.

Q. What is considered a good soil nutrient level for August?

A. Moderate rather than high or low.

Q. I have two new greens to rebuild, what soil mixture should I use?

A. It will depend entirely upon the base soil that you start with. The final mixture should be about 30 % coarse sand, 30 % humus and 40 % loam.

Q. Is there any advantage in raising the height of cut of green mowers during hot humid weather?

A. A poll of those present showed a ratio of 4 to 3 in favor of leaving the mowers at the same height throughout the season. However, many strains of bent will not tolerate 3/16ths inch cut in hot weather and in the maintenance of these species it becomes necessary to raise the mowers or kill off the bent.

Q. How can you avoid crabgrass infestation in turf.

A. When arsenate of lead was used as an insecticide we rarely had trouble with crabgrass in the turf. Since we have started using chlordane for an insecticide we now notice that the crab is coming in. rMAS chemical seems to be doing a good job in controlling crabgrass. It is near to impossible to keep out crabgrass without chemical application.

Q. How can grounds chairman answer members that compare other courses to their own as to expenditures and conditions?

A. Establish an educational program within the club so as to keep the membership informed as to the problems and the program that you are following to improve existing conditions. Try to keep your membership turf conscious through timely letters, pictures on the bulletin board and a well informed grounds committee.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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### MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF FOUNDATION FIELD DAY, AUGUST 3, 1953.

Bill Daniel, the genial executive Secretary of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, presided at the Field Day of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, on Monday, August 3rd.

On the evening before, the directors gathered at the Union Building for a business meeting. This meeting was accompanied by a violent rain and wind storm which greened up the turf for the next days meeting, but greatly contributed to almost unbearable heat and humidity during Monday. The tour began at 9:00 at the experimental putting green on the campus where different strains of bent on different soil textures under various fertilizing practices and disease prevention treatments made this stop most interesting and educational. The whole green was in excellent shape. Around the collar of green, an attack of Curvularia in the Merion Blue Grass turf had Bill Daniel a little discouraged.

Then came the clover control plots where most excellent results have been obtained with the use of 2, 4, 5-T.

At the Lafayette Country Club, quite extensive plots on crab grass control were inspected. Lafayette, Indiana, is really in crab grass territory and we hope the Foundation will come up with some real control recommendations.

At the Purdue Experimental Farm the group was then shown experimental plots with the Zoysias, Bermuda Grasses, Merion Blue Grass and the more commonly known lawn grasses. All of these plots under various fertilization and watering practices were most interesting. We might say that at Lafayette, Indiana, Zoysia Grasses, Bermuda Grasses, Bents, Merion Blue Grass and also Kentucky Blue Grass plots were outstanding. Some of the other grasses didn't seem to like the 100° days that Lafayette is blessed with in the summertime.

It was most heartening to have 168 attend the Field Day. For next year it is planned to have a divided meeting, having the Southern districts come in on one day and the Northern districts on the second day. This should reduce the size of the individual groups and give more time for discussion as well as better hearing and observation. It was also thought best to have the Field Day in the future in September rather than August when many golf superintendents do not care to leave their wards for several days.

C. O. Borgmeier