

## NOTES ON MIDWEST TURF FOUNDATION FALL FIELD DAYS.

Members of our association who travelled to Purdue University on September 28, were most pleased with Bill Daniel's turf plots and with his lecture on experiments being done and results.

In the morning we inspected the experimental putting green on the campus. Probably the most outstanding bent on the green at the present time is Pennlu creeping bentgrass (10(37)4). This grass has been released by Professor Musser of Pennsylvania State University and a large amount of stolons should be available in 1955. Dr. Daniel explained what he was doing in the way of fungicide trials and *Poa Annua* control studies.

Crabgrass control studies on No. 7 fairway of the University golf course were most interesting and encouraging. A preventive approach is being tried. In other words, kill the weed with chemicals just as it sprouts. Experiments with different chemicals showed a variety of success with several of them giving a great deal of promise. Applications were made monthly for three months, April, May and June.

In the afternoon we assembled at Purdue Agronomy Farm for inspection of plots there.

In the lawn grass varieties plots Merion bluegrass was outstanding.

Seedbed weed control plots showed variations in the effect of different rates of applications of Aero Cyanamid. Then three were plots where Methyl Bromide seedbed sterilization experiments were carried out as well as seedbed cleanup with Aero Cyanamid, Hi-Test Cyanamid and Sodium Cyanamid.

*Zoyzia* plantings attracted much attention and the men were really thrilled when they saw the two small plots of a hybrid *Zoyzia* known as 34-34 and 34-35. These *Zoyzias* are much finer than the Meyer and really look like something good. A number of those present could not resist the temptation to take a little of it home for trial plantings on their own.

The meeting certainly was worth attending and we were much impressed by the progress made by Dr. Daniel and his fellow workers of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation. Our many thanks to Bill Daniel and our congratulations on a job well done.

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## THE SPECIAL MEETING AT SOUTHMOOR

Some 55 members gathered at Southmoor Country Club, Bill Krafft, host, on Tuesday, October 19. There was a special golf tournament in the afternoon in which 30 participated, dinner in the evening and the special meeting called for the purpose of voting on the proposed amendment to our by-laws pertaining to membership. Voting was by secret ballot and there not being a two thirds majority as required by our by-laws in favor of the change, the proposal was rejected by our association members.

## PRIZE WINNERS

GOLF. 1. Don Strand, 2. El Pruess, 3. Emil Mashie, 4. Dom Grotti, 5. Floyd Sander, 6. Dave Mastroleo.

DOOR PRIZES. 1. Al Rauch, 2. Norm Kramer, 3. Roy Chaplin, 4. Elmer Lemke, 5. Bob Breen, 6. Ray Gerber.

## DUTCH ELM DISEASE IN NORTHERN ILL.

Illinois' elm trees are suffering from the same ailment that has killed thousands of trees in the eastern United States- Dutch elm disease. This disease was found the first time in Illinois in 1950 when one infected elm was discovered a few miles east of Mattoon. In 1951, 11 diseased trees were found; 24 were discovered the following year, and in 1953 the number of cases jumped to 495. Reports from this year are not yet complete, but enough have been verified to show that spread of the disease is continuing.

From the point of the first infection near Mattoon, the disease has spread widely. By the end of the 1953 season it was known to be present in twelve counties in the eastern half of the State, extending from the Illinois-Kentucky line northward to Onarga. By mid-summer of 1954 it had moved northward to Kankakee, where more than 50 infected elms were found, and to Peotone and Joliet. This fall an infected tree was found in Highland Park, and just recently, a case was found on the western outskirts of Chicago.

Thus, the disease is close to home and the many other communities of Northern Illinois, where elm is the dominant shade and street tree species. In this entire area measures should be instituted now that will tend to prevent the disease becoming established, and which will minimize the control work needed should infections occur.

The organism responsible for the Dutch elm disease is a fungus which invades the tissues, causing wilting and discoloration of foliage and death of the tree. It is carried from an infected to a healthy elm by two species of bark beetle - principally, the smaller European elm bark beetle and, to a lesser extent, the native elm bark beetle. The adults of both species are about 1/10 of an inch in length and brownish black in color. They infest weakened and dying elm trees, and dead elm wood to which the bark adheres. Over-wintering as larvae, or borers, just beneath the bark, they reach maturity and emerge in the early spring. Upon emergence the beetles fly to healthy elms and feed on the tender bark in the crotches of twigs. Thus, if they have emerged from Dutch elm diseased wood, they may carry the spores of the fungus on their bodies and introduce the disease into the healthy elm. A second period of emergence occurs about midsummer.

The best method known at present of combatting the Dutch elm disease consists of measures directed against these beetles. They include (1) Pruning dead and dying branches from healthy elms; (2) Removal of dead and declining elms and burning the wood or treating it otherwise to render it unsuitable for habitat by the beetles; (3) Treating elm wood in town dumps or woodpiles in similar manner; (4) Applying insecticidal sprays with residual properties just prior to the period of beetle emergence; and (5) Keeping the trees in as healthy condition as possible through fertilization and other approved cultural practices.

Of primary importance, at least until the disease is actually present in the community is the elimination of the breeding places of the beetle. Removal and destruction of dead and dying elm wood-whether it occurs as branches, standing dead trees or in woodpiles - accomplishes this. Such tree sanitation is beneficial under any circumstances - it is a vital necessity when attempting to control the Dutch elm disease.

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