

A. It has been found that approximately 1 inch of water per week is necessary for the average putting green. If fairways and greens are to be watered, it may be necessary to have a pump capable of pumping 500 gallons per minute.

Q. What height would you mow greens and how often during the hot spell?

A. Greens should be mowed not higher than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, preferably $\frac{3}{16}$ inch and should be mowed every day if possible. However, greens mowing should be done early in the morning and never during the heat of the day.

Q. What is the best grass for fairways?

A. This depends on whether the fairways are watered. If there is no water, the bluegrasses are the best, at least in this district. On watered fairways, the bents have been found to be the best in the Chicago area.

Q. What is the best seed to use on tees?

A. If tees are cut short, bent and Merion bluegrass are the best, although Zoysia is being tried out on several courses in this area with promising results. Where tees are cut longer, Kentucky bluegrass can be used.

Q. How is Pythium controlled?

A. Pythium usually appears when soil moisture, soil temperature and humidity are high. Pythium is very hard to control, although it is reported that some of the newer fungicides show promise. Hydrated lime has been used with some success on infected turf.

GOLF WINNERS

1 Low Gross - Stan Arendt, 73

Low Net - 1 Frank Mastroleo, 2 Jock MacIntosh, 3 Cliff Rasmussen, 4 Chuck Daugherty, 5 Bob Freske, 6 Dom Grotti, 7 Julius Buchen, 8 Emil Cassier, 9 Pete Simmons, 10 Al Schaper, 11 Al Staudt, 12 Warren Roseman, 13 Jerry Transier, 14 Ed Burke, 15 Gordon Brinkworth, 16 Ed Wohlenberg.

Guest Prize, John Pratt.

The following is a reply from Leonard Strong to our Secretary in regard to our request for more information on National Policy Committee proposals as to increase in dues and the addition of a paid Director.

Dear Al:

1. In the July issue of the REPORTER, Frank Dunlap gave the reasons why a proposal for an increase in dues should be taken up with the Policy Committee as suggested by the Board.

2. I was responsible for the idea of a paid Director as I presented it to the Board. There was not to be any discussion among the locals at this time. They were only to receive information that a committee had been formed by Bill Beresford to get full data. I was appointed Chairman.

If we are successful in our expectations, this so-called paid or Technical Director will not be paid by our association. Monies will come from other sources, but the Technical Director will be controlled by our association. His duties will be (1) promotion of our association and its members, (2) to correlate all information from turf research for the benefit of our members, (3) to work in unison with the USGA. (4) to assist young men in the art of golf course maintenance. These are some of the items.

Hope these few lines help to satisfy your request.

Sincerely,

Leonard Strong

We received a letter from Fred Grau correcting us on the article of Zoysia in the last issue. Frank Dinelli received the seed from Fred and it was Z-73 and not Meyer. However, upon inquiry we find that Frank received some Meyer from a different source and the turf he now has is a mixture of Meyer and Z-73. Sorry to have made the mistake, Fred.

The summer of 1955 will, no doubt, go down in the records as one of the hottest and, from a golf course superintendent's point of view, one of the most difficult in a number of years. After a fairly normal spring, there were 12 days straight in June that it rained. After that it turned dry and then the heat started. From the first of July thru at least to the end of August it has been hot and, most of the time, humid. Damage to turf was terrific during the end of July and first part of August. Poa Annua went out worse than it has for many years. Pythium, Brown Patch and Melting Out damaged bent turf which was slow to recover. To add to our woes, some courses drawing water from municipalities have been severely rationed due to water shortage. In a number of cases this was disastrous with Poa Annua dying out and which could have been saved with water applied at proper times. As a result many fairways show a motheaten appearance and although we know the Poa comes back the turf looks bad at the present time. Fungus troubles were with us for a long period and one fungicide after another was tried without complete control in many cases. Pythium was more prevalent this summer than for a number of years. This is explained by the high temperatures of the soil due to hot days and also hot nights. Coupled with this was the high humidity which made things just right for the growth of the fungus. Heat and drouth have continued thru August with no relief in sight. Greens which had been overwatered or which were poorly drained suffered the most. Most of the superintendents in the Chicago District have been hand watering thru the day to cool the turf by lowering soil temperatures. In some cases almost all watering to greens was done by hand and in our opinion greens properly watered by hand have come thru the summer in the best condition.

DRY WEATHER IMPROVES SOIL

Drought is a plague to all plantsmen, but it appears there is some good in all things, even in drought. According to H. H. Krusekopf, soil scientist of the University of Missouri, drought improves the soil making it more workable and actually more productive. Complete drying, he says, destroys the water film that normally surrounds soil particles, causing them to move together and form aggregates and granules. This, in turn, results in a higher percentage of pore space in the soil, better soil aeration and, when the rains come again, more moisture absorption and better plant growth. The granulating effect of drought is most apparent and most beneficial in clay soils, and may persist for two or more years following termination of the dry weather. The effects of drying and freezing soils are similar, except that freezing makes only the surface soil more friable while drying affects both the surface and the subsoil.