

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Approximately 175 golf course superintendents enjoyed the hospitality and facilities provided by the George A. Davis Co. and Mr. Oscar Borgmeier on Jan. 5th, at which time we held our regular monthly meeting. An excellent corned beef and cabbage dinner was provided along with all the trimmings. Mr. George G. Groman of the International Harvester Co. was the after dinner speaker and spoke on "How other people talk." Again thanks to all those who were responsible for this event.

During the business meeting Sect. Donald Gerber read a letter which he had received from the G. C. S. A. A. in which they stated that in accordance to their by-laws it is mandatory that 60 percent of our members be in good standing, in other words to have paid their G.C.S.A.A. dues in order to be able to be represented by a delegate at the National Conference. This is an important matter and we hope that we will qualify. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated. Here at Sycamore Park machinery repair and painting are progressing. We keep three regular employees the year around which is a big improvement from the early days when we hired new employees each spring. I am sure if we would just stop and think of how we operated our courses thirty years ago we would wonder how we were ever able to provide satisfactory playing conditions for the golfers. We realize that the many inventions and improvements in machinery are largely responsible for our progress as well as the educational programs offered by our organization.

Sometimes I think it would be fun at a future meeting to have a discussion about how we did things then and now. Many forgotten conditions would be remembered and it should be entertaining for all — including the younger men who are new in the game.

I hope to see all of you in Texas. Sure hope the weather will be good and that we all get to Texas and back safely.

In closing may I suggest that every member read and study the proposed by-law revisions for the G.C.S.A.A. which you recently received in the mail. There will be no February meeting.

Sincerely, Emil H. Cassier, Pres.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ESTABLISHES
TURF PROGRAM

Illinois Agriculture Experiment Station, Project Outline. Project No. 65-364, Department: Horticulture.

TITLE: Turfgrasses in Illinois

OBJECTIVES:

- A. General objective - To provide improved turf grass varieties for climatic and soil conditions in Illinois, and to improve methods for establishment and maintenance of turf.
- B. Specific objectives -
 1. To develop new strains of bluegrasses, fescues, and bent grasses by breeding and selection.
 2. To evaluate these varieties at Urbana, particularly for desirable morphological and growth characteristics.
 3. To evaluate selected varieties in the northern and southern parts of the state, for climatic and soil adaption.
 4. To study methods of establishing permanent turf with pure and mixed seedings.
 5. To determine the more useful methods of renovating turf and combatting lawn weeds.
 6. To make physiological studies, particularly of responses of turfgrasses to environmental and soil conditions.

LEADERS: F. F. Weinard, C. E. Ackerman, H. R. Kemmerer, and R. A. Miller.

JUSTIFICATION:

The production and maintenance of turfgrass areas for home lawns, cemeteries, parks, athletic fields, industrial and institutional areas, airports, highways and golf courses is said to be in the aggregate, our largest agricultural enterprise. It is estimated that upwards of three billion dollars is spent annually for maintenance alone, in the United States. Based on surveys in New Jersey and in Los Angeles County California, this represents an outlay of approximately fifteen dollars per capita.

Illinois home, industrial and institutional lawn owners, cemeteries, sod growers, golf courses and others are constantly seeking advice and recommendations for the establishment and maintenance of better turf. This increasing interest in turfgrass problems is more concretely shown in the following figures. During the 1959 season, approximately 500 lawn soil samples from a large number of sources were tested in our soil testing laboratory. During the same period of time almost 400 additional queries on grass problems were answered. Dr. Ackerman spent an aggregate of 52 days time in visits to and discussions with State Highway landscape architects about turf. Approximately 50,000 copies of our printed circulars on lawns have been distributed in the past three years.

Under this project, breeding, evaluation, and trial plots will be located in several parts of the State, at Downers Grove, and Dixon Springs, as well as at Urbana. The plots at Urbana will also be available for

instructional purposes in connection with our course in Turf Management.

PLAN:

1. Breeding and selection of blue grasses, fescues and bents will be done at Urbana. Chemical agents will be used for the production of polyploid varieties of grasses which may be superior to existing strains. Greenhouse space will be made available, and an area of six acres on the Horticulture Farm.

2. For evaluation purposes, some field space will be used in the northern and southern parts of the State.

3. Plots will be established with pure and mixed plantings of desirable grasses in common use, adapted to the several areas. These plots will be used to study the responses of these grasses to the existing ecological environment. Bluegrasses, bents, and fescues, will be used primarily in the central and northern areas, with the addition of bermudas and zoysias in the southern area. Studies will be made of the growth, appearance, composition and durability of the resulting turf. If space and funds permit, some studies will be made of bent grasses useful for golf greens.

4. Plots will be established at Urbana, at Downers Grove, and at Dixon Springs for soil preparation, fertilizing, height of cut, weed control, and other turf management tests. The areas required for evaluation and testing purposes in the northern and southern testing grounds will be approximately two acres.

5. Basic studies will be made in the laboratory and greenhouse, using physiological and ecological techniques in studying the reactions of selected turf grasses to varied soil, temperature, light and moisture conditions.

6. A half-time research assistantship position has been assigned to this project.

EXPERIMENT TO BEGIN: 1959

EXPERIMENT TO CLOSE: Indefinite

DEAD TREES SHOULD BE REMOVED NOW

Standing dead trees are not an asset to the owner. They constitute a very real hazard to the safety of any individual who passes beneath them, and are a potential source of damage to nearby buildings, adjacent living trees and shrubs, garden fences, or other objects that may be harmed by dropping branches or fall of the tree itself. Moreover, beneath the loosened bark or dead trees, many species of destructive wood-boring, disease-carrying, and leaf-eating insects pass the winter months. And dead trees are unsightly; no matter how well-kept otherwise the grounds may be, a single dead tree is an eye-sore as long as it is permitted to remain.

Removal of dead trees is a good winter-time job, for at this season it can be accomplished with a minimum of damage to turf and other vegetation. But it is a job that should not, under any circumstances, be attempted by an amateur. Unless the operator is thoroughly experienced and has fully adequate tools and equipment, the removal of a dead tree is a dangerous job from start to finish.

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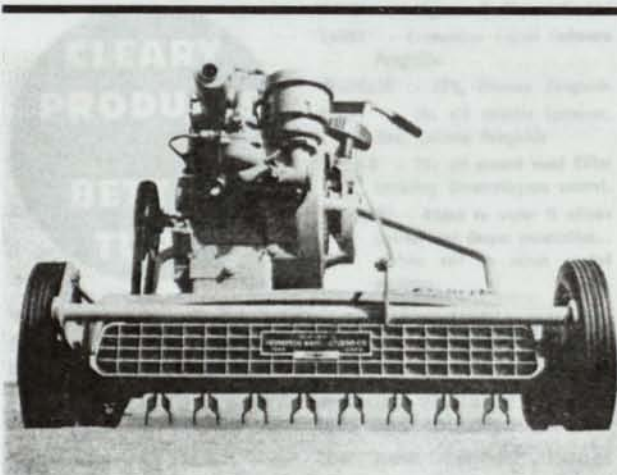
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