

ANNUAL FALL OUTING AND DINNER MEETING

Monday, October 4, 1965

Woodmar Country Club, Hammond, Indiana

Once again, the members of the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Club Managers Association and the Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association will have a joint meeting and outing on Monday, October 4, 1965. The location is the Woodmar Country Club, at 181 - 177th Street in Hammond, Indiana.

Activities will include: Lunch - Golf - Dinner - Meeting and after dinner speakers. We suggest you plan on playing golf early, so as to be in the clubhouse by 5:00 P.M. for individual meetings of the two Associations. At 6:30 P.M. dinner will be served, and the speaker will be over by 8:00 P.M. sharply.

The event will be held "Rain or Shine . . . Hot or Cold" and you will be through with dinner in time to attend the Harness Racing at nearby Washington Park, which boasts of "In by 8 out by 11".

Since weather is not a factor ALL RESERVATIONS must be in by the 24th of September, so talk to your manager right away. Mr. Ed Kocur, our host for the day, guarantees us a fun filled day.

COMING EVENTS . . .

- Sept. 10 and 13 - Illinois Turfgrass Field Day - University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, J. D. Butler, Dept. of Horticulture.
- Sept. 14 - Northern Michigan State Turfgrass Field Day - Michigan State University, Traverse City, Country Club, Traverse City, Michigan. Dr. James Beard and Dr. Paul Rieke, Dept. of Crop Science, East Lansing, Michigan.
- Sept. 15-16. - Pennsylvania State Turfgrass Field Days Noon to noon on Campus, University Park, Pa. Dr. J. M. Duich, Dept. of Agronomy.
- Sept. 21-22 - Lawn Ornamental Days - Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio. Dr. R. R. Davis, Dept. of Agronomy, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio.
- Sept. 27 - Annual Fall Golf Tournament, Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association. MEMBERS ONLY. Old Elm Country Club.

WANTED: BARTER - EXCHANGE - SELL

This section will be used whenever any one who wishes to dispose of, swap, sell or buy any thing of value.

YOUR RIGHT TO SAY IT!

(Editor's Note: Our members are invited to contribute letters for this column. Here is your chance to sound off on any subject pertinent to turf management - including the Bull Sheet. Please specify if you prefer that your letter appear without your name and address. Selection of the letters for publication will be at the discretion of your editor.)

Midwest Turf Field Day

On Monday and Tuesday, August 16-17, the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation held its Field Day presentation at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. Following are some of the highlights taken from the report.

Creeping Bentgrasses. Since 1951 twelve selections, and since 1959 three additional selections have been

maintained in 4 x 12 foot plots. In previous years the north half of each plot received fungicide protection. In 1965 fertility, greens-airing and fungicides have been uniformly used.

From this research Evansville bentgrass has been released as a variety. Growers of stolons include Godwin, Chester Hybrids, Link's, Warren's and Lynde and Rowsey nurseries. Evansville appears to need less nitrogen to maintain adequate color and vigor.

Penncross seed continues to be widely used and to perform about average of the vegetative selections. Currently much less is being said about the vegetative varieties, although C-7, C-15, Washington, C-1 and C-19 mixed continue to be favorites.

Those that appear puffy under management practices should not be discounted if one is willing to increase aeration and break up plugs to increase frequency of topdressing, or to use machines for vertical manicuring.

Preventing Poa annua and Crabgrass. Always there are two questions when considering using a chemical on a putting green.

1. Will the chemical damage the turf?
2. Will the chemical positively control the weed infestation for a considerable period?

When Betasan came on the market we started treating plots with heavy rates to observe bentgrass tolerance. Already there have been four applications at three times recommended rate with no damage showing. If bentgrass has already started to grow, it seems tolerant to most of the pre-emergent materials when used at the recommended rates. Generally it is wise to have the bentgrass start growing before applications are made.

Poa annua restriction. In the spring of 1965 calcium arsenate at 10 lbs. F. per 1000 sq. ft. was applied as a liquid spray on an area of 8ft. x 12 ft. Three replicates were used for three locations. Partial weakening and control has been achieved. Additional application will be made at 5 lbs. per 1,000 in the fall of '65, and 3 lbs. per 1,000 in the spring of '66.

Wilt Reduction. Seven materials have been used as wilt reduction sprays in laboratory, greenhouse and putting green experiments. Two commercial formulations, Sun Oil Company Foli-cote and Miller Chemical Company Vapo-gard, gave best results. From one to four applications were made in the same series over the same area. Water was withheld until severe wilting in adjacent areas was evident. In laboratory test all fungicides observed, except Dyrene, seemed to mix well with these wilt reducers. Dilution rates of 1 - 20 giving one pint per 1,000 sq. ft. seemed adequate. Lighter rates may prove satisfactory.

The turf manager needs to develop a program utilizing these materials, for each has a definite toxicity and residual so he may benefit from using residuals from previous applications with several materials.

Timing has always been important. Generally applications are best made after the desired grass has started to actively grow and its root system is extensive. A general summary of our research is made at the spring conference and current recommendations on materials are published now in the Lawn Bulletin.

Research has been initiated using gypsum in twice-a-year applications on areas having extensive thatch buildup. Additional work in laboratory and greenhouse will be continued.

TURF FIELD DAY (Continued)

Bluegrass research Review. Currently many Experiment Stations and numerous companies recommend blends of different bluegrass varieties. These may include Marion, Delta, Newport, Park, Common, Windsor, Prato, etc.

Our research background extends to 1945 when Merion and Common were planted adjacent. In 1952 Delta was added, and S-2 (now Windsor), plus other experiments were observed. In 1954 experimental bluegrasses from Musser's work of Pennsylvania were included. In 1955 the crosses of different bluegrass species from the Carnegie Foundation were planted. During the same year Newport and Park were first planted. In 1956 vegetative pieces of bluegrass were collected, sub-divided and planted for turf plots. Over 100 clones have been selected from turf areas throughout the Midwest. By 1959 seed from foreign sources was added. About 1962 new herbicides made the interest in improved bluegrass strains possible.

Basically we are still looking at individual clones. The research work of graduate students, E. Melkerson, C. Lobenstein and C. Berry, serves as a background for current work of Terry Riordan. A few apomictic selections have been observed, but variation in numerous progenys provide much opportunity for selecting genetic and phenotypic types.

With financial support from Highway Research, we are actively looking for coarse, vigorous, aggressive bluegrasses which might replace tall fescue for roadsides. The same variety might serve well for heavily worn areas, including athletic fields, playgrounds. Concurrently we are looking for petite, disease-resistant, low-growing bluegrasses which can be mowed closely for fine lawns and fairway turf. Much progress has been made.

Close-cut Bluegrass. The best of the commercially available foreign and experimental selections have been maintained under good management and close cutting for two years. Note crabgrass invasion and density of turf. Plots cut at 1/2" April 1 to August 1 showed good survival. However, a 3/4" cut gave better turf, better playing conditions. Leaf density of 100 leaves per sq. inch have been found under good management in some varieties.

Summertime Bluegrass Seeding with crabgrass prevention. Two dates, three rates of Tupersan have been used on bluegrass planted in late May 1965. At 9 lbs. active per acre excellent crabgrass control was observed; yet, bluegrass seed germination and seedling survival appears normal. Of materials tested only Tupersan permitted adequate bluegrass seedling establishment under the conditions of this test.

Bluegrass Kill and Turf Renovation. Herbicides offering promise for quick bluegrass kill, plus additives for improved herbicide activity, have been sprayed over old bluegrass sod. Those plots giving best control still do not have complete bluegrass kill. Sufficient thinning is achieved so new varieties could be introduced by use of Aero-blade, Aero-thatch, or similar vertically grooming machinery.

Seeding and Mulching. Machinery including a Hydro-seeder was used to apply seed alone, shredded sod alone, plus mixture, over prepared soil; then wood fiber mulch was hydro-seeded over these.

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TURF FIELD DAY (Continued)

FamcoMat, Ludlow Soil Saver, Excelsior mulch, straw mulch and Erosionet were used to conserve moisture and improve germination. Excelsior results look outstanding as was the Hydro-seeder wood fiber.

Nitrogen Release. Prestige, advertising, ease of handling, non-burning, long lasting, quick release, unavailable, soluble, many words describe fertilizers and their responses. Coated, impregnated, incapsulated, blended, hard, soft, flaky, soluble, insoluble, dusty, free flowing are attributes of interest when considering tomorrow's fertilizer for turf.

In 1965 we have compared two lots of fertilizer for their performance, color, yield of clippings, density of turf. Under grant support we are comparing four experimental materials from Sun Oil Company, plus experimentals from four other companies that have previously supported research. Further applications will be made this fall.

Midwest zoysia. First released in 1963. Continuous supplies have been available. Approximately forty sales of materials have been made in twelve states in 1965 by the Agricultural Alumni Seed Improvement Association, 2336 Northwestern Avenue, West Lafayette, Indiana. They maintain original increase and sales. Observations made on Zoysia heavily fertilized in the fall, as on athletic fields, golf course tees, indicate that fertilization after September 15 is to be discouraged if maximum chance of winter survival is desired. Perhaps this is why Zoysia on tees has often failed.

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