



HOLMES' CORNER

by James L. Holmes
 USGA Green Section
 Mid-Continent Director

While visiting at Kirtland Country Club, Willoughby, Ohio, Robert Fannin, Golf Course Superintendent and Ed Meister, Chairman of the Greens Committee and I were observing their number 16 green, located in a low lying area surrounded with trees. I was curious to know how they were able to maintain a suitable putting turf on this green, especially during July and August. Bob informed me, that about 2 o'clock on hot humid days he obtains a couple tubs full of ice cubes from the club house and broadcasts said ice cubes over the putting surface. This unique practice has been followed for the past 6 years, during which time no significant amount of turf has been lost. Prior to the ice cube treatment, number 16 was syringed on hot humid afternoons with appreciable loss of turf. The fact that one putting surface has been helped with ice cubes is no criterion for using ice on all greens of this type but it certainly is an interesting phenomenon.

Of biggest interest to turf people at the present time seems to be labor. The labor wage rate is increasing rapidly and is becoming extremely difficult to obtain competent and conscientious help. This is leading to accelerated automation of every type maintenance program which conceivably can be automated. It is the accepted practice to install automatic watering systems on new courses and many older clubs are switching or planning to switch in the near future. Further, this tendency or necessity to automate has brought about the introduction of multiple green mowers, pesticide application with helicopters and the now accepted practice of using individual transportation mobiles for workers.

On making a visit at Medinah Country Club a couple of weeks ago, John Jackman pointed out control of *Poa annua* with the use of benefin. Indeed, a very interesting syndrome had developed. Application was made with a drop spreader, thus strips of turf failed to receive the herbicide. These strips contained considerably more *Poa annua* than areas which had received the chemical. The presence of benefin had definitely discouraged fall fill-in of this weed. I believe we should be interested in observing over all results obtained at Medinah as this material may be useful as a *Poa annua* control agent. However, overall development, as with any newly

introduced product, must be observed for a number of seasons. We still must determine if desirable grasses, namely bentgrass, is unaffected or undamaged following continued use of this type material and, will desirable grasses persist during periods of stress such as unusual winter weather or extreme summer heat. It is beginning to appear that we can reduce or eradicate *Poa annua*, from more desirable turf, if we wish to spend the money and work at this project with sufficient vigor.

I had the pleasure of visiting with Dave Burke, at Terre Haute Country Club last week. Dave was working hard, especially trying to figure out the watering system, and in preparing the course for the winter season. Dave reported he and Mrs. Burke are happy at Terre Haute and so far have been delighted to be there.

Artificial grass greens have been recently installed at Bushnell Golf Course, Bushnell, Illinois. The average size is approximately 20 x 40 feet. A few were somewhat larger than this and a couple were somewhat smaller. In any event there was less than 10,000 sq. ft. of total artificial turf area. The cost of installation was \$27,000. It seemed that a well played shot did not hold especially well and the line of putt was not particularly accurate. To my knowledge this is the first course in Illinois where artificial greens have been installed and anyone interested might well take a trip to Bushnell for further particulars.



L. to R. Bob Green, Joe Grenko, and Albert Staudt.

BURDETT'S, INC.

Seeds • Fertilizers • Golf Course Supplies
 Swift Road at North Avenue
 P. O. Box 186 Lombard, Ill. 60148
 Phone 312-629-1123



Uramite and NuGreen

Rainbird & Nelson
 Sprinklers and Valves

Myers Sprayers and Pumps

All Insecticides and
 Fungicides

Weed Killers —
 Soil Sterilents

PROMPT SERVICE