

The Future of Our Turf Program

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Although the total acreage under turf in Illinois has not been determined, one can quickly appreciate the magnitude of our turfgrass industry by examining some known facts—there are over 750 golf courses, 40 sod-production farms, thousands of miles of roadside turf adjoining our highways, and countless acres in parks and recreational grounds, school grounds, athletic sites, cemeteries, and commercial and home lawns. It would be difficult to estimate the total yearly expenditures on seeds, sod, equipment, fertilizers, pesticides, water, labor, and other factors for turfgrass establishment and maintenance. These figures, if available, would certainly characterize the turfgrass industry as an important component of our state economy. Since the role of the University is to serve society in the realm of science, economics and culture, it is only fitting that the turfgrass program at the University of Illinois be of sufficient size and quality to properly respond to the challenges of our industry.

A university program encompasses three principal components—research, teaching and extension. Theoretically, each component is distinct and staff appointments are generally based on specific percentages of time allocated to each function. In actual practice, there is considerable overlapping among staff functions. Turfgrass research involves activities designed to expand the scope and depth of our current understanding of turfgrasses and their management. This will include evaluations of new turfgrass varieties, fertilizers, pesticides and other materials. In addition, the basic problems associated with annual bluegrass infestations, thatch, soil compaction, salt toxicity and other factors will be investigated through both fundamental and applied studies. Research facilities include approximately 7¼ acres of turfgrass plots in Urbana. Plans are currently being made for a permanent, automatic irrigation system covering the entire plot area. It is hoped that installation of this system will be completed by mid-spring of 1972. Satellite locations for field studies are currently being investigated in both the northern and southern parts of the state. Field plots in the Chicago area and near Carbondale will hopefully provide more specific data as to the effects of climate on the results of major studies. Laboratory and greenhouse space is considered adequate at present; however, specific items of equipment will soon be required for planned laboratory and field studies.

Teaching functions include the provision of basic, advanced and special-problem courses in turfgrass management at Urbana and other locations within the state. In addition, special schools are conducted in which turf is an important part. Beginning with the Turfgrass Conference in 1972, a "Turfgrass Workshop" will be offered on the afternoon prior to the Conference. The attendants will participate in two of four classes in such areas as: turfgrass identification, identification and control of turf diseases, insects and weeds, cultural practices, fertilizers, equipment, etc.

Extension activities include conferences, field days, professional meetings, preparation of circulars and other publications, and various forms of correspondence. The Turfgrass Conference of 1972 will be divided into three sessions; the first session (1st morn-

ing) will be made up of short reports on current research by staff members from the University of Illinois and visitors from other universities; the second session (afternoon) will be conducted in three or four separate rooms and will include programs for golf course superintendents, sod growers, and other special interest groups; the third session (2nd morning) will include subjects of contemporary and general interest. Although the conference speakers will be university personnel in the first session, professional turf managers and industry personnel will be well represented in the second and third sessions.

The turfgrass field day for 1972 is scheduled for mid-August. The participants will be divided into groups and will visit each of approximately twelve sites to view current research. As other research stations are established in the northern and southern parts of the state, additional field days will be planned on an annual or biennial schedule.

Currently available extension publications cover such areas as lawn care, lawn establishment, and weed and disease identification and control. These will be updated during the next year and additional circulars are planned covering sod production, athletic field construction and maintenance, and other specialized subjects.

The success of our turf program depends largely upon the support and participation of the professional turf managers of Illinois. Your suggestions and criticisms will help us to develop a program that is relevant and responsive to the needs of the turf industry.

UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL

A. J. Turgeon — Horticulture
T. D. Hughes — Horticulture
M. C. Shurtleff — Plant Pathology
R. Randell — Entomology

TOUGH

Suppose that you and your wife, some 10 years ago, joined a golf and country club and paid \$1,500.00 for capital stock. Additional assessments over the years have brought the cost of your **capital stock-membership** to \$3,025.00. For a time you and your wife played at the club, also your children used the swimming pool and bought clothes at the pro-shop. Then you sell your stock for \$1,900.00 which resulted in a loss of \$1,125.00. The Internal Revenue Service says that this loss is **nondeductible** for Federal income tax purposes. The reason being that the purchase of the capital stock was a personal transaction rather than one entered into for profit.

An accountant played golf several times a week at his country club—usually with a few other club members. After the game they would relax with a meal and a drink and one of them would pick up the tab. The accountant tried to deduct the dues and other club expenses as **ordinary and necessary business expenses** on his Federal income tax return and stated that his reason for doing so was that he was a professional and not allowed to advertise and he felt his country club contacts were necessary in order to obtain clients. The Internal Revenue Service turned down his claim for the deduction.

C. E. (Scotty) Stewart