



**Conrad L. Scheetz has been named Executive Director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, effective August 1, 1972.**

"I intend to be real, viable and visible. Not only do I want you to know what we at the Headquarters office are doing but I also want to know what it is **you** want **us** to do. I believe that the most significant contribution that GCSAA's Executive Director can make is to establish and maintain a climate in which a marriage between an interested membership and a competent Headquarters staff can grow and prosper."

**—Conrad L. Scheetz**

## **The Future Of Our Turf Program**

**A. J. Turgeon and T. D. Hughes  
University of Illinois**

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 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 turfgrass 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.

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