

it, but again, on our hands and knees, we found one example: where shallow divots were taken and not put back very neatly, the seedlings were thriving. This was merely a mechanical way of eliminating the competition from the existing turf, giving the seedling a little extra air and light. In 1977, we decided to follow-up this minor observation by seeding and soiling the divots in our fairways. We were able to do this four times this past year. (By the way, it only takes six people less than one day to seed thirty acres of fairways). And the progress of the Bent has been remarkable. We started with practically no Bent and some poa to as much as 50% Bent in portions of many of the fairways.

One question you might be asking yourself - What does seeding all the fairways do to the course, golf-wise and maintenance-wise? Initially, it makes quite a mess. Our seeder brings up quite a bit of debris, so it is necessary to have a rubber fingered sweeper to clean up the clippings. The dew in the morning hampers the seeding operation. The rollers pick up debris the plug the chutes of the seeder, but we are usually able to start by 10 in the morning. It is also nice to prepare the ground by watering the fairways at a normal rate two nights in a row so the seeder won't lug through that tough Illinois soil. If we get a good start, we like to keep going until the evening dew hampers the operation. We have gone till as late as ten at night. The clean-up takes almost as long as the seeding, as 2 or 3 cubic yards of material are picked up from a 2 to 2½ acre fairway. We always post the golf course for the golfers, letting them know we are seeding and to "clean and place" their ball if they desire. Actually, the 1/8" slit left by the seeder does not affect the lie of the ball that much, but we allow them to "play the ball up". Maintenance-wise, we are affected in that cutting is hampered. The remaining debris left from the sweeper collects on the rollers and wheels and makes quite a mess. So, we are forced to cut later in the day. We feel we get some benefit, too - we get an aerifying effect when the turf is opened up.

After two years, I think we are on the right track. We know that we are bound to get some Poa annua encroachment, but so far I feel we are keeping it down to a reasonable level. The percentage of Bent is on the increase in our fairways. We are getting it started and apparently our cultural practices have been in line. The most difficult part of a program like ours is that it takes practice. The seedlings that were planted in September of '77 won't show up until next summer. That is a long time to wait. You also have to remember that you are trying to do two things at once: provide a large area for people to play golf on while at the same time, provide a modified seed bed for the renovation and general take-over of new turf types. This, too, takes patience, and maybe a little luck.

Pete Leuzinger, Supt.
St. Charles C.C.
St. Charles, IL

NATIONAL CHEMSEARCH CORP.

222 South Central Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

**INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE
TO CONVENE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

San Antonio, Texas, the Alamo city, will welcome more than 5,000 turfgrass experts from around the world to the 49th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, February 12-17, 1978. The conference, sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), was last held in Texas in 1970, when Houston was the host city. San Antonio, the 10th largest city in the United States and host to the 15th largest number of conventions in the world, is well equipped to handle such a large conference.

Conferees will travel to the city to hear keynote speaker Earl L. Butz, former secretary of agriculture, and to attend educational sessions presented by more than 35 educators, industry representatives and golf course superintendents. They also will view exhibits of more than 185 companies from the United States, Canada and England; tour four San Antonio golf courses; and participate in tours, shopping and the entertainment life of the city.

The GCSAA conferees will welcome San Antonio's mild winter climate, with its high probability of sunshine and its cosmopolitan atmosphere. They will find part of the city to be a little like Venice, since the San Antonio River winds its way through the heart of downtown. River taxis are a popular mode of transportation, and strolling along the Paseo del Rio, or river walk, is a pleasant pastime.

San Antonio was host to the 1968 HemisFair; HemisFair Plaza stands near downtown as a reminder, with its 750-foot Tower of the Americas, topped by a revolving restaurant. Some shopping and historical areas remain islands untouched by the modern city that surrounds them. La Villita, for instance is a restored, 200-year-old, walled Spanish square with handcrafted wares in shops set among trees and quiet walkways. Mission Trail leads visitors to five old Spanish missions, the most famous of which is commonly known as the Alamo. Cultural and sporting events abound.

When they aren't visiting places in San Antonio or attending official conference sessions, conferees may attend the GCSAA-sponsored welcoming social on Monday evening, February 13, and the annual membership banquet and dance on Thursday evening, February 16. Kelly Garrett, a singer of Broadway and television fame, will entertain at the banquet.

Women who attend the conference with their husbands will find a program especially for them. It will include a tour of the city's historical and shopping areas, a luncheon and access to several special tours.

GCSAA is an international professional organization of golf course superintendents. Its annual conference and show is the largest display of fine golf turf equipment and the most respected continuing education opportunity for fine turfgrass managers in the world.

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