

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED IN FIFTY YEARS

Has anything in golf course maintenance changed in 50 years? The answer of course is Yes. But not everything. Let's take a look.

The following is a transcript of the "Question Box" period held at the Massachusetts Agricultural College (now University of Mass.), during the 1930 Conference. The questions and answers are interesting, reflect very probably the problems of the day, and the changes in the problems during the past fifty years.

For example, one question is: What about power putting green mowers? Are they successful? Certainly one would not expect that question to be asked today. However, the question: What is the average help needed for an 18 hole golf course?, might still be asked. The answers might be different.

Q. Is a rake of the Hovey type of any benefit to the turf or as a weed exterminator?

A. It keeps the top of the clover down, but better results are obtained by plugging out.

Q. What is the average help needed for an 18-hole golf course?

A. Average 12. For an ideal, 20.

Q. Is it advisable to top-dress a lawn with compost or loam? If so, when?

A. Garden loam put on the lawn 1/8 inch thick makes a good fertilizer. Spring is the best time, after the grass has started.

Q. What is the cost of constructing a nine-hole golf course?

A. \$50,000 to \$60,000 for an ideal course. \$1,000 per green, \$400 per trap and \$500 per acre. \$3,000 per hole, for municipal course.

Q. Why does soil dressed with sheep manure show such poor growth?

A. Isn't it for the same reason that a thimbleful of whiskey won't make a man drunk?

Q. Which is better, push or pull fairway mowers?

A. Push. Your wheels are trampling down the grass before the mowers come along. On a wet course the push type will bury itself. For such courses a pull type should be used.

Q. What is the most economical and efficient amount of seed per square foot for greens consisting of Rhode Island, Red Top, and Kentucky Blue Grass?

A. This cannot be answered, because of the variation in the number of seeds in a pound.

Q. What about power putting green mowers? Are they successful?

A. Very successful in the mid-west. Better than hand mowers, but a good man is needed with the mower.

Q. How can I stop moss from coming in the fairway?

A. Fertilizer, lime, drainage.

Q. How do you check and destroy cutworms?

A. With arsenate of lead or carbon disulphide emulsion.

Q. At what season or seasons would you apply a 10-5-4 commercial fertilizer to a fairway on a clay loam?

A. Fall is best - in September before the fall rains. About the middle of April if applied in the spring.

Q. What do you consider the best time of day to sprinkle greens?

A. Early morning, before seven. Directly after mowing. At night after nine. All night. In the evening, the sun doesn't dry it up. Early morning, and not too much. When sprayed at night greens are subject to brown patch. If watering is done in the morning there is danger of not putting on enough. A hardpan develops at a depth of two or three inches, and the poisoned soil water makes trouble. This theory not considered sound by many. Watering depends on the air humidity.

WHERE IS THE CHICAGO BENCH MARK?

The Chicago bench mark is on the corner stone of the Northern Trust Bank, La Salle and Monroe Streets. This mark is a quarter sized red spot and is the point of reference, or datum, for Chicago's height above sea level, which is 579.88 feet. It was placed on the bank because the building is on bedrock and thus cannot settle. The height of all other points (ground level points that is) is gauged in relation to it. For instance the highest point within the confines of Chicago's borders is at 92nd St. and Western Ave., where the elevation is 672.38 feet above sea level. The term sea-level refers to the height of the mean tide in New York harbor.

Charles E. [Scotty] Stewart

NEW PROTURF PACKAGING MAKES PRODUCTS EASIER TO RECOGNIZE AND USE

Color coding and detailed use information characterize the new line of Scotts ProTurf packaging. Each type of product has been given its own distinctive background color on the package for ready identification. These are (l. to r. in photo) blue for fungicides and fungicide-fertilizer combination products; green for insecticides; orange for fertilizers; and a white background for herbicides and herbicide-fertilizer combinations.

The new designs will help reduce the possibility of applying the wrong product. They will also help to assure accuracy of delivery and warehouse inventory control. Clear use directions include both a Scotts and Lely spreader setting recommendation for each product. The product name, stock number, directions and spreader settings all have been made even more legible on the new packages.

Austin J. Miller, President of Sprinkler Irrigation Supply Co., announces the opening of its new office and warehouse at 1115 Republic Drive, Addison, IL 60101. It is larger than the former facility at 1738 Armitage Court, Addison, to better serve the turf irrigation market, carrying a full line of products from manufacturers as Buckner, Nelson, Moody, Royal Coach, Cornell and many more!

Mr. Miller extends an invitation to all to come in and see this new facility and meet the Sisco salesmen, Jim Flannigan and Greg Deegan.

KEEP TURF FROM TREE TRUNKS

A recent report from California (Growing Points, Cooperative Extension Service, University of California, March, 1980) reports greater tree growth where the trunks are turf-free. They reported that young nonfertilized slow-growing trees like Southern Magnolia may triple in height if a 2x2 foot turf-free area is maintained around the trunk. If the clean area is 10 x 20 feet, the height growth may increase 6 times.

Trunk diameter can also increase significantly - from 2.5 to 4 times the trees with turf around the base. There is of course, a different response with other tree species. River Red gum almost doubled in height and tripled in trunk diameter when not fertilized or surrounded by turf.

It goes without saying, keeping the turf competition from young trees will mean fewer tree injuries from mowing equipment.