

ON THE RESEARCH FRONT

The USGA has a long history of involvement in turfgrass research, dating back to 1920. In its early years, the Green Section was engaged solely in basic research on problems related to golf course maintenance.

In 1953, the Green Section changed its emphasis from direct research to direct service to USGA member clubs and courses through personal visits by the Green Section staff, who would offer advice on turfgrass problems.

Although the Green Section's primary direction was changed, the USGA never lost sight of the importance of research. The USGA Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc., had already been established to support the turfgrass research of others working diligently at universities throughout the United States. Since 1945, the Fund has contributed more than \$750,000 to meaningful research projects. In 1980, for example, \$43,450 was allocated to researchers at 13 universities working on 18 separate turfgrass problems related to golf.

The current projects of three or more years duration involve selection and breeding programs aimed at improving turfgrass varieties, better methods of turf establishment, disease control, weed control, rootnematode investigation, effects of management practices on speed of putting greens, testing putting green soil mixtures, traffic wear investigation on warmseason grasses, allelopathic interaction of three turf species, chemical protection of cool-season grasses to water stress, water requirements of grasses under different environmental stress, and the influence of fungicides on non-target organisms.

Although the USGA's research effort has been directed towards golf, benefits often accrue to other turfgrass interests such as lawns, athletic fields, airfields, parks, playgrounds, etc., and therefore have universal applications.

The research support of the Fund is also instrumental in training leaders in the field of turfgrass management. The list of the prominent leaders who have received graduate-level financial support from the Fund includes three past recipients of the USGA Green Section Award: Fred V. Grau, Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, and Dr. James R. Watson.

Alexander M. Radko

WOMEN A JINX ON THE LINX

Women's rights (As though they Need em) I'd never fault or dare impede them To their right on the Linx, I'll affix my pen The right to play as fast as men Once they've gossipped and practice swung

They should waggle their feet instead of their tongue Then move and amble toward ... the hole at a pace

But faster faster than a crippled mole O, the ladies, God bless 'em I've no remorse

When with pulchritued, they adorn the course

But said pulchritued, I would behove

They strive to keep it on the move.

- G. D. Salley - Credit The Cactus Patch