

Instruction in Greenkeeping Given at State Colleges

Editor's Note: Starting this month and for the next couple months, we will run articles that appeared in early editions of "The Bulletin of the United States Golf Association Green Section." This month's article appeared in Vol. 10, No. 6, June 1930. These articles are from a collection of USGA Green Section Bulletins that Dan Wyatt had in his office at the Rockford C.C.

In this issue of the *Bulletin* are given descriptions of five short courses of instruction in greenkeeping at five state agricultural colleges and experiment stations. In addition to these short courses, at least one agricultural college includes in its regular curriculum for the 4-year college student a special course in which the problems of turf production are given particular attention. This special course is described in the *Bulletin* by Professor Curtis, of Cornell University.

The propagation of good turf for golf courses or other purposes has in recent years been placed on an entirely changed status due first, to higher standards demanded by club members, and second, to the introduction of new machinery and scientific methods which have become necessary in handling the many problems faced by those who care for turf. The United States Golf Association *Green Section* has taken the leadership in the application of scientific principles to turf production, and its success in this field has led to an ever increasing interest in this type of work and to a greater demand for more information. For years there have been many who felt that the *Green Section* should establish

schools where greenkeepers and others interested in turf growing might avail themselves of the opportunity to study by means of lectures and laboratory exercise some of the recent developments

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(Remember this was written in 1930!)

in turf culture. However, such instruction calls for certain accommodations in the way of lecture rooms and laboratories with suitable equipment. Such facilities have not been available to the *Green Section*, but are readily available in many of the state agri-

cultural colleges were such courses are part of the regular routine work. Those who have applied to the *Green Section* for such instruction have always been directed to get in touch with the courses that are available in the agricultural colleges. When called upon to do so, the *Green Section* has always rendered every possible service to those who have conducted these short courses, and members of its staff will take part in the programs of three of the short courses offered in 1931.

Short courses in a great variety of subjects have been in operation in many of our state colleges for years. Almost every specialized subject of agriculture is taken into consideration in the short courses offered by the various state agricultural colleges. The first short course in which the problems of the greenkeeper were given chief consideration was conducted by the Massachusetts Agricultural College, at Amherst, under the supervision of Professor Dickinson. In the spring of 1929 the New Jersey and Pennsylvania State agricultural colleges gave short courses of instruction primarily for greenkeepers and park superintendents. In 1930 the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station added to its program a short course for greenkeepers. In February, 1931, the Michigan College of Agriculture will be the fifth state college to give such a short course. The large attendance at these several greenkeepers' programs has clearly indicated the interest in such educational features and shows the attitude that the modern greenkeeper takes toward such instruction.

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The short-course movement, like any movement that involves progress, has had its full share of criticism. There are many who attempt to discredit these courses and condemn them on the grounds that greenkeeping can not be learned in a class room. This truth is fully recognized by even the most enthusiastic supporter of short courses. It must be remembered, however, that although the short course for greenkeepers is relatively new, the short-course principle is now well established as a feature of agricultural college programs. The farmer recognizes very well that he or his son can not learn all about the dairy business, poultry raising, or other agricultural subjects merely by attendance at a short course of instruction. Each year indicates, however, that the farmers recognize the value of such courses as an adjunct to their practical experiences. The need for practical experience and information is certainly as important in farming as it is in greenkeeping, and anyone who understands the American farmer recognizes that this practical side is thoroughly understood. Practical farmers for their part realize that in these days of scientific progress technical information most readily obtainable in college lecture rooms and laboratories can be of great value if placed at the disposal of individuals with enough judgment to put those principles to practical application. The big majority of greenkeepers who attended these courses undoubtedly returned to their clubs better greenkeepers. It is true, there are always students in any college class, whether it be in a short course or an advanced course, who are deprived of the benefit of such instruction, due to the antagonistic and disparaging mental attitude with which they approach the subject. However, the large number of greenkeepers

who have attended these short courses from year to year indicates that those who have entered into

the proper spirit of the short course have recognized that there is something to be gained from it.

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The *Green Section* recently received a letter from a greenkeeper who apparently has taken the broad-minded viewpoint of short courses. He wrote that he had in different years attended the short courses given in the state colleges of Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and during 1931 he hoped to attend a short course conducted by another institution. It is evident that this greenkeeper recognized fully the advantage of getting as many viewpoints as possible in enabling him to understand more fully the problems that he faced from day to day on his golf course. Green committees that have the right kind of men as greenkeepers can probably do their club not greater service than to encourage their green-

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On Course With the President

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This year as well, Joel Purpur came in from grazing in the pasture to head up the Past Presidents' Council. They held a meeting and came up with some very valuable information for the board. Many of their deals are being incorporated into the long-range plan.

I would like to also thank John Meyer for all the time and effort put forth as Commercial Members' Advisory Council chairman. John is stepping down after the Annual Meeting. Hopefully, Bob Maibusch has recruited a brave vendor to take over for John.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the association's two paid employees. Executive Secretary George Minnis and *On Course* Editor Fred Opperman. These two guys make the board look good. I think we sometimes take them for granted. George has been with us long enough now that he doesn't need to be told what to do. In fact, he keeps the board in line reminding them of deadlines and such. And what does everyone look for each month, *On Course*, of course. Fred is doing a fantastic job making sure it's in our mailbox each month.

I just want to say one final thank you to everyone involved with the running of this organization. From those who served on committees to the vendors that helped support us financially, THANK YOU!



Kevin Czerkies, CGCS
President, MAGCS

1998 Autumn Field Day . . .

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contained the dollar spot Bioject studies. The cutting height on the east half of the green was at .150 during green up and was dropped to .130 during the summer. The green has been top-dressed with sand four times. Dollar spot has been allowed to develop once again so that the Bioject evaluation could proceed. Pink snow mold was observed on the plot in mid-April, and brown patch became quite noticeable on August 10-11.

Dr. Tom Voigt, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, spoke on his trial work at Cantigny on "Evaluation of Native Midwestern Plants for Use in the Golf Course Landscape." The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, GCSAA, and the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation have funded a three-year study to evaluate the suitability of 58 native plants in unmowed portions of three Chicago area golf courses (Cantigny, Skokie C.C. and Olympia Fields C.C.) Tom is always filled with enthusiasm about the really great work he is doing. Everyone comes away from a Voigt presentation with

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keepers to attend these courses and make provisions for the payment by their clubs of the expenses involved.

The length of time over which seeds may retain their viability while buried in soil is an important problem in weed control and in storage of seed of desirable crops for future use. Much experimental work of this kind is now being undertaken by the United States Department of Agriculture and its cooperators. At the Michigan Agricultural College a test has

tons of information. Ask him about, following two seasons of evaluation, the 13 great natives of the 58 in the study to try at your course.

Dr. Bruce Branham, U. of I., added to the information parade on his up-to-date results from the use of Prograss on *Poa* control. Fairway plots are showing some interesting results in the control of our old friend *Poa*. Bruce is the one that you should get next to on this control matter; he surely has answers that will help.

Dr. Andy Hamblin, U. of I. turfgrass breeder, was on the grounds looking over bentgrass varieties. He has some great future plans for creating improved plants in bluegrasses as well as bentgrass species. Keep an eye on future results from this guy.

To top it all off, Kevin DeRoo, Bartlett Hills G.C. main grass man and MAGCS director, charcoal-grilled a gourmet meal for everyone. If you missed all of this, you were the loser. It was a fine showing about the people that are putting real effort into bettering the Illinois Turfgrass Industry. 

been under way for 40 years, and it was found that after the expiration of this period of time one-half of the seeds used in the experiment retained their ability to germinate. In another test, conducted at Arlington, Va., at the end of 20 years 51 of the 107 kinds of seed buried in soil were viable. As a rule, grass seeds are relatively short lived; fescue especially loses its germination rapidly. 