

A Letter from Grau

Dear Fred:

The October 1985 issue made interesting reading. A soil probe is not one of the traditional tools of the golf professional. He is known as a teacher of the game, not ever as an agronomist. But, it might be possible that he had joined the crew of the superintendent and was acting under orders.

In my office hangs a plaque, presented to me by Dr. Henry Indyk at N.J. Expo, on which appears "An Ode to Grass" credited to John J. Ingalls, U.S. Senator from Kansas. This could clear up to anonymity or it could further confuse.

A new horizon has emerged for the golf course superintendent. No other class of professionals enjoys the enviable reputation of providing beautiful turf. There exists today a concerted coordinated effort to help provide information on Safer Sports Turf to reduce injuries. An egg dropped 15 feet on good cushiony firm resilient turf doesn't break. Drop an egg 12 inches on a bare playing field, compact and grassless, and you have a mess!

Some superintendents now assist club members with their lawns. A few blocks away is the athletic field where the members children play as athletes. Some may simply give advice, some may help by organizing money - raising events to finance the improvements; others may get involved physically by providing equipment for soil cultivation, fertilizing, seeding or sodding. Some superintendent chapters of GCSAA actively support fund raising that helps to defray costs of the Sports Turf. Research and Education Committee which represents every element of the turfgrass industry. States involved include Ohio, Oregon, Maryland, Minnesota, Michigan. Canada, too, is involved.

Most states, at the agricultural experiment stations, employ extension turfgrass specialists. They are far too few to meet the rising demand for SST. G.C. Supers can extend their efforts by working together. Never has there been a more worthy cause to which turfgrass professionals can rally.

The enclosed ad (copy) will appear in several publications soon. We want every parent to know that there are those who know how to grow grass, yes, even on Sports fields! Not golf turf, but tough turf. The agronomic principles are the same.

Public recognition of those who are involved in SST will come as a matter of course. Athletes are ready for natural grass turf that reduces injuries. There are sports fields masterminded by superintendents that have records of "No injuries in 3-4 years." Will other superintendents meet the challenge?

When I began this letter I intended to write briefly. Good intentions pave the way to hell, it is said. Well, I'll see you there — (some of you, anyway).

Fred V. Grau

President & Chm. ST R & E Committee

(Facelift for Courses cont'd.)

is supposed. Critical areas can be retiled and backfilled and the sod replaced within one day.

LANDSCAPE TREATMENT: A long range tree planting program is generally the first item a club selects to execute in a master plan. Many clubs find a detailed planting program an excellent method for replacing maturing trees and supplementing existing plantings. It is not unusual to find clubs establishing their own nurseries in preparation for their landscaping program.

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