



The Bull Sheet

Official Bulletin

Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents



TED W. WOHRLE, Supt.
Beverly Country Club
1st V. P. and Chairman of
Education & Turf Research Com.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING
1960 INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS
CONFERENCE AND SHOW
SHAMROCK HILTON HOTEL
HOUSTON, TEXAS
JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 6th, 1960

*Support Illinois
Turf Research*

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS.

BERT H. ROST, *Editor*,
Midwest Rd. Nr. 31st Street
Hinsdale, Illinois

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Approximately 175 golf course superintendents enjoyed the hospitality and facilities provided by the George A. Davis Co. and Mr. Oscar Borgmeier on Jan. 5th, at which time we held our regular monthly meeting. An excellent corned beef and cabbage dinner was provided along with all the trimmings. Mr. George G. Groman of the International Harvester Co. was the after dinner speaker and spoke on "How other people talk." Again thanks to all those who were responsible for this event.

During the business meeting Sect. Donald Gerber read a letter which he had received from the G. C. S. A. A. in which they stated that in accordance to their by-laws it is mandatory that 60 percent of our members be in good standing, in other words to have paid their G.C.S.A.A. dues in order to be able to be represented by a delegate at the National Conference. This is an important matter and we hope that we will qualify. Your co-operation will be greatly appreciated. Here at Sycamore Park machinery repair and painting are progressing. We keep three regular employees the year around which is a big improvement from the early days when we hired new employees each spring. I am sure if we would just stop and think of how we operated our courses thirty years ago we would wonder how we were ever able to provide satisfactory playing conditions for the golfers. We realize that the many inventions and improvements in machinery are largely responsible for our progress as well as the educational programs offered by our organization.

Sometimes I think it would be fun at a future meeting to have a discussion about how we did things then and now. Many forgotten conditions would be remembered and it should be entertaining for all — including the younger men who are new in the game.

I hope to see all of you in Texas. Sure hope the weather will be good and that we all get to Texas and back safely.

In closing may I suggest that every member read and study the proposed by-law revisions for the G.C.S.A.A. which you recently received in the mail. There will be no February meeting.

Sincerely, Emil H. Cassier, Pres.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ESTABLISHES
TURF PROGRAM

Illinois Agriculture Experiment Station, Project Outline. Project No. 65-364, Department: Horticulture.

TITLE: Turfgrasses in Illinois

OBJECTIVES:

- A. General objective - To provide improved turf grass varieties for climatic and soil conditions in Illinois, and to improve methods for establishment and maintenance of turf.
- B. Specific objectives -
 1. To develop new strains of bluegrasses, fescues, and bent grasses by breeding and selection.
 2. To evaluate these varieties at Urbana, particularly for desirable morphological and growth characteristics.
 3. To evaluate selected varieties in the northern and southern parts of the state, for climatic and soil adaption.
 4. To study methods of establishing permanent turf with pure and mixed seedings.
 5. To determine the more useful methods of renovating turf and combatting lawn weeds.
 6. To make physiological studies, particularly of responses of turfgrasses to environmental and soil conditions.

LEADERS: F. F. Weinard, C. E. Ackerman, H. R. Kemmerer, and R. A. Miller.

JUSTIFICATION:

The production and maintenance of turfgrass areas for home lawns, cemeteries, parks, athletic fields, industrial and institutional areas, airports, highways and golf courses is said to be in the aggregate, our largest agricultural enterprise. It is estimated that upwards of three billion dollars is spent annually for maintenance alone, in the United States. Based on surveys in New Jersey and in Los Angeles County California, this represents an outlay of approximately fifteen dollars per capita.

Illinois home, industrial and institutional lawn owners, cemeteries, sod growers, golf courses and others are constantly seeking advice and recommendations for the establishment and maintenance of better turf. This increasing interest in turfgrass problems is more concretely shown in the following figures. During the 1959 season, approximately 500 lawn soil samples from a large number of sources were tested in our soil testing laboratory. During the same period of time almost 400 additional queries on grass problems were answered. Dr. Ackerman spent an aggregate of 52 days time in visits to and discussions with State Highway landscape architects about turf. Approximately 50,000 copies of our printed circulars on lawns have been distributed in the past three years.

Under this project, breeding, evaluation, and trial plots will be located in several parts of the State, at Downers Grove, and Dixon Springs, as well as at Urbana. The plots at Urbana will also be available for

instructional purposes in connection with our course in Turf Management.

PLAN:

1. Breeding and selection of blue grasses, fescues and bents will be done at Urbana. Chemical agents will be used for the production of polyploid varieties of grasses which may be superior to existing strains. Greenhouse space will be made available, and an area of six acres on the Horticulture Farm.

2. For evaluation purposes, some field space will be used in the northern and southern parts of the State.

3. Plots will be established with pure and mixed plantings of desirable grasses in common use, adapted to the several areas. These plots will be used to study the responses of these grasses to the existing ecological environment. Bluegrasses, bents, and fescues, will be used primarily in the central and northern areas, with the addition of bermudas and zoysias in the southern area. Studies will be made of the growth, appearance, composition and durability of the resulting turf. If space and funds permit, some studies will be made of bent grasses useful for golf greens.

4. Plots will be established at Urbana, at Downers Grove, and at Dixon Springs for soil preparation, fertilizing, height of cut, weed control, and other turf management tests. The areas required for evaluation and testing purposes in the northern and southern testing grounds will be approximately two acres.

5. Basic studies will be made in the laboratory and greenhouse, using physiological and ecological techniques in studying the reactions of selected turf grasses to varied soil, temperature, light and moisture conditions.

6. A half-time research assistantship position has been assigned to this project.

EXPERIMENT TO BEGIN: 1959

EXPERIMENT TO CLOSE: Indefinite

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Standing dead trees are not an asset to the owner. They constitute a very real hazard to the safety of any individual who passes beneath them, and are a potential source of damage to nearby buildings, adjacent living trees and shrubs, garden fences, or other objects that may be harmed by dropping branches or fall of the tree itself. Moreover, beneath the loosened bark or dead trees, many species of destructive wood-boring, disease-carrying, and leaf-eating insects pass the winter months. And dead trees are unsightly; no matter how well-kept otherwise the grounds may be, a single dead tree is an eye-sore as long as it is permitted to remain.

Removal of dead trees is a good winter-time job, for at this season it can be accomplished with a minimum of damage to turf and other vegetation. But it is a job that should not, under any circumstances, be attempted by an amateur. Unless the operator is thoroughly experienced and has fully adequate tools and equipment, the removal of a dead tree is a dangerous job from start to finish.

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

As you perhaps know, five interested Illinois citizens recently established the ILLINOIS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION as a not-for-profit corporation.

The purpose of this foundation is "to establish a turfgrass research and educational fund to be used to support turfgrass research and educational programs at the University of Illinois." The Foundation will also promote turfgrasses, the turfgrass industry, and associated industries in the improvement of turfgrasses consistent with the best interests of the public.

The Foundation founders have asked me to serve as Secretary, and my most pleasant first task is to cordially invite you to become an active charter member. Please accept this letter as that sincere invitation.

Let me tell you a little more about the Foundation and its plans.

First of all, the business and affairs of the Foundation will be governed by a Board of Directors composed wherever possible of one representative of each major group included in the dues schedule listed on the attached form.

Close cooperation between the Foundation and the University is to be maintained through an Advisory Council. The Council shall review all research and educational projects conducted with funds supplied by the Foundation and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Funds supplied by the Foundation will enable the University to expand its turfgrass research and educational programs. Currently, lawn grass plots are being maintained at the Horticultural Farm at Urban and at the Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station at Downers Grove. Creeping bent strain plots and sodding studies will be initiated during 1960. The plots will demonstrate results of fertilizer and herbicide treatments on the various grass species.

The University has also initiated a turfgrass research project to develop improved methods for establishment and maintenance of turf and to provide turfgrasses more adaptable for soil and climatic conditions in Illinois. Several of the horticulture staff will act as leaders, and a half-time graduate assistant has been assigned to the project.

The Department of Horticulture also maintains a turfgrass soil testing laboratory, teaches a course in turf management and answers queries from home owners and others who have lawn grass problems. A circular titled "How to Have An Attractive Lawn" is used to help answer queries. Approximately 50,000 have been distributed in four years. Nearly 15,000 circulars on Zoysia grasses have also been distributed.

Some field visits and meetings dealing with turfgrass problems are also being conducted by horticulture and plant pathology extension personnel. Also, an experiment on turfgrass for cover on Illinois highway road-sides is being conducted by the Agronomy Department.

Plans are already being made for the future. The Department of Horticulture has set aside five acres of ground on its research farm in Urbana for turfgrass work. Strain testing, fertility, weed control, height of cut and other maintenance problems will be studied with special emphasis on home lawns. Funds have been allotted for turfgrass plot work at the University's Dixon Springs Experiment Station in southern Illinois.

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Your financial support and active participation in the Foundation will enable the University to speed up its present turfgrass programs and initiate new projects that will help supply facts and figures which can be used as a basis for making authentic recommendations to Illinois home and industrial lawn owners, landscape operators, sod growers, golf course superintendents, and others who are seeking information on the establishment and maintenance of turf.

You will be kept informed on the progress of the Foundation and University research projects by a periodic newsletter and University research and extension publications such as the one enclosed.

An Illinois Turf Field Day that will feature the annual meeting of the Foundation and an educational short course will be held annually.

If you have any questions, please write to me or contact any of the incorporators. They are as follows:

Mr. R. Milton Carleton, 322 N. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale, Ill.; Mr. Bertram H. Rost, Midwest Road Nr. 31st St., Hinsdale, Ill.; Mr. George Vaughan, Vaughan's Seed Store, 61 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago; Dr. Ralph F. Voight, 166 Dentistry, Medicine, & Pharmacy Bldg., 808 S. Wood St., Chicago 12; Mr. Ben O. Warren, Warren's Turf Nursery, 8400 W. 111th St., Palos Park, Ill.

Very truly yours,
Harleigh Kemmerer
Secretary

CLIPPINGS —

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dinelli are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Frank, born on January 5, 1960. The baby has two sisters aged 5 and 3. Joey passed out the cigars and collected on some bets at the same time.

Peter Bild took over a new job as Superintendent of Glen Flora Country Club, Waukegan, Illinois, on January 1st.

Beginning January 1st, Al Purvey of McHenry Country Club turned his job over to Mike Michaels who has been Al's Assistant for the last eight years. Al will remain with McHenry Country Club as adviser and fishing expert.

Frank Dinelli and Bill Stupple took a fishing trip to the Florida Keys in December. The stories of their exploits sound fishy, what with Frank's arm ailment he was unable to pull in the big ones and they got away which usually is the case with whoppers.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Davis and family had a most enjoyable vacation in St. Petersburg, Florida over the holidays. Ray reports the weather was excellent and fishing good.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Reed took off for St. Petersburg, Florida, December 30th and will take in the Houston Convention on their way home. Harold will find a new irrigation system going in at Ridgemoor when he gets back.

Mr. and Mrs. George Roloff are on their vacation to the Gulf Coast and Florida. They will stop off at Houston on their way back.

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TURFGRASS — 1959 RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

A summary of activities by the Department of Horticulture, University of Illinois.

Activities of Dr. C. E. Ackerman

One hundred sixty-eight letters were written during the year - 51 pertained to soil tests, soil conditions, and soil improvement for turf and 117 were written as answers to questions on identification, use and culture of grasses.

Fifty-two days were also spent in the field consulting with district Illinois Highway landscape architects on roadside turf development problems. Two days were spent in the Peoria district, 8 days in the Effingham area and 42 days in the Chicago area.

Teaching activities consisted of supervision of two special problem courses for a senior student. Titles for the problems are as follows: 1. The effect of frequency and height of clipping upon total dry weight yield of six varieties of turfgrass in Flanagan silt loam. 2. The effect of frequency and height of clipping upon total dry weight yield of six varieties of turfgrass grown at four levels of nitrogen in Flanagan silt loam.

Activities of Dr. F. F. Weinard

Supervised operation of the Department of Horticulture soil testing laboratory. Four hundred fifty lawn soil tests were made and comments and suggestions were made on each soil test data sheet. Also, 200 additional queries were answered on lawns.

Teaching activities consisted of supervision of special problem courses for a graduate student. Titles of the problems are as follows: 1. Effects of different pH levels on growth rates of delta bluegrass. 2. Effects of different nutrient levels on growth rates of delta bluegrass. 3. Effects of different temperatures on the germination of five varieties of bluegrass.

Acted as leader for Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station research project No. 65-358 titled "Turf in Illinois." A copy of the annual project report is attached to this report.

Activities of H. R. Kemmerer

Several extension meetings on lawn construction and maintenance were conducted during the year. Also, lawns are one of the important facets of the extension landscape improvement project. Two hundred cooperators were enrolled in the project during 1959.

Other activities included: Answering queries on turfgrasses, serving as a member of the advisory committee for the Illinois highway research project (IHR-66) on grasses for roadside cover, and supervising the establishment of lawn grass demonstration plots at the Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station.

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Activities of Alan Miller

Helped formulate plans for lawn grass demonstration plots at the Drug and Horticultural Station and was assigned the responsibility of supervising establishment and maintenance of the plots.

Publications

Approximately 50,000 copies of Circular 729 titled "How to Have An Attractive Lawn" were distributed in the past three years. Also, several thousand copies of Circular 779 titled "Zoysia for Illinois Lawns" were also distributed.

In addition the following mimeographed materials were used as supplements for answering queries: 1. Turf for Football Fields. 2. Moss in the Lawn. 3. Creeping Bentgrass. 4. Mondo Grass.

Plans for 1960

Major emphasis will be placed on Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station Project No. 65-364. A copy of the outline is attached. This project will supersede No. 65-358.

Priority will be given to the development of strain testing plots in northern, central, and southern Illinois. Herbicide test plots will also be maintained in the three areas.

A series of plots, that will illustrate the best time for sodding, also will be established at the Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station.

Additions will be made to the strain testing plots that have been established at Urbana and the Drug and Horticultural Station. These plots will also be used for fertilizer studies and the testing of herbicides. Additional herbicide test plots will be established on campus lawns.

CLIPPINGS —

Any and all Superintendents from anywhere have an open invitation to lunch with their colleagues at the Ranch House at Joe Orr Road and the Dixie Highway, each Monday noon, promptly at 12. Dutch Treat. Peddlers are welcome.

John Coghill and Dud saw pussy willows in bloom January 11th when they were trimming bushes on the course. Today's zero weather sure discouraged them.

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2. Then use an ammonia solution, adding a pint of ordinary household ammonia to 25 gallons of water; run pump to circulate and allow to stand in sprayer a day or so.
3. Pump out and rinse with several washings of clear water.
4. Ester forms of 2, 4-D are more difficult to remove because they are oily. Use kerosene or mix a gallon of emulsifiable spray oil with 25 gallons of water and run pump several minutes to circulate this solution through the hose and back into tank.
5. Then follow with the hot soapy water, and this in turn, with the ammonia as outlined in the preceding paragraph.

CLIPPINGS —

A fire gutted the shop at the Hillside Golf Club Friday the 8th of January. Fred Millies reports a substantial loss. Repair work is in progress.

Herman Wohrle and Harry Drafke both are driving new Dodge Darts.

Chet Ramsby and his wife are driving to Houston. Mrs. Ramsby is feeling better. Chet is at Edgewood Valley Country Club.

Mrs. Fuchs is very proud these days. So is Walter. Their son Walter, Jr., made the Deans list at Iowa State and is also working with Dr. Roberts in his greenhouse tests on turf. Walter is a junior at Iowa State.

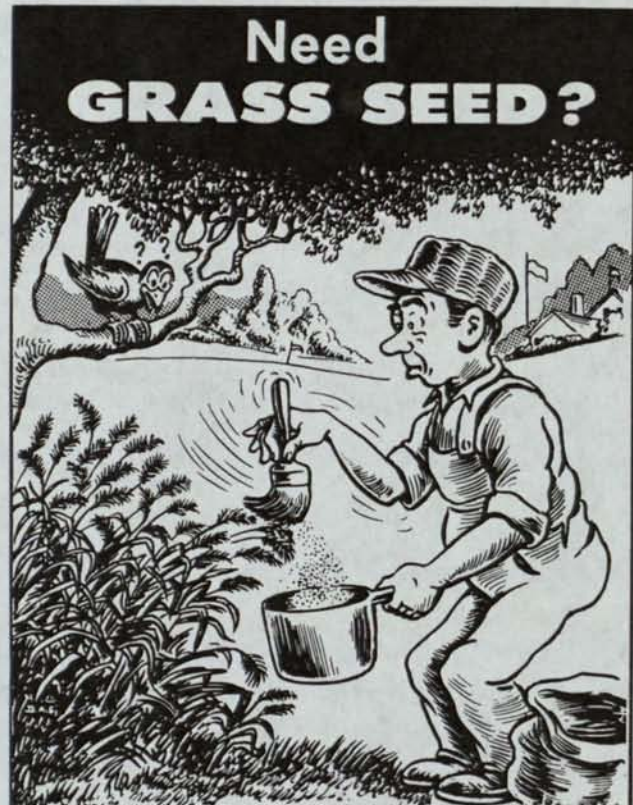
Fox Valley Country Club has about 9,000 square feet of work space in the new Club House. Ivan Wheeler, Supt. is pleased and we understand the new club house is beautiful and very functional.

Johnny Boetcher is in his new barn at Joliet Country Club. The barn is now on the North end of the course.

Vern Pansa of Lincolnshire is a new father. The new child was born about Thanksgiving time. This is their 1st.

The new fence at Olympia Fields is being erected, but not much is being done during the cold weather. Warren Bidwell is on the program at Houston.

Peter Voykin says the new well at Idlewild Country Club is started. Pete is staying home to watch the drillers and won't be at Houston.



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