

MIDWEST TURF FOUNDATION LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

RARELY has an organization concerned with golf's welfare been received with such enthusiastic interest and cooperative action as the newly formed Midwest Regional Turf Foundation at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. The Foundation, as reported in April Golfdom, has as its highly potential objective the investigation and development of all factors important in attaining the highest possible standard of turf management for golf courses and other organizations engaged with turf maintenance responsibilities.

Since its formation meeting, at the Purdue short course in greenkeeping in February, officials of golf clubs and district golf associations in the midwest area have endorsed the regional turf research project as an approach of exceptional promise in solving the perplexing problems that beset golf course management. District meetings at which the Foundation was presented to green-chairmen and greenkeepers have been held in Cleveland, Akron, Detroit and Chicago. In St. Louis and other districts within the regional scope preliminary work has proceeded toward a rapid development of the Foundation's membership.

During the week of July 23rd complete details of the Foundation, including membership form, will be in the hands of the president, green-chairman, secretary and greenkeeping superintendent of every golf club in Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. A descriptive folder presents efficient turf management as golf's major maintenance problem and points out its controlling influence on the over-all health and successful operation of each club, and explains the organizational and functional details of the new research foundation.

Annual membership in the Foundation will be \$40 for 18-hole golf courses and \$20 for 9-hole courses.

A letter advises the green-chairman that his club's president, secretary and greenkeeper have received details of the Foundation and suggests its early discussion with them. To facilitate the planning of the research program it is hoped that all clubs wishing to take advantage of the Foundation's program will take action on their membership applications before August 31st, shortly following which date the board of directors will meet at Purdue. An advisory council, representing the

various groups of turf management in the Foundation's membership, will acquaint the research staff with the problems of most concern.

Membership also is available to parks, cemeteries and institutions. These organizations, like the golf clubs in the midwest region, are confronted with turf development problems similar in characteristics. All told they represent grass carpeted areas totalling hundreds of thousands of acres that cost millions to develop and whose maintenance expenditures total in the millions annually.

Indeed, golf turf management in the midwest region is a big business. Plainly, it is big enough and important enough to justify the establishment of a centralized organization devoted to its specific and perplexing problems. The establishment of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation offers important opportunities for substantial improvements and economies in the development of improved grass strains, the control of weeds, soil conditioning, fertilization, irrigation, etc. The annual membership fee is decidedly nominal in view of the valuable benefits that await those cooperating in the program.

Like all sound research, and especially a program probing the complexities of nature, the MRTF program is planned on a long range basis which will assure the thoroughness and continuity essential to its success. Thus, the Foundation program has been planned to cover an initial period of five years. Accordingly, it is of utmost importance for each retiring green-chairman to recommend continued membership the following year to the green-chairman who succeeds him. Membership might well be entered as an important, permanent policy commitment in each club's annual golf course maintenance budget. The item of dues would represent but a small portion of the annual greens budget yet favorably influence every department of the club.

With finances made available by the USGA Green Section, research activities already have been started to explore 2,4-D, the plant hormone weed killer—its possibilities and application. The Foundation will maintain close liaison with the Green Section's Arlington Experimental Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Later, grants for research work will be made to other midwest experimental stations.