

# Purdue Home of Regional Turf Research Foundation

THE accumulation of economic and practical need for research on a regional basis began to bear fruit at the recent seventh annual short course held February 26-28 at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. At this meeting action was taken in establishing the nucleus of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation at Purdue University.

From the standpoint of all participating groups, Purdue University and the USGA Green Section in collaboration with the U. S. Department of Agriculture—the program of the Foundation will be two-fold in purpose—research and advisory service. Research will be directed along three general channels:

1. The development of improved strains of grass for tees, greens, recreational grounds, lawns, parks and cemeteries within the region.
2. The determination of methods of weed control for all types of turf.
3. The development of improved methods for fertilization, renovation and seeding of all types of turf.

For advisory service—the Agronomy staff of Purdue will be available to those responsible for the establishment and maintenance of turf in any of the area included in the region, for only the cost of travel.

The geographical region to be served by the Foundation will include Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Southern Michigan and Southern Wisconsin. The University has the advantage geographically of being close to the center of this region. Most important, however, is the fact that they have a long time interest in turf problems and have an enthusiastic and qualified personnel. Also important for the courses in this region, lying outside of the state of Indiana, is the liberal policy toward permitting out of state travel on the part of its personnel.

In this cooperative work, Purdue will be able to furnish the Foundation laboratory space, equipment, and other necessary research facilities, as well as a technically trained and qualified staff. These are some of the reasons which led to the selection of Purdue as a center of cooperative investigation in the midwest region.

Financing of the Foundation within the region will be by organizations and individuals interested in better turf. To be worthwhile, it is essential that the Foundation program is based on a five year

period. Annual contributions will be placed at the disposal of the University at the beginning of each year, in order to enable it to make appointments for the ensuing year. Funds of the Foundation will be spent for salaries of graduate assistants whose time will be devoted to turf problems, labor and experimental materials, equipment and other necessary expenses involved in conducting experimental work.

It was the recommendation of the Purdue staff that since the disbursement of funds contributed by interested organizations will be involved, the plans for experimental work each year be developed by an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of contributing organizations (those representatives to be designated by the organizations concerned). In addition, the Advisory Committee will include the Purdue staff involved directly in the program and the Director of the USGA Green Section.

Good turf is fundamental in playing the game of golf; research results of the work of the Foundation will prevent many errors that will otherwise be made in postwar rehabilitation of golf courses in the midwest region. Erroneous, costly conclusions will continue to handicap our clubs unless research work is undertaken. Research is an essential tool to help prevent these many errors in turf establishment and maintenance, before they become costly and continuous headaches to the individual club.

Finding methods and materials that will mean healthier turf, weather hardy and disease resistant turf . . . determining those strains of grasses most practical for the greens and fairways of the golf courses in the Midwest region and improving them . . . learning more about feeding and other fundamental requirements of sound, progressive turf culture . . . all of these add up to improvement in playing and maintenance conditions. Obviously such results would prove exceedingly difficult, if at all possible, to achieve by other than the type of informed, experienced procedure to be followed by Midwest Regional Turf Foundation at Purdue.

Officers of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation are: A. L. Brandon, President, P. O. Box 106, St. Charles, Ill.; Dr. G. O. Mott, Executive Secretary, Agronomy

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## GREENKEEPERS' PLANS

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only by a real lover of turf; having time enough to pick the stray weed, catching hard spots in the greens before serious trouble develops, forking a hard 'walk-off' area, catching the disease before it has time to 'catch' you, hand-cutting on tender spots, changing 'traffic' on the greens and tees, spot-watering, that most necessary of practices, studying and developing strains of our own grass, 'babying' the turf and those hundreds of more practices that need the *HUMAN* factor to best carry through.

"Perhaps, I'm old-fashioned—but the 'machine age' in the care of turf does not appeal to me. (It may be that I have had too many of these machines to operate through this duration!) Let's get back to the point where we really can 'baby' the turf, or, 'hand-nurse' it, so to speak, by extra human care. Turf is a *living* thing we are taking care of, you know, but, often that is forgotten.

"Some day the 'race' of cutting fairways and greens may stop. Not that power-machinery will ever be replaced or is *not very essential*, but a time should come when the grass—as well as I—might have a chance to take a 'deep long breath'! In taking the deep breath I then may have the chance to 'pick the weed', 'lift the ball-hole', 'spot-water the drying area', 'nurse back a sick area', and give the turf in general that *extra* attention that only *human* care can give.

"Yes, I want to do more, and I want my men to do more 'PUTTERING' at Montclair."

## CADDIES

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or main prizes are distributed at this event.

The boys also elect a caddie council of seven members from their ranks. The boys elected are always the nucleus of a good caddie force, and have a great deal to do with the program laid out for the whole caddie force.

We are trying to educate our members into thinking that a caddie is something more than a boy to carry his golf clubs. We have several cases where members have offered some of our boys opportunities that have resulted in the boys attaining positions that they most probably would not have attained without the counsel and aid of someone who was keenly interested in them.

If these notes on our experience are of help to other clubs I am glad, and I hope more club officials realize what a great opportunity they have to do something real worthwhile for the men of tomorrow.

## TURF FOUNDATION

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Dept., Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and Joe M. Graffis, Treasurer, GOLFDOM, 407 S. Dearborn St., Chicago 5, Ill.

Every golf club, whether private, daily fee or municipal, both 9-hole and 18-hole, within the regional district previously outlined, will be given the opportunity of subscribing to the Foundation fund. Considering the investment in turf in this regional group, the annual upkeep problems and expenditures, the basic importance of good playing turf to each club's popularity and operating success, it is hoped that club executives will support their green-chairmen and greenkeepers by subscribing to the Foundation fund. Complete particulars of the project will be mailed to all clubs in the near future.

## Worthington Adds Distributors

★ The Worthington Mower Co. announces the appointment of Evans Implement Co. as its distributor for the State of Georgia. The Evans company has for years maintained their sales and service headquarters at 569-71 Whitehall Street, Atlanta, Ga., and have enjoyed an excellent reputation in the Southeast.

The Evans company has specialized for years in the sales and servicing of grass cutting machinery and their personnel will be in a position to give intelligent and practical assistance to all types of mowing problems in the State of Georgia. They are fully equipped to render service on all Worthington machinery and repair parts.

Also recently appointed as a Worthington distributor for the 15 counties surrounding Ft. Wayne, Ind., is Fred E. Greiner of that city, operating under the company name of Worthington Moto-Mower Sales & Service. Mr. Greiner is especially well equipped to serve the turf maintenance needs of golf courses, athletic fields, parks, etc., having for several years owned and operated his own golf course, Fairview GC at Ft. Wayne. Greiner will maintain complete sales and service departments for Worthington mowing machinery and an adequate supply of replacement parts.

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