

# Penn State To Have 2-Year Turf Management Course

FOR YEARS turf interests have recognized the need for a specialized course of instruction in colleges and universities that would train, professionally, individuals in the many phases of turf culture and turf management. This need has become more apparent as country club committees view the few years of wartime neglect to golf courses, and was re-emphasized as the aviation industry looked ahead to municipal airports dotting the continent.

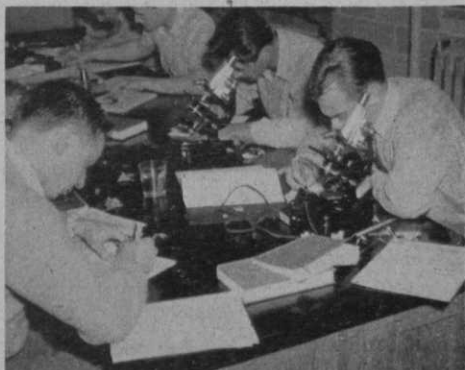
Today that long-awaited need seems closer to realization.

As the first educational institution to take this precedent-establishing step, the School of Agriculture of the Pennsylvania State College announces plans to begin a 2-year course in Turf Management with the Fall, 1946, semester.

The Penn State announcement states the new course "is designed to train students for the professional culture and management of turf on golf courses, parks, estates, airports and similar grassed areas." As outlined, every subject either directly or even remotely related to the culture or management of turf, is included in the course of study or available as an elective in the course.

At the same time, the proposed course in meeting demands of the industry for specialized, trained personnel, is also meeting demands from returned servicemen for training of this kind. Numerous veterans have already indicated a desire to take whatever training is necessary to enter the field and college officials are hopeful the new course may attract still others.

Quoting from the outline of the new two-year course, it will include "basic



Economic botany, included in the new Turf course, provides a general view of the plant world.

training in the fundamental courses of chemistry, botany and bacteriology, followed by applied courses in agronomy and horticulture, including soils and fertilizers and the identification, culture, use and maintaining of turf and other plant materials. Training is also provided in accounting methods, turf diseases, insect and weed control, tractor operation, land drainage, and turf machinery and equipment."

## Practical Work Required

Over and above the classroom work, the new course will stress to a new extent, the practical experience involved in such work. The outline clearly states "a certificate of graduation will not be issued until minimum requirements of 2 full seasons under

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Greenkeepers of Pennsylvania make annual trips to inspect test plots at the college experiment station.

## 2-Year Turf Course

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competent professional supervision have been fully satisfied." However, the student is given certain leeway, since the statement continues, "Experience obtained before, during or following completion of the 2-year course may be offered to fulfill this requirement."

It has often been pointed out that any training program, must of necessity, for a well-rounded program, be supplemented by a sound body of facts established by carefully controlled research. Viewing the situation from this aspect, the new course at Penn State certainly is advantageous. For years Penn State has been a leader in research of turf problems and recent conferences indicate even greater expansion in turf work at the Experiment Station.

### Research Coordination Helps

Thus, those enrolling in the new 2-year course not only gain the advantage of a new and specialized course of instruction but have full access to the detailed work and findings in research. Such data will be up-to-date, whether in selective breeding of turf grasses, new chemical weed killers, control of insects and disease with recently discovered compounds, seed production, use of organic matter for physical conditioning of the soil, fertilizer requirements or involved drainage studies. Since the experimental work at Penn State is now co-ordinated with research at New Jersey and Rhode Island, findings will provide practical background for immediate use to those completing the new courses.

Besides the specialized instruction in turf management, with all its related phases, the new course includes some work in English and other similar standard subjects. Ample outlet for individual interests is also made possible by various electives accompanying the course. These electives vary from such subjects as accounting or plant propagation, to meadow and pasture management, mathematics and rural sociology. A special elective in forging has been listed for those wishing to learn how to make repairs to mechanized pieces used in turf management.

To prepare for the new course, the faculty of the School of Agriculture at Penn State has combined certain basic courses with specialized instruction. Among the "special" additions to the curriculum for the 2-year course are: training in equipment and machinery used in turf maintenance, identification and control of insects and diseases peculiar to the grasses and legumes, identification and control of weeds. All the classroom work will be augmented by field studies and periodic inspection of the test plots in the Penn State Experiment Station.

Those interested in further details of the new "Turf Management" course should write direct to A. L. Beam, Director of Short Courses, Room 203, Dairy Building, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa. Because of limited housing facilities in the State College area, college officials have been urging all prospective students to enroll as early as possible and have indicated that late applicants may find no available accommodations.

## Hagen Predicts Record Winning Score at Cleveland

At the recent Masters Tournament, Walter Hagen, former American and British Open Champion, and many-time winner of the PGA, predicted that the winning score of the National Open at Cleveland in June should produce the lowest golf scores in the history of the game.

Hagen, now an official of the Wilson Sporting Goods Co., declared that championship scores have dropped an average of 5 strokes every 25 years and that winning averages will reach the "middle sixties by 1970."

"From the way the present generation is giving specialized attention to playing the game, and from what I have been able to see and study in the way of scientific advancements in equipment, there is no doubt that the current 25 year period in golf will see startling reductions in championship scores," the former star said.

Pointing out that he played against the law of averages to win his many championships, Hagen said that the same type of play has brought a 10 stroke drop in the winning score of the United States Championship in the 50 years that event has been played.

"The five stroke drop in the United States Championship," Hagen said, "coincides almost exactly with the results of the British Open Championship where the winning average has been lowered 15 strokes in the 75 year life of that event."

**SPALDING RENEWS SPORTS CARTOON**—A. G. Spalding & Bro. is renewing its sports cartoon general advertising campaign for the third consecutive year, with Willard Mullin, famed sports cartoonist doing the illustrating of the sports historical facts and oddities. Last year more than 500,000 requests were received for the booklet containing reprints of the informative and entertaining ads. Enlargements of the ads will be supplied for pro shop display.

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