

Greenkeeping Short Courses Announce Schedules

GREENKEEPING SHORT courses, educational factor which has proved itself of tremendous value to golf, are coming back in great shape now that the war's over. Dates already have been set for several of the courses and programs are being scheduled. Short courses were eliminated during the war years at most schools where they had been regular features, although in a few instances the courses were conducted on a curtailed but intense basis to deal with wartime problems.

Considerable interest has been expressed by returning servicemen in getting course maintenance education under the GI Bill of Rights educational provisions. However there are no schools having suitable courses available. At Massachusetts State college, Amherst, Mass., where a three month course was conducted during years before the war, it regretfully has been decided that it will not be "practical, advisable or possible" to conduct the winter course this year. Massachusetts State will have its recreation conference and exhibition March 14-17 inclusive, and in that affair the greenkeepers' section will have a valuable program of addresses, lectures and exhibits, according to Lawrence S. Dickinson, prof., agrastology, nationally noted head of the school's extensive work in course maintenance education.

Dickinson says that there have been 40 applicants for a Massachusetts State short course along the lines of those which used to be conducted and the school tried hard to work out a way of renewing the program, but was compelled to put it aside for this year.

Rutgers university, New Brunswick, N. J., announces its annual course in greenkeeping will be given Feb. 11-15. A circular describing the course is being prepared and will be sent on request by F. G. Helyar, Director of Resident Instruction, College of Agriculture. Considerable turf research work of a highly important character has been done at Rutgers over many years. The courses draw very well from greenkeepers eager to get from New Jersey scientists the close-up on their research.

Purdue will have its short course at the university, West Lafayette, Ind., March 18-20, advises Dr. Gerald O. Mott, executive sec., Department of Agronomy, Pur-

due university Agricultural Experiment Station. The registration fee will be \$4. Hotel facilities will be available in the Purdue Memorial Union and Fowler hotel. Of special interest in the Purdue program this year will be the coordinating of short course work with the research and field plans of the Midwest Turf foundation.

Iowa State college will have its annual short course in greenkeeping March 11 and 12 at Ames. The Iowa school is a phase of close coordination of the state greenkeepers' organization, the state agricultural school faculty and the state's agricultural research station. The frequent educational meetings of the Iowa greenkeepers and in the annual short course have been accountable for the state having an exceptionally high standard of course condition, even on the simpler of its 9-hole courses.

Minnesota is having its short course March 13-15 at the state university. The state golf course supts. association and university representatives are preparing a program headlining the maintenance work that had to be put aside during the war.

Penn State college, where considerable turf work of national interest and value has been done, will hold its short course Feb. 18-20, inclusive.

Rejuvenation of golf courses, neglected and ignored during the wartime years, and turf problems in general will be covered in Penn State's 15th Annual Fine Turf Conference. In announcing details of the conference, H. B. Musser, general chairman, stated this will be the first such conference since 1942.

This year's program, as well as those in other years, will be open to any one interested in fine turf, whether from Pennsylvania or any other state. There is no registration fee.

While production and maintenance of fine turf was relegated to the list of unessentials during the war, much of the reasearch in this field was continued at Penn State. As a result, findings of the research department, covering several years' work, will be reported in the conference program. Plans for extending this research in the future will also be outlined, in keeping with those practical problems raised by greenkeepers and others concerned with fine turf management.

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Among topics to be considered during the three-day sessions are: organic materials for soil conditioning; soil fertility details, including results of considerable experimentation with Kentucky blue grass, the fescues and the bents; insect control, with emphasis on use and application of the new insect-killing chemical, DDT, as related to the grasses; disease control; results of experiments in the use of 2,4-D for weed control as well as general aspects of the weed control problem; impounding of water and general drainage problems, and golf course renovation.

In considering golf course renovation, the conference will hear a discussion of turf problems in general, and particularly the aspects involved in coordinating research programs on a nation-wide scale. In this phase, the conference will have the assistance of Fred V. Grau, new director of greens for the USGA, who formerly was in the work at Penn State as a member of extension agronomy staff.

Detailed conference discussions will be presented by A. C. Richer and F. J. Holben, of the Penn State Agronomy staff;

H. F. Thurston, Jr., of the plant pathology staff; John O. Pepper and J. R. Haswell, of the extension entomology and agricultural engineering staffs and E. W. Schroeder of Agricultural Engineering staff.

Informal get-together programs are planned for each evening, while the annual dinner meeting has been scheduled for the evening of February 19. Any persons interested in additional details of the 15th Annual Fine Turf Conference should write direct to H. B. Musser, School of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

Clubs Pay Expenses

Earlier history of the short courses had the greenkeepers paying their own expenses for study that has saved millions of dollars in golf course maintenance while improving the standard of courses. Now, however, the value of short courses has become so well known to experienced golf club officials that they consider short course attendance at one or more schools during the winter an important item of the budget and are active in encouraging the attendance of their greenkeepers.

There is a strictly business atmosphere day and night at these greenkeeping short courses. After the set programs and discussions there are informal clinics of greenkeepers comparing practical experiences on course maintenance and asking questions well into the night. In the few instances when chairmen have attended these sessions they've returned to tell that they wished their own business meetings of department heads of various companies could be conducted on the greenkeepers' short course basis of intense application and enthusiasm.

Pros who have attended short courses to improve themselves in handling greenkeeping-pro jobs, or to get information that will help them work on a more understanding basis with their club's course supt., have repeatedly expressed a desire for pro golf counterpart of the greenkeeping courses.

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