

Iowa Short Course Draws 175 for Study

By H. L. LANTZ

Close to 175 turf-minded people attended the 13th Annual Greenkeepers' short course at Des Moines, March 10 and 11. This conference was jointly sponsored by the Iowa Greenkeepers Assn. and Iowa State College and was successful from every standpoint. A half dozen states were represented.

"2,4-D Up To Date" was ably discussed by Lawrence Southwick of the Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich. He gave the boys some interesting chemistry and then boiled down the practical facts about 2,4-D. It now seems apparent that perfect weed control on the fairways of a golf course can be obtained by an application of 1 1/4 pounds of actual 2,4-D per acre. The amount of water is of no particular consequence. Fifty gals. per acre is now commonly regarded as enough, but Southwick said that as little as 5 gals. per acre could be sufficient. Present spray equipment, however, demands the use of larger quantities of water in order to get complete coverage. Particular emphasis was given to the time of application as related to the growing condition of the weeds. Weeds, it was pointed out, should be in a good growing condition, and if sprayed while in that condition, the results are nearly always good. 2,4-D should not be applied during a dry spell.

O. J. Noer related observations confirming the excellent performance of 2,4-D as a useful weed killer. H. L. Lantz and E. F. Johnson presented confirming experiences. Fred Grau conducted a lively question discussion period. Some experiments indicate that 2,4-D may be mixed with fertilizer and applied dry to fairways and to other weed infested areas, provided care is exercised to apply the correct amount of 2,4-D. Applications in the spring or fall months to bent grass greens were reported to have been successful in clearing the weeds out of the greens. Summer applications are not recommended.

Architecture Is Featured

Golf course design from the standpoint of the architect, the problems of maintenance as related to design, the amateur player and the professional player proved to be a very popular subject. Robert Bruce Harris, Chicago, golf course architect, led off with a fine thought-provoking discussion as to how the golf course architect analyzes the problem at hand with respect

to layout, topography, drainage, and greens construction. One point stressed by the speaker was that 60 or, better yet, 80 acres should be available for a 9-hole course and recommended 160 acres be used for 18-hole courses. With respect to sand traps, Harris said that the trend is toward fewer and larger sand traps, each placed in strategic positions and so built as to minimize cost of maintenance. Severe undulations on greens are also on the way out.

O. J. Noer stressed that from the maintenance angle, golf course design can be of such a nature as to involve costly maintenance or conversely to provide features which are easily and cheaply maintained. Prof. B. J. Firkins, soils expert of Iowa State College and a fine amateur player, provided a humorous account of what a tough golf course can do to a golfer. He cited his experiences as a golfer, playing the tough layout of the Iowa State College 18-hole golf course. "But", says he, "I love that course for its beauty and for its never-ending challenge." Bill Adams, pro-greenkeeper of Sioux City, added some interesting angles out of his long experience.

O. J. Noer, always a popular speaker because of his wide experience in golf course maintenance problems, presented a fine discussion relative to acidity problems of the green. Here again, the boys got an earful of chemistry and they liked it. Noer pointed out that in many instances, lime had given every beneficial effect even though the pH was high. He stressed the need of maintaining a pH range of around 6 or 6.5. A good grade of dolomite, finely ground limestone, may be used at the rate of 20 to 40 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. and with no danger of burning. Hydrated lime, 5 to 10 lbs. in several applications during the season, may be used to good advantage, but ammonium sulfate should never be used within 10 days either before or after hydrated lime has been applied. To do this invites disaster, because enough ammonia will be produced to kill the bent grass.

G. O. Mott, agronomist at Purdue University and Sec.-Treas. of the Mid-West Turf Foundation, was a newcomer to the Iowa Short Course. He spoke on aeration of greens, emphasizing that aeration when the surface becomes compacted by repeated watering and playing, often be-

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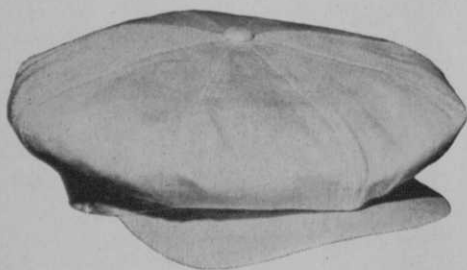
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comes the only way to save the bent grass. Aeration can be done in several ways and nearly always is beneficial. The holes left by perforations need not be filled with top-dressing material. A soggy compacted green is perforce short of oxygen and may lead to disaster. One immediate result is that the iron goes into a ferric condition and in that condition, cannot be used by plants. Aeration which provides the needed oxygen changes the iron to the ferrous state, a form which can be used by plants.

Mott, in another lecture, demonstrated and explained the use of the tissue tests which are an aid to the greenkeeper in detecting when the essential elements, nitrogen, phosphorous and potash, may be approaching a short supply.

Wm. Lyons, Akron, O., greenkeeper for the Firestone courses there, showed how in his opinion the greenkeeper can sell ideas to the officers and to green-chairmen, that is, convince them as to his needs in the way of equipment, fertilizers, etc. A well planned letter showing in outline what is needed and why it is needed was claimed by the speaker to be a most effective means of presenting a greenkeeper's needs to those who provide the necessary funds.

Fred Grau explained the work and ambi-



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Golfdom

tions of the USGA Green Section. The USGA derives all its support from golf clubs. Membership in the USGA is \$10 and \$25 per year for 9 and 18-hole courses. The program, as now being developed, is to set up cooperative research projects in the different sections of the United States and to provide educational service in connection with state, regional and national educational conferences of turf men. Several cooperative regional research projects are already underway and others are planned. The furnishing of speakers for turf conferences is already a most important and well appreciated service.

Men who are employed by commercial organizations contributed greatly to the program. These included Dr. O. J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission; Dr. Lawrence Southwick, Dow Chemical Co., Midland, and Scotty McLaren, Toro Mfg. Co. Greenkeepers from their own experiences made valuable contributions to the program. Moving pictures in color were presented through the courtesy of the Dow Chemical Co. and Sherwin-Williams Co. These were shown following the banquet. The banquet was held at the Des Moines Golf and Country club and was a contribution of the Turf Department of the Globe Machinery & Supply Co. of Des Moines;

and it's "hats off" to Joe Morgan, Manager, Turf Department of the Globe. Auditorium space for the meetings was also furnished by the Globe. Bud Connell who operates the Marion GC at Marion, Ia., was toastmaster and proved his ability as a master of ceremonies and good story teller.

Next year the Iowa Greenkeepers Short Course will be held at Iowa State College at Ames.

UNIQUE EVENTS CALENDAR—Westmoreland CC (Pittsburgh dist.) issues an attractive booklet in which its complete golf and social program for 1947 is set forth. The booklet presents as thorough a schedule as country club members could ask for and is especially noteworthy in attention given to juniors. Junior members are appointed on most of the club committees. The club's veteran pro, Peter O'Hara and his asst., Steve Kovach, are given good billing in introducing a lively golf schedule. "Pete O'Hara Day" is set for June 29. It's a pro-member event with \$500 for the pros. Jerome Wolk, chmn., sports committee, and Benjamin B. Weinberg, chmn., house committee, and associates collaborated in preparing the book. Weinberg lauds Westmoreland's mgr., C. A. Chisholm, in presenting the house schedule of events.

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