



Members of Southern Turf Association attend demonstration meeting at Cherokee CC, Memphis.



Aerifier is used on portion of ninth green in fertilizing and topdressing demonstration.

Southern Turf Association Meets at Cherokee GC

On September 1 the Southern Turf Association held a fall meeting at Cherokee GC in Memphis, Tenn., with "Bill" Perry as host. The date was chosen to coincide with the National Amateur Championship at the Memphis Country Club.

The morning was devoted to demonstrations and inspection of the course. Bill Perry demonstrated deep spiking on the 9th green. The West Point Aerifier was used on part of the green and a homemade deep spiker made by Bill was used also. Then the surface was mowed to remove debris, the green was fertilized and topdressed. The routine method employed on the course was used.

Those present toured the course and saw the experimental work on the approaches to the greens. Bill had applied

Milarsenite at 700 pounds per acre in a single dose. The treatment had eliminated almost all the crabgrass (kill estimated at 90 to 95 per cent by those present) and had produced an excellent stand of Bermuda grass. The contrast between the treated approaches and the adjoining untreated areas was most striking. Those present complimented Bill on the excellent condition of the course.

The balance of the morning was devoted to demonstration of mowers and other equipment by representatives of Jacobsen, Worthington, and Toro.

During the afternoon some played golf at Cherokee and the others went to Memphis Country Club to watch play there.

At 7:30 that evening the group assembled in the club house at Cherokee for dinner. Besides officials of the club and the officers of the Southern Turf Association, there were members from Knox-



Upside-down view of Bill Perry's homemade Deep Spiker shows construction and wheel attachment.



Perry measures depth of forking by Deep Spiker in demonstration before Southern Turf group.

ville, Nashville, Jackson, Miss., Paducah, Ky., and Arkansas. Mr. Elmer Michaels from Oak Hill CC, Rochester, N.Y., was present. The National Amateur is to be held at his club next year.

The evening meeting was devoted to a discussion of turf problems on southern courses with O. J. Noer as leader. At the start many nice things were said about the excellent turf on the fairways and greens at Memphis Country Club, and J. E. Hamner was praised highly for the excellent job he did in conditioning the course. Fertilization prior to seeding rye grass for winter play came in for much discussion. Those present agreed that phosphate and potash should be used generously before seeding, but that fertilization with nitrogen should wait until two to three weeks after the rye grass appeared above ground.

Charlie Danner, Secretary of the organization, reported that over \$125.00 of the \$200.00 yearly contribution for the turf experimental work at Tifton, Georgia, had been collected and that the balance would be obtained.

The meeting was an enthusiastic one and evidence of the increasing interest in turf development throughout the South. Until recently there was no concerted effort to solve maintenance problems in that section of the country. The next decade is sure to see vastly improved turf and better golf courses.

TURF ROUND-UP

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They fail to see the entire picture. It is our conception that support of the Green Section is more essential than ever before.

Advances in 1948

We invite the attention of our readers to GOLFDOM's "Turf Roundup of 1947" for a thorough discussion of "new" things in turf maintenance. The basic principles discussed there are still good. We can, however, point to some advances and some results during 1948.

We are learning that bentgrass requires MUCH LESS irrigation than we had ever believed before. The regrettable tendency is to overwater bentgrasses on both greens and fairways. This is particularly true in the arid regions where water is critical. We need to learn a lot more about how to irrigate turf.

There is still a marked tendency to mow putting greens too high. The best greens in the country are mowed at 3/16-inch every day. Some bent fairways are in danger of being ruined by cutting too high. Bentgrasses grown at Beltsville without

artificial irrigation were better at 1/4-inch than at 1/2-inch. One must see this to believe it. The same can be said of Bermuda grass fairways and tees.

Bluegrass is being used less and less on golf courses except where it grows naturally in the roughs. Some courses are able to grow good bluegrass turf by cutting 1 1/4 to 1 1/2-inches high but golfers do not want to play out of that kind of turf. The trend on northern fairways definitely is toward bentgrass.

Bentgrass

Confusion is the rule, rather than the exception, where bentgrasses are concerned. Three types are available commercially as seed:

1. Seaside creeping bent. This grass is most useful in arid and semi-arid regions for putting greens. It is susceptible to snowmold but with careful treatment and close frequent mowing, it produces excellent turf. At the higher cuts it produces an undesirable matted fluffy turf.

2. Astoria Colonial bent. This grass is upright in growth and is most useful on fairways and tees and for lawns that are cut closely.

3. Highland Colonial bent. This grass is similar in many respects to Astoria Colonial bent but has a more bluish cast. It blends well with other grasses.

For closely-clipped turf (1/2 to 3/4-inch) a blend of the three bentgrasses has given better results than any one alone. It is outstanding that throughout the country, bentgrass thrives under the closest cutting it is possible to give it, whether it is on greens, tees or fairways. It is doubtful that bent requires any more irrigation than do many other turf grasses. It has been extremely disappointing to see much good bent turf ruined by overwatering.

Among the vegetated creeping bents, for which no seed is available, these strains continue to be outstanding wherever they are grown and are properly managed:

Arlington (C-1)
Congressional (C-19)
Washington
Old Orchard
Toronto (C-15)
Cohansey (C-7)
Collins (C-27)

The combination of Arlington and Congressional mixed in equal parts when the vegetative planting is made is one of the top combinations in the country. Another is Arlington, Congressional and Collins mixed together, one-third of each. The others named usually are grown alone and each has individual characteristics. Of these strains Arlington continues to be the most resistant to disease and to drought.