



Record group of over 300 attending the Midwest Turf Conference at Purdue Univ., March 7 to 9, made it necessary to offer course in sections so rotation of groups would permit those present to attend all lectures.

Purdue Host to Record Midwest Conference

This year's turf conference at Purdue U., Lafayette, Ind., March 7-9, topped all previous records for attendance with registration well over 300. Because of the large attendance, lectures were sectionalized for group rotation. Dr. O. J. Noer led off Sect. I with a talk on turf fertilizing. Suggesting that faulty drainage on a wrong grass strain, rather than fertilizer or fertilizing sched-

ules, may be causing some problems, Noer advised both spring and fall feeding but lighter applications through the summer to lessen brownpatch. The continued use of 2, 4-D, without fertilizing, he said, may introduce a clover problem.

Dr. H. B. Siems, Swift & Co., Chicago, said that allocations to war-torn nations were responsible for the continuing shortage of nitrogen, although the potash and phosphate supply were improving.

Dr. G. N. Hoffer and Howard Lathrope conducted a tissue testing demonstration.



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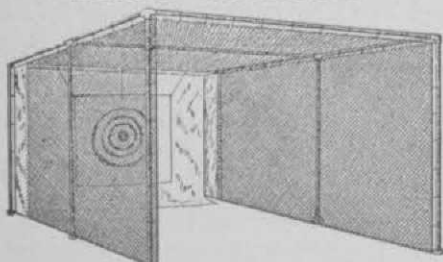
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They pointed out that the concept of determining whether or not the grass needs fertilizer is based upon the content of the leaves of the growing grass. Liquids compressed from grasses under test will react with the testing material to show if the fertilizer used is a balanced one for that soil. Dr. Hoffer displayed slide samples of crops which demonstrated various nutritional deficiencies. Demonstrations were given of soils and tissue testing.

George Spencer, Purdue ag. eng. dept., lectured in Section 2 on surveying for laying out turf areas. The theme of his talk was that anyone can survey ground in order to lay out positions of tile, drainage ditches and distances from tee to green. Spencer demonstrated simple methods that can be used in determining horizontal and vertical distances applied to contours and grades.

Simple instruments were used during the demonstration. Spencer showed how a carpenter's level can be fitted with an attachment so that a greenkeeper can determine slope gradients.

He explained why certain surveying operations are performed on a golf course, and showed how to determine the area of a golf green; important to know when it must be fertilized at a certain rate per thousand square feet.

Section 3, machinery session, was given by experts of three turf machinery companies: Thorbald Mortensen, Jacobsen Mfg. Co.; W. H. Brinkworth and M. R. (Scotty) McClaren, Toro Mfg. Co., and G. P. Carson, Worthington Mower Co.

In Section 4, Willis Skrdla disclosed that there are some 55 diseases of turf, only 6 of these are important to turf growers. Of the 6, Dollar Spot and Brown Patch are the most important. Skrdla announced that fungicides are to be tested in a co-ordinated program on a national scale. Comparative trials eventually will be conducted at 14 different stations throughout the country, when the program is fully under way.

Dr. Gerald O. Mott talked on soil structure, using apparatus demonstrating how water drains from soils. As the depth of soil on a green increases, the percent of moisture at the green's surface decreases, Dr. Mott said. A layer of sand in the soil of a green breaks up the capillary action of the water, and the green doesn't drain. The saturated soil above the layer of sand drowns the bentgrass roots, so they do not

penetrate below the sand layer. This causes dry greens in hot weather and saturated greens shortly after rain. The closer the layer of sand to the green's surface, the more often the green must be watered, because little of the water below the sand layer can be used by the plants.

Dr. Fred V. Grau discussed problems of soil aeration and compaction. Relief from compaction may be obtained by adding proper fertilizers to the soil producing the turf. Approved machinery and establishment of selected species of turf grasses will also help remedy compacted condition.

He also informed the section that knotweed and goose grass will indicate compaction of a soil; both grow where ground is so packed that no other grass will show.

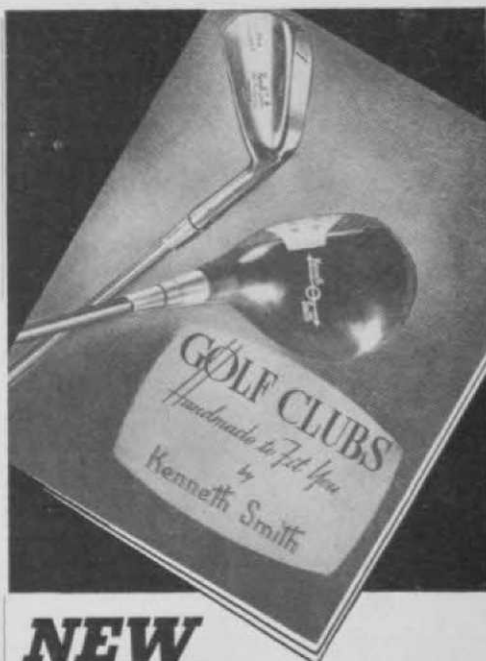
During Dr. Grau's slide display, he told the class that, "You must make turf look worse before you can make it look better!" This was during the showing of a turf subsoil tiller and its effects on the looks of the turf immediately after it had done its job. He predicted that tried and proved mixtures of warm and cool season grasses will be available some day. Grau, who rang down the curtain on this year's Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Conference, said he believed new golf courses will continue to be built so that they can be maintained to the utmost with machinery. "The trend is to use more machines and fewer men," Grau concluded.

New York State Pros Hear Jones at Syracuse Clinic

Ernest Jones, making his first appearance at a pro clinic, drew 125 Central and Western New York pros to the Central New York PGA's business clinic and spring meeting at Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, N. Y. March 27-28. The noted teacher of the swing principle was kept busy for 20 hours in day and evening sessions presenting and explaining the ideas that have made him an outstanding teacher and on the basis of demand for his services and lessons given, the most successful golf teacher.

Phases of the transition in the business of golf that pros must watch and bring to attention of their officials were set forth by Herb Graffis, GOLFDOM editor.

Resolutions adopted by the Central New York section included one to limit tenure of office of national PGA president to one three-year term and another to have PGA



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