

## Washington State Holds Second Annual Turf Conference

The second Annual Turf Conference at Pullman, Washington, February 16 and 17, 1949 was attended by more than 50, representing golf courses, cemeteries, parks, highways and airfields. Considering the bad weather, and the NGSA meeting in Los Angeles, the attendance was surprisingly good. Those present came from Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho.

Dean E. G. Schaefer, organizer of the Conference was chairman during the first morning. Success of the meeting was largely due to his efforts in organizing the program. The group was welcomed to the campus by Prof. J. C. Knott, who also outlined briefly the extension and research activities of the Agricultural Experiment Station and its various branches.

The first morning was devoted to a panel discussion of weed control and concluded with a talk on new developments in Disease control. L. W. Rasmussen touched upon the management factor in weed control. According to him weed infestations come from four principal sources, namely weed seeds which are always pres-

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ent in the soil, fertilization with weed-infested barnyard manure, impurities in the crop seed, and deep plowing which brings buried seeds to the surface where they can germinate and grow. The importance of good seed bed preparation, the use of adapted grasses and good cultural practices were stressed by Rasmussen. He said applied water must penetrate below the top two inches.

Prof. Clarence Seeley of the University of Idaho discussed herbicides. He said they cannot replace good management, and that best results are obtained when there is a good turf at the start. Seeley mentioned the di nitro compounds (Sinox and Dow Selective weed killer). They are less severe on grass than 2,4-D and have a place especially for use right after seeding. Instances of 75 to 80 percent injury to grass roots from 2,4-D was mentioned and late fall treatments were discouraged for the region because 2,4-D seems to aggravate winter kill of Kentucky blue grass. In local trials the amine salt form of the 2,4-D gave a better kill of deep rooted dandelion than the ester type. In discussing the salt, amine and ester types of 2,4-D Seeley stated that the esters were most damaging

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to turf, partly because of the oil vehicle, and that salts were safest. The esters are most volatile and can cause damage to nearby sensitive plants. The salts are least volatile but there is little differences between them and the amines. The ester form gives best results with so called pubescent weeds that have a fuzzy, hairy growth on the leaves. All three work well on broad leaf weeds with smooth surface foliage. Seeley favored spring treatments where crab grass is not a problem. He mentioned activated carbon as a good agent for cleaning sprayers.

Mr. A. W. Lange, Spokane County weed Supervisor, related personal experiences and said that herbicides without fertilizer is a losing battle. Control of Klamath weed was obtained temporarily with borax at 4 pounds per square rod.

During the discussion of fungicides for disease control, mention was made of the fact that Spergon and Phygon have given good control of snow mold on winter wheat. It was suggested that they be tried on greens at 1 pound per 1000 sq. feet. This part of the program was covered by Neill Allan MacLean instead of G. W. Fischer.

*(continued on page 106)*

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*Front Cover: Western Golf Association photo showing shooting of a scene in "Honor Caddie", WGA's new 16mm full color sound picture starring Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and leading pro and amateur golfers. Lloyd Mangrum whacked this one out of a trap at Bel-Air CC, Los Angeles, dead to the pin.*

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## WASHINGTON STATE CONFERENCE

*(continued from page 33)*

The first afternoon started with a group of Kodachrome pictures by O. J. Noer showing turf problems throughout the country. Then followed a panel discussion of fertilizers. General principles as they relate to turf were covered by Noer. Prof. L. C. Whetting discussed lime and fertilizer needs of the soil in the Pacific Northwest and Prof. W. K. Kennedy of the Station Staff reported on fertilizer trials conducted by him. The amount of clover in the turf was proportional to the amount of phosphate used. The balance of the afternoon was devoted to an interesting discussion of drainage and irrigation. Mr. Amsbury of Spokane was the final speaker. He talked about machinery maintenance.

The dinner meeting was well attended. The Toastmaster, H. A. Schoth called upon some of the notables before introducing Dr. Fred Grau, the principal speaker. Dr. Grau told about the work being done by the Green Section and showed pictures of things to come in turf. Steps

were taken to organize the Northwest Turf Improvement Association.

The Thursday morning session started with a discussion about grasses and practical aspects of their maintenance in the Pacific Northwest by H. A. Schoth. A panel discussion followed with Dr. Grau, Schoth and Donald Douglas participating. The time was devoted to a discussion of turf grasses for all purposes. Douglas of the Soil Conservation Service told about dry-land grasses. He mentioned standbys such as crested wheat grass, blue stem etc. He showed a good variety of sheep fescue, designated P .272 and talked about Volga wild rye grass, Sherman big blue grass, Sandbergs blue grass etc. Volga wild rye grass has been a good sand dune grass. It is propagated vegetatively.

In the afternoon H. T. Abbot, Supt. of Parks at Spokane had an excellent paper in Planning Design for Recreational Areas. He was followed by O. B. Howell of Spokane and Prof. J. W. Coddick of State College who discussed planting material. The session was brief so those in attendance could get started for home before roads were blocked by flood water.