



Large attendance at the Texas-Okla. Turf Conference in November attests to the fine progress made in short time by the two state groups since joining forces for the comparative study of common problems and the development of maintenance practices of mutual interest to each. The '49 meeting was unusual in interest shown and participation by officials present.

## Texas-Okla. Turf Conference Sets New High in Interest

By JOHN R. HENRY

The annual joint Texas-Oklahoma Turf Associations' meeting, Tulsa Hotel, Nov. 28-30 drew 150 greenkeepers, pros, club officials and turf supply men, many from remote distances beyond the host states. Its interest, information and discussions marked it as the most progressive joint meeting in years. Fred Grau, USGA Greens director, O. J. Noer and Howard Sprague, Tex. Research director, spearheaded the talks and handled the question and answer sessions, with the active co-operation of other turf experts, including agronomists from Tex. A&M College and Okla. A&M College.

Following the welcome by pres. C. I. Pontius of U. of Texas, Marion Askew, vp, Okla. PGA, served as chairman the first day introducing Ralph Plummer, Ft. Worth golf architect, who spoke on the construction of bent grass greens. Plummer stressed the importance of ample drainage and soil of good physical properties that would not puddle or become sod-bound. Prof. R. C. Potts, Tex. A&M, told of 100 different strains, collected by A. W. Crain of their agronomy department, now growing in turf plots at College Station, Tex. From greens and fairways throughout the state samples of fine-textured Bermuda were planted in two plots of each

strain. One plot was mowed at fairway height, the other at green height. From these plots they hope to develop a fine-texture Bermuda that will not become grainy or coarse in the fall. It is difficult to distinguish some of the more promising strains from bent. Tifton 57 Bermuda and Zoysia japonica also are under extensive experiment.

Dr. H. F. Murphy, agronomy dept., Okla. A&M, reported considerable work at Stillwater on bent and blue-grass strains and the study of physical properties of soil working toward an ideal mixture for bent grass greens. Biss Garman, Okla. A&M agronomist also collected about 100 grass samples throughout Okla., which now are under observation in field plots pointing toward selection of most promising plants for use in producing seed for commercial use.

### Sterilizing Soil for Weed Control

Prof. W. C. Elder, agronomist, Okla. A&M, discussed soil sterilization for weed control, mentioning table salt, sodium arsenite and borax as permanent sterilizing agents that keep soil void of plant growth. They put a high concentration of mineral salts in the soil making it impossible for the plant roots to absorb sufficient water

to support plant life and inhibit germination of seed. Their common use is in traps, around fences, etc. where vegetation is not wanted.

(Editor's Note: Complete report of Texas-Okla. Conference by John Henry will be continued in February issue.)

## PGA RAISES DUES

(Continued from page 27)

showing the sound, high standard of golf instruction available from first class home club pros. Palmer and Snead exhibited classic form which Smith analyzed.

Snead told of starting cross-handed and being slapped out of that by an older brother. Sam said he didn't get much of an early chance to fashion his style on the stars but when he began to get around he learned quick.

He said he'd had a lot of trouble early getting the ball up into the air. He had to use a spoon off the tee. He learned the right way by addressing the ball with the clubface in position he wanted it at impact, then lifting the club straight up in front of him, cocking his wrists so the shaft fell back over his head, and then making his body turn. By noting how his wrists were then at the top of the backswing he discovered that faulty wrist action due to a bad grip had been the

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