

Report on Turf Field Days

By TOM MASCARO

New Jersey Turf Field Day

A total of 15 different turf studies were shown to a group of 115 men interested in turf management gathered at Rutgers University on August 8th, for Turf Field Day.

Experimental grasses for lawns and fairways included B-27 (Merion bluegrass), U-3 bermuda and the Zoysias. Fertilization of the combination of cool and warm season grasses was shown in the plot of U-3 bermuda and bluegrass. There are indications that fall applications of nitrogen fertilizer will keep the turf green as the cool weather changes the color of the bermudagrass. The increased growth of the bluegrass, resulting from the fertilizer, seems the best means of obtaining the desired color turf throughout the growing season. This experiment is not completed but a summary of this year's results will be made after the growing season.

Fifteen different strains of bentgrass for putting greens were shown. The combination of Arlington, Congressional and Collins strains of bentgrass continued to produce a turf which is highly suitable for putting greens.

Several studies were shown with regard to the use of the Aerifier. A frequency of cultivation test had from none to six aerifications per season. Six cultivations gave no adverse effects. Crabgrass and other weeds were no greater on plot aerified throughout the season than on unaerified plots.

In the evening Charles K. Hollowell, Philadelphia County Agent, reported his observations made during the Southern California Turf Survey. Mr. Hollowell stated that the soil in greens in California was heavy and often classified as tight. Compaction is usual, frequently making it difficult for the golfer to hit his shot to the green and have it hold. Alkaline soils are common and much of the water applied is high in sodium content.

The combination of three creeping bentgrasses for putting green purposes, that received a high rating at New Jersey Experiment Station, produced outstanding putting surfaces in the Los Angeles district. There are indications that newly constructed putting greens will be stolonized with those three grasses—Arlington, Congressional and Collins bent.

Philadelphia Turf Field Day

Over 150 attended the Philadelphia Turf Field Day on August 17th, at the Philadelphia CC Spring Mill Course in West Conshohocken. Charles K. Hollowell, Philadelphia County Agent, served as leader of the field meeting, assisted by Marshall Farnham, Supt. of the Spring Mill Course. O. J. Noer, Agronomist of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission and Marvin Ferguson, Charlie Wilson and Al Radko of the USGA Green Section all were introduced. Al Cooper from Penn State, Gene Nutter from Cornell and Ralph Engel from Rutgers also were present for the Philadelphia meeting.

The group viewed the turf disease control plots which are in their fourth year. The work is being done by Bob Means and Richard Valentine, under the direction of Dr. H. W. Thurston of Penn State. Again chemical 531 was a leader in controlling dollarspot. Two new chemicals showed promise; one is a combination of cadmium and mercury. Dr. Thurston expects to put these through further tests.

H. B. Musser explained in detail the effectiveness of different chemicals in controlling crabgrass. The first applications were made in late June and other applications three weeks later. Musser will summarize results at the end of the season; the present indications are that it is better to try the phenyl mercuries early—perhaps June and July—and potassium cyanate will help when crabgrass gets vigorous. Sodium arsenite may continue to have a place in the September renovation program.

Marshall Farnham showed his practical work—a combination of Merion bluegrass and U-3 bermuda, and establishing U-3 bermuda on tees. U-3 bermuda chased silver crabgrass out of the tees. Where U-3 bermuda was strong on a tee, Farnham reported: go easy on summer fertilizing, then in September step up the nitrogen and perhaps the cool season grasses will predominate.

The fairways were good to excellent at Philadelphia CC. A few areas on four different fairways showed crabgrass checked with sprays of potassium cyanate. Organic nitrogen fertilizer is applied lightly in mid-August and two to three additional applications are made by November 1st. The normal rate each fall is one ton of 6% organic nitrogen per acre.

There was much of interest for all who