A Two-year Turf Maintenance Course for the Southeast

By B. P. ROBINSON and G. W. BURTON

Within the past two years, we have received calls from a number of golf clubs for men trained as golf course superintendents or greenkeepers. Unfortunately, we have been unable to give them any assistance because we have not known of anyone well qualified to fill these positions.

The Advisory Committee for our Turf program gave this personal problem serious study at their last meeting and recommended that an effort be made to set up a course for training turf specialists at Tifton. The committee felt that such a course should give the student the technical information that he will need to grow grass and, at the same time, give him training that will help him to work with the people that he will be associated with. To this end, we have worked with President G. P. Donaldson at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College here in Tifton developing the course outlined below. We have included such courses as English, public speaking, economics, and political science in this course for two reasons. In the first place, we believe that they will

Southeastern Turf Research Center gardens of the Georgia Coastal Plain Expt. Station adjoin Abraham Baldwin Agri. College where new two-year turf maintenance course is being offered. Partial view of turf plots shown above.

help the turf specialist to deal with the public. They will, also, supply required courses that he will need should he wish to attend a four-year college and complete his B.S. degree after finishing here. We are requiring that he spend considerable time actually working on the experimental turf plots in order to gain valuable experience. In addition, each student will be expected to spend at least one summer working on selected golf courses with successful greenkeepers. The practical experience gained in this way should prove invaluable.

It is hoped that golf courses, municipal centers, or other organizations interested in turf production will help young men attend the two-year course. Such organizations or individuals should immediately contact Miss Evamae Howard, Registrar, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, or B. P. Robinson, Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Georgia, for necessary enrollment information. New students start enrollment on September 17, 1951. Since many individuals interested in a turf maintenance course may not be familiar with college courses, a description of the courses to be offered and expenses follows.

Description of Courses

First Year — Fall quarter

Turf maintenance 1 — Actual experience will be obtained in the establishment and management of various turf grasses on the experimental turf plots on the Southeastern Turf Research Center. General introduction to the types of turf plants, rates and methods of planting, frequency and height of mowing, general systems and methods of fertilizing, watering, disease prevention and insect control.

Chemistry 21 — A general course in chemistry including a study of chemical elements, their properties, and the laws of chemical action.

Botany 21 — Foundation study of plant cells, tissues, structure, and function of parts, environment effects and reproduction of seed-bearing plants.

English 101 — A review of grammar, including a systematic enlargement of the student's vocabulary and constant practice in writing.

Winter quarter

Physiology of Turf Plants — A study of the processes occurring in turf plants and their relation to the complex activities constituting plant growth. Topics include basic considerations of anatomy and physiology of roots, stems, and leaves, absorption and translocation of mineral elements and water, transpiration or loss of water, food synthesis, and respiration.

Chemistry 22 — Continuation of chemistry 21, including a general survey of subjects related to plants and general agriculture.

Agronomy 1 — Study of major agricultural plants with special emphasis on varieties, adaption, fertilizers, rate of seeding, spacing, top dressing, cultivation, and disease and insect control. The results of soil and plant improvement researches are considered.

Agricultural Engineering 20 — Detailed information in solving problems related to soil and water conservation with special emphasis given to drainage and water diversion constructions.

Spring quarter

English 102 — Continuation of English 101 with attention being given to exposition, narration, description, and writing of special papers. Models are used to stimulate the student's thinking.

Agronomy 10 — The course covers a study of soils

as natural units with their inherent characteristics, practical significance of chemical and physical properties of soils, relationships between soils and plants, and principles involved in the use of soil management practices.

Forestry 1 — A general agricultural forestry course with consideration given to tree identification, nursery planting, treatment and use of woods, environmental effects, growth, culture and management.

Second Year — Fall quarter

Fertilization and Management of Turf Plants — Methods of fertilization and management of various turf plants as related to their use, and soil and environmental conditions. A detailed study and continuous observation of fertility and management practices carried out on the turf experimental plots and their relation to practical turf production will be stressed.

English 203 — A course in public speaking designed to give the student experience in informal conversation and presentation of formal types of discourse. Special emphasis is placed on speaking before groups.

Botany 22 — This course includes a study of important processes going on within the plant, environmental and hereditary factors influencing plant growth, plant improvement by breeding, and a brief study of plant classification.

Agricultural Engineering — The course includes carpentry, concrete, soldering, oxyacetylene and arc welding, sheet metal, pipe fitting, and planning of work shop.

Winter quarter

Turf Weed, Disease, and Insect Control — A study of the types and kinds of weeds, insects, and diseases and how to control each. Consideration is given the many kinds of chemical compounds used for pest control. Students will identify and control turf pests on the college and experimental station property.

Mathematics 224 — A course in college algebra designed for students with little or no preparation in algebra.

Agricultural Engineering 62 — The course includes operation, care and repair, and uses of agricultural engines and tractors. Practical work includes actual field operation of equipment.

Agricultural Economics 4 — A course in agricultural arithmetic, including land calculation, depreciation, fertilizer formula and keeping, analyzing, and interpreting records and budgets.

Spring quarter

Turf Maintenance 2 — Thorough resume of Southeastern Turf research methods, results, and practical application to turf production. Each student will be assigned a special problem related to turf maintenance, which may be solved completely or in part by working on the experimental turf plots.

Agricultural Engineering 61 — Theory and practice in operation, care, and repair of agricultural implements, including the selection of implements and actual field operation of equipment.

Physics 20 — A brief study of the elements of applied physics with emphasis being placed on the more practical phases of problems applying to agriculture — or:

Political Science 1 — Brief and comprenhensive study of the United States and State through the medium of the Constitutions and current history and problems.

Expenses

College expenses are payable in advance. Schedule of costs is on the basis of one quarter. Matriculation fee $30.00, Student activity fee $5.00, Clinical fee (for students living on campus) $3.00, Out of state students $50.00, Room $24.00, Board $90.00, Books and laundry (estimated) $20.00, Application deposit (returnable) $10.00, Total per quarter $232.00. Approximate cost per year $666.00.

N.Y.-Conn. Turf Men Honor Butler and Bengeyfield

Joseph Butler, Supt., Siwanoy CC was honored by fellow superintendents and nationally known turf men at a meeting of the N. Y.-Conn. Turf Improvement Assn. Tribute was paid to this fine gentleman whose father, Michael Butler, was the first green supt. at the St. Andrews GC, Mt. Hope, N. Y.

The dinner meeting was held at the Siwanoy where Joe Butler has been in charge of the course for the past 26 years. Prior to this, he had been at the St. Andrews Course, following in the footsteps of his father. Club officials at Siwanoy; H. A. Eastman, green chairman, and R. Rughes, committee member, took part in the ceremonies in which A. R. Twombly, President of the N. Y.-Conn. group presented Butler with an engraved wrist watch. Butler thanked association members for the honor, then thanked Harry Vare, longtime assistant, and pointed out that down through the years it has been the cooperation of the green committee who have made it possible to do a good job.

Also honored at this meeting was William Bengeyfield, Assistant County Agricultural Agent in Westchester County. Bengeyfield, who has been actively working with the green superintendents and their turf problems, has been recalled by the Air Force. The N. Y.-Conn. group presented him with a going away gift.

O. J. Noer, Chief Agronomist of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, and Fred V. Grau, Director of USGA green section, spoke. Over 70 members and guests, including Dr. J. A. Adams, Gene C. Nutter, Charles G. Wilson, Dr. Ralph Engel, were present. A fine dinner was arranged by Pat Chambers, manager of the Club. The meeting was arranged by Pres. Twombly, D. L. Rankin, A. H. Maslin and W. E. Lafkin.

Mrs. Ralph Bond Dies at Madison, Wis.

Mrs. Ralph R. Bond, 58, wife of the owner of Old Orchard Turf Nurseries, died Aug. 4 in a Madison, Wis., hospital after a long illness. Mrs. Bond was widely known as a delightful and competent woman whose inspiration and help in her husband's work with bent grass was of great value. She travelled extensively with her husband and was beloved by the wives of many course superintendents as their intimate, understanding friend.

For many years she was prominent in Girl Scout and Eastern Star work. She is survived by her husband; two daughters, Mrs. Daniel Skelly and Mrs. Raymond Walsh and one brother, Clyde F. Rex.