



IMPROVING CENTRAL PLAINS GOLF

Second Annual conference of Central Plains Turf Foundation, at Kansas State College, Manhattan, Ks., assembled experts from Kansas, Western Missouri and neighboring areas to whom tough problems of turf maintenance are matters of course. In that area if it isn't flood, it's drought with blistering temperatures, or sweltering humidity. What the tie-up of course supts., research experts and supply men have been able to do for courses in this territory is a marvel, and can be partially explained to club officials and members if they'd ever sit in on the Central Plains sessions.

of improper management. Proper watering, fertilization and aeration as well as the selection of the proper species or strain are important factors in the prevention and control of disease. There is no substitute for the "man" in management. A common grass in good hands will produce better turf than a good grass in poor hands.

Noer and Tom Mascaro, of the West Point Lawn Products Company gave a discussion of turf in the United States, Canada and Mexico, illustrated with color slides, in an evening program.

Physical Soil Requirements

Dr. J. B. Page, Professor at Texas A. & M., discussed the physical soil requirements for growth of turf grasses. Plants require support, nutrition, temperature, water and oxygen from the soil. Porosity, either textural or structural, governs the water and oxygen supply of the soil. Page stated that the proportion of pore space available for air and water may be definitely influenced by management practices. Compaction reduces pore space and hence the oxygen supply available for plant roots. Under heavy compacted and water logged conditions turf grasses may display symptoms of oxygen deficiency which may be mistakenly diagnosed as wilting from lack of water. The addition of more water will intensify rather than correct this situation according to Page.

Tom Mascaro using colored slides demonstrated the practical benefits of mechanical aeration as a means of alleviating compaction, thatching and shallow

roots. The necessity of using the proper type of aerating equipment in order to obtain the necessary cultivating action was very effectively demonstrated.

Dr. J. F. Fudge, State Chemist, gave some fundamental information about fertilizers. Such information as fertilizer grades and ratios and the effect of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash on turf grasses was discussed. The group was pleased to learn that improvement in fertilizer processing has resulted in the production of materials that will not "set-up" as a result of long periods of storage. M. K. Thornton, in charge of the Soil Testing Service, discussed the procuring of soil samples and interpretation of soil analyses.

Dr. Fred V. Grau, Director, USGA Green Section, was unable to attend the conference. Dr. Grau's interest in better turf for Texas was expressed through his remarks on aerification, watering, fertilizing and new strains which were read by Dr. Jim Watson in his absence. Dr. Grau suggests the establishment of a Turf Advisory Committee to serve as a link between research and the field. Such a committee is invaluable both in planning research and in obtaining support for research.

J. I. McGregor, Agronomist, with Flying Training Air Force, Waco, Texas, and V. L. Rouze, Superintendent, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Ft. Worth, Texas, discussed problems that arise when attempting to develop and maintain good turf on airfields and cemeteries, respectively. Dan Dudley of the Texas State Department of Agriculture explained the new Texas