

course affects the laborers doing the work.

The men who do golf work do it for the most part because they like it. That is true of labor or the superintendent. This being true, it would seem that in both cases that fair treatment of the superintendent by his club and he in turn giving his men their just due, would pay off in a well kept course. Everyone who works expects and should get recognition for work well done at a fair price. He will work better if he is made a part of the whole scheme of things. He should know the cost of what he does in relation to the other jobs and duties at the club.

This last matter has caused trouble at clubs. Men working on the course don't get paid as much as the bartender or get his tips or Christmas presents. They learn what the bartender gets, and they know what he has to learn to do his job in comparison to theirs. This is just an example of what is meant by fair treatment and knowing the overall picture.

I had planned to cite actual figures of savings made by having work done by power, locating equipment at handy places on the course, bonus systems etc., but since each club has a different problem, I doubt that my conditions would benefit other superintendents. This fact leads to this thought: Since every club has different problems it is unfair for one club to say that its traps cost so much and the other club's traps cost more or less. This has always been a problem because in the manufacture of, say, bolts, they are so hard, have a certain tensile strength, have a certain size, and cost so much per, but no two courses have the same terrain, same number of traps, same size of greens, or are the same distances from labor supply.

Study Labor Factors

There are so many factors involved in golf course cost control and labor control that it would seem to be a good policy for the superintendent to make a list of the advantages or disadvantages he has, nearness to labor, comparative cost of his scale against factory help, working conditions, possible bonus system, year-round work, vacation, pensions after so many years work, amount of training necessary to have a good man, the varied skills a good man needs, and last and most important, the superintendent's attitude toward his labor. (Be fair on the last one, it's a toughie.)

To bring a personal touch in here; what about a man who has worked for a club for 25, 30, or 40 years — even though he is a laborer, is he not entitled to a pension? It is a problem that I believe if properly handled by the club would pay big dividends. We have it at my club—the problem, not the answer.

Not too long ago we were known as

greenkeepers. Not too bad a title I thought. Now we are known as superintendents. It is my humble opinion that the only difference is the fact that golf has become a business, and business keeps records. Now to go further, if the superintendents will show their club record systems, some of them anyway, I think we will become golf course managers with the pay and prestige that would go with that title.

Sodium Arsenite Control Method for Poa Annua

By PAUL E. WEISS
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(GCSA Paper)

Poa annua control with sodium arsenite really works on our course. Because of its poisonous nature it will always be a material for turf experts and not for the general public.

My method of killing the seed of crabgrass with little injury to the permanent grasses, works well with poa annua.

The long seeding period of poa annua makes it more difficult to control than crabgrass. Two or three treatments are sufficient for crabgrass but poa annua requires four or five treatments. We have eliminated crabgrass as a problem on our course, except in unsprayed areas, and in 1950 we started on poa annua using the one pound per acre treatment. We have learned how and when to use sodium arsenite and in April and May of 1951 we sprayed greens, tees and fairways with two applications of sodium arsenite, about three weeks apart. We seem to have cut down the poa annua population considerably but several years must elapse before proof is definite.

The development of I.P.C. by Jesse D. Stokes of UCLA seems to have wonderful possibilities. His method is to eliminate the plant before seed develops which is better than trying to kill the seed.

Leonard Strong of Saucon Valley CC, removed the poa annua seed mechanically in 1951. He let the seed heads develop, then cut short and removed the clippings with leaf sweepers. I saw three truck loads, mostly seed heads and stems, removed from one fairway and about 75 truckloads were removed from the course. The trucks were 1½ ton capacity with three foot sideboards. The wonderful condition of Saucon Valley fairways during the National Amateur championship, was testimony to Leonard's fine methods.

The greatest difficulty in poa annua treatment is that it must be done at the busiest time of the year and when golfers most resent any interference with play. If poa annua seed remains viable in the soil as long as crabgrass seed, we can look forward to fighting these pests for years to come. Like fleas on a dog, they will keep us from becoming too complacent.