

that he had found the damage from this scale to be widespread in Dade and Broward counties.

"I find that many of the lawns I check could not possibly be reclaimed due to such heavy scale infestation," Brandon wrote. "I spend a considerable portion of my time checking lawns, golf courses and other grass areas in Dade and Broward counties. I have found extensive scale infestation in every town in these counties."

"The Rhodes grass scale, in my opinion, will eventually eclipse chinch bugs in importance as a lawn pest in South Florida. Insofar as is known, there is no control, other than a parasitic insect."

"The scale probably is normally attacked and kept under fair control by other insects, which live upon it. But these beneficial insects are being killed off through the use of strong insecticides in the fight against chinch bugs and mosquitoes. And the scale, which is not bothered by the insecticides, is having a field day with none of its enemies around."

"The scale was first found on Bermuda grass. But the scale doesn't seem to mind whether its diet is Bermuda or St. Augustine grass."

"So far, the insect hasn't been reported on centipede or zoysia. That doesn't mean that it will not attack these grasses. Nobody has reported seeing the scale on them."

"While making his initial study of the Rhodes grass scale, Dr. Wolfenbarger also found another scale at work. It is known as Ruth's scale, but it isn't as widespread as Rhodes grass scale."

Why Course Labor Is Scarce

By BERT H. ROST

Sup't., Park Ridge (Ill.) Country Club

The most important problem that faces golf course maintenance today is salaries to attract and hold good men. Normally, we have a crew of five men the year round. Some of our time is spent in cleaning and painting the interior of the clubhouse, dormitory and other buildings in the winter.

Two years ago we lost two men, one from death and another was past 70 and didn't feel he could work steadily any longer. Therefore, we advertised in two publications recently. Our returns were very gratifying and I would say we had about 12 men answer the advertisement, most of them between 30 and 50 years old. Three of them had been raised on farms and were at present working in factories, but would like to do outside work. After asking them a few questions pertaining to their qualifications, of course, the next thing discussed was salary; ours is on a par with most other

clubs in the district. This usually ended the interview in a minute or less. Some went a little further to ask if we had a Health or Hospitalization Plan, Pension fund, overtime for time over 40 hours. Most clubs do not have these to offer; 2 weeks with pay, yes, but that didn't seem to offset the disadvantages they found. We at present have two men who are trying us out.

It is a known fact that it is almost impossible for country clubs to obtain group benefits for their employees because of the large turnover of employees, but most of these are in the clubhouse and not on the grounds. Some clubs have set up benefit funds which appeal to men who like golf course work and would be an asset to a club organization.

At the present, the golf course superintendent has to operate on a skeleton crew until the boys get out of school, June 1st, which is far too late in the game. The time for most work to be done on a golf course is April, May and September until it freezes in the fall. They are the cool months when reconstruction and planting and trimming can be done. If adequate labor is available in these months, the course has a good chance of being in good condition during the months of heavy play. I believe the all successful clubs have found that it pays to hire and keep good key men who can and will do several duties at a club.

As for the turf problems of the past season, they have been a culmination of weather conditions which have come about during the past three years. 1950 and 1951 were both summers with plentiful rainfall, therefore a shallow root growth on turf, along with plenty of snowfall in the winter (a record in 1951) therefore no frost action in a heavy soil as we have in the Chicago area. In April, 1952, hot dry winds that almost desiccated many shallow-rooted grasses, left turf in a weakened condition to be followed by the hottest summer on record in the area, which affected turf that was weak, although it had a good color from fertilization but not the root system to carry it through such a period of far above normal temperatures.

The Midwest golf course superintendents know that we do not have all the answers to our problems, therefore we have submitted to the University of Illinois a complete plan for a Turf Research and Experimental Area to be established at the University of Illinois Drug Plots and Horticultural Station at Lisle, Ill. So far we have had little response to our efforts from the University. This is a project that would be highly beneficial to all home owners in Illinois and needs a big push from everyone interested in turf.