

Turf Research Policy Faces Financial Problems

GOLF course superintendents and green-chairmen continue spirited discussions about the USGA Green Section change of policy in switching accent from stimulating and coordinating turf research on a national basis to application of available research findings. The USGA Green Section association with research is being continued, and not abandoned as some apparently believe.

Reports of the discussions that GOLF-DOM has received indicate that the financing of research is part of the problem that's a long way from the right answer. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, state agricultural college, sectional turf foundation and other turf research work is obviously inadequately financed. The USGA Green Section, having its share of the research financing difficulties, was influenced in changing its policy to emphasizing the Direct Service plan by demand of clubs for expert consulting service at the courses.

The USGA's decision was based on the USGA function, by the association's objects, and Green Section work since establishment of the Green Section, being restricted to golf. The development of interest in turf maintenance since golf course turf presented a standard for the U. S., got too extensive, according to USGA judgment, to warrant scattering of the USGA Green Section work which is sharply controlled by available revenue.

But With Whose Money?

There has been considerable talk in some quarters about the formation of a national turf research organization but not much specific attention to the problem of financing such an organization to cover golf course, lawns, parks, and other sports turf areas, roadways, cemeteries, airfields, turf nursery, seed production and other phases of the turf business. A prominent former official of the Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. summed up the financing discussions by saying, "They all want somebody else to pay for it."

Present attitude of companies operating in the turf field is to make their own research arrangements, spotting the research in various sections of the country and naturally keeping their eyes on the commercially competitive factors involved.

A committee of the Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. has talked about having the association get into research but, again, financing is the basic problem, just

as it has been with the USGA Green Section.

Philadelphia Supts. Opinion

The Philadelphia Assn. of Golf Course Supts. recently issued a statement endorsing a coordinated national turf research program. The statement reads:

"Members of the Philadelphia Assn. of Golf Course Superintendents believe that turf research is essential on both a national and a state level to continually maintain golf turf efficiently. We are appreciative of the outstanding turf program conducted by the Pennsylvania State College for nearly 25 years. We recognize that experiment stations carry on research programs due to the interests of the people in their state. With leadership and guidance on a national level each state's turf experimental work is sure to be more far-reaching. An organization on a national level to direct research and coordinate turf programs is more essential than turf service on a regional basis.

"We point with pride to the manner in which our members have supported and aided the turf research program carried on by the Green Section of the United States Golf Assn. at Arlington and Beltsville from 1922 to 1952. Through the efforts of research work turf diseases are being controlled and the turf weed control program instituted by the Green Section pointed out the place chemicals have in maintaining turf efficiently. The development of creeping bent strains such as Arlington, Congressional, Collins, Cohansey, Toronto and Old Orchard gave better putting turf for the golfers. Merion bluegrass, U-3 bermuda and zoysia were brought forth through a coordinated program directed at a national level.

"We have always thought the statement of Frank M. Hardt, a member of the Merion Golf Club and Chairman of the Green Section of the United States Golf Assn., an ideal one. In Turf Culture, Vol. 1, No. 1, January, 1939, Mr. Hardt wrote as follows:

"The problems faced in improving the cultural practices on these large areas are essentially identical with those faced by anyone interested in the establishment and maintenance of superior turf on private lawns, parks, sports fields, cemeteries, road shoulders, airports and other turfed areas. The results of our investigations of these problems should there-

fore be equally helpful to all those concerned with the raising of turf.

"The USGA feels therefore that by the establishment of this publication, Turf Culture, it offers an authoritative organ created to serve the best interests of the golfing public, the professional greenkeepers, and that large group of individuals who are interested in improving turf for many purposes."

"The Green Section's action of stimulating and guiding a number of experiment station workers to develop a turf research program was a great contribution for the development of a better turf. The encouraging and supporting financially of those who carried on their advanced studies and at the same time brought forth new facts about turf management, has been an advancement for turf.

"There are numerous incidents where the Director of the Green Section of the USGA acted as a clearing house concerning both practical and impractical ideas.

"There are scores of reasons why members of our Association believe it is im-

portant that a turf research and coordinated program be conducted nationally. The entire turf industry is constantly looking for national leadership.

"Our Association recommends that the Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America and other allied turf groups work toward this end. We suggest all our golf clubs be solicited to support a national turf research organization."

At the July meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Assn. of Golf Course Superintendents, Robt. Shields, sec. of the association's Education and Policy committee, reported it was the feeling of the committee that the Mid-Atlantic should not condemn or criticize the Direct Service policy of the USGA Green Section until a thorough study of the many ramifications involved was made. Shields further commented that the Green Section is offering an intensive program of research and extension to USGA member clubs and suggested that the Mid-Atlantic await further developments and study carefully the benefits the program offers to superintendents and their clubs.

Tips on Application of Fungicides

By H. L. LANTZ

THERE are a number of methods of applying needed fungicides to bent grass greens for disease prevention but no method can equal the power sprayer in efficiency in getting the job done rapidly and comfortably and the fungicide spread evenly. For example, one 150 gal. load of fungicide solution is sufficient to do a thorough job of coverage on 40,000 sq. ft. of turf. This figures about 3½ gal. of solution per thousand sq. ft. The measurement of soluble fungicide material such as Calo-Clor, Cadminate, or other fungicide of your choice is very simple. If 40,000 sq. ft. of area is to be covered, then 5 pounds of Calo-Clor (2x40 - 80 oz.) is dumped into the spray tank. The tank should be nearly full of water and the agitator going when the fungicide is dumped into the tank. A two nozzle gun provides good distribution, and with a little practice the operator soon learns how to proceed over the green in order to cover the entire 40,000 sq. ft. A suitable pressure is from 300 to 400 lbs.

The thing to remember in mixing sprays is that the key to successful control of diseases or insects is to apply the correct amount of chemical per thousand sq. ft. The gallonage is not very important. Three gals. per thousand sq. ft. will give excellent coverage. To apply more costs money in terms of labor and in wear and tear on the spray machine.

Example: 150 gal. tank, to cover 40,000 sq. ft. (See table below.)

Other fungicides — add the required amount of the material as recommended by the manufacturer to cover 40,000 sq. ft.

It is a common practice for superintendents to add soluble fertilizers to the fungicide, provided that the chemicals involved are compatible. Caution: do not add soluble fertilizers to the cadmium sprays.

A program of disease prevention may cost a little more than to wait on disease to develop before spraying but successful superintendents apply fungicides once a week throughout the growing season. Disease just doesn't have a chance where a prevention program is carefully followed.

Material	Rate per 1000 sq. ft.	Amount needed for 40,000 sq. ft.
Calo-Clor	2 oz.	80 oz. or 5 lbs.
Calo-Clor (Summer Concentration)	1 oz.	40 oz. or 2½ lbs.
Cadminate	½ oz.	20 oz. or 1¼ lbs.