

use them. Before World War II the rough seldom got much attention. Now, at the majority of courses, there isn't rough that can be allowed to grow wild for a few mowings a year. Almost the entire area of the course calls for man hours on the budget.

Those factors have run up the labor bill and necessitated a rather skilled class of labor but the change hasn't been recognized by the authorities who make golf clubs' labor policies.

A year like 1952 brought the labor situation into painfully sharp focus before superintendents because the most expert kind of labor and a lot of it was needed to minimize or repair the damage of excessive rainfall during April and May, followed by excessive heat and humidity that continued in our section thru June, July and August. *Poa annua* did beautifully during May and June and went out during a spell of hot, dry weather in July. In many cases the *Poa annua* was replaced by crabgrass. There appeared to be more silver crab than usual, probably due to compaction caused by heavy rains during April and May and the use of mowing equipment during that period. Those courses which had been applying some form of chemical control over a period of several years seemed to have less crabgrass than others.

We were able to reduce our crabgrass considerably with a program of light applications of sodium arsenite beginning just before the crabgrass produces seed and continuing for 3 or 4 applications at 2-week intervals, followed by aeration and generous fertilization. We usually aerify fairways in the spring as soon as the fairways are dry and again between June 1 and 15.

### **Machine Maintenance Brings Need for Expert Workers**

By W. E. UPDEGRAFF  
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In this part of the country the labor problem is acute, especially in our line of work. This is because the club expects us to keep only from two to four men on our payroll the year round. At the end of our busy season when we are compelled to lay off good men we know they will not return to us. If they are really good they can obtain work elsewhere and usually for more money than we can pay.

Work on a golf course can no longer be done by a common laborer. It requires an expert to operate our modern machinery. Modern machinery is risking injury to the golf course and maintenance

is becoming increasingly higher when operated by inexperienced men.

About the only way we can eliminate this problem, which is growing steadily worse each year, is to keep a minimum crew on the payroll the entire year round, giving them two weeks vacation during the winter months. On practically all golf courses there is adequate work to keep these men busy.

The work on a golf course is hard and the hours are long but I find that most of the men like this work after they become familiar with it. We cannot expect to keep good men if we cannot promise them a steady, permanent job. In the past we could lay a man off in the fall and find him waiting to come back to us in the spring on account of the scarcity of jobs. Those days are gone forever.

There is no question but that new, modern equipment has helped to improve the golf course but new types of grass, together with demands from the players, make it necessary to mow much oftener than we used to. At the present time fairways need mowing from three to four times each week to suit the grasses and the players. In the past we used to mow them once each week with a 3-gang mower. That did not cost nearly as much for operation or labor as it does at the present time.

The power green mower has saved some time on the greens but now we need various types of aerifying equipment to relieve the greens from the compaction caused by the heavier mower; also heavier play. We all have much more equipment than we used to but in order to profit from this newer equipment we must have experienced workmen to operate it.

### **1953 TURF CONFERENCES**

Mar. 9-11 — 19th Annual Superintendents and Turf Assn. Short Course, Iowa State College, Ames.

Mar. 11-13 — Minnesota Short Course, Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mar. 13-14 — Michigan Golf Turf Conference, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

Apr. 22-23 — Southeastern Turf Conference, Abraham Baldwin Agri. College and Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga.

Oct. 21-23 — Central Plains Turf Foundation Conference, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Ks.