

Green Section Policy Now Accents Service at Clubs

Richard S. Tufts, chmn., USGA Green Section, in an official statement tells that emphasis in Green Section policy is being changed from research to bringing the results of turf research now being extensively conducted to USGA member clubs through establishment of a number of Green Section regional offices.

The USGA also announces that Alexander M. Radko is serving as Acting Eastern Director of the Green Section office at Room 331, Administration Bldg., Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., Dr. Fred V. Grau, resigned. Charles G. Wilson continues as Western Director, with his address being Box 241, Davis, Calif.

Tufts in his statement made it plain that turf research will be vigorously continued with the USGA giving "financial and moral support" to agencies specializing in research. He says that the new rounded program will benefit USGA clubs with:

"1. Intimate, specialized consultation service on a regular and permanent basis, located so as best to serve the convenience of the subscribing clubs.

"2. Maintenance of turf experimentation on a broad scale, and nationally coordinated through the several Regional Directors so as to bring the greatest possible return to the member clubs."

Tufts adds: "Ever since World War II the Green Section has been decentralizing research activities away from the Washington, D. C., area and out into various regions where peculiar sectional problems must be met and solved. When this co-operative research program was accelerated in 1945, fewer than 10 men at four or five experiment stations were working on turf management problems. Now there are approximately 100 workers, at more than a score of stations. The new emphasis is a continuation of that decentralization in terms of direct service."

New Plan Outlined

The Regional Turf Service will be organized about as follows:

Each Region will consist of about 200 USGA clubs which subscribe for the Regional Service. They will be divided into

about eight groups of 25 clubs each.

Each subscribing club will receive the following benefits (this is subject to alteration depending upon the geographical distribution of the subscribing clubs):

"1. At least three direct consultations with the Regional Director each year, on the following schedule:

- (a) One half-day visit to the club by the Regional Director, followed by a written report from him. (Special visits might be made as time permits.)
- (b) Two group conferences in which the Regional Director will meet with the golf course superintendents and green committee chairmen of the 25 clubs in each group.

"2. Assistance by correspondence and telephone.

"3. A periodic Turfletter from the Regional Director to the subscribing clubs in his Region, at least six times a year.

The Regional Turf Service will be open, in the golf field, only to USGA member clubs and courses. The fee will be as noted below (in addition to standard USGA membership dues); the breakdown items are approximate and may be changed at the discretion of the USGA Executive Committee:

	Less than 18 Holes	18 to 27 Holes	More than 28 Holes
1. Service fee, including travel expenses	\$58	\$78	\$98
2. Appropriation to research, primarily within Region of the subscribing club—approximately 20% of total	15	20	25
3. Subscription to USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANUFACTURING	2	2	2
TOTAL FEE	\$78.	\$100	\$125

1. There will be no extra charges for travel expenses for regular visits by the Regional Director to courses and group meetings. The total fee covers all services and expenses.

2. A portion of the total fee will be expended for research. A ratio cannot be definitely fixed until there has been some experience with the plan. Tentatively, it is intended to appropriate from 20 to 25% of the total fee for research. It is also intended that most of this will be expended within the Region of the subscribing club.

Heretofore the Green Section has made advisory visits to USGA member clubs for a fee of \$50 per day plus travel expenses.

This service will be continued for sections not having regional offices until it can be supplanted by the nation-wide system of regional offices.

Depends on Club Support

The speed with which the program can be put into effect nation-wide depends largely upon the interest and the support of the USGA member clubs and courses, Tufts says.

The first regional office was opened last June at Davis, Cal., with Charles G. Wilson as Western Director. The full program of service is now being established in his Region, which for the time being comprises Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

Other regional offices will be established as fast as practicable. Green committee chairman of USGA member clubs are earnestly requested to write Mr. Tufts at Pinehurst, N. C. to express their degree of interest and their comments on the program.

Tufts strongly suggests that green committee chairmen and golf course superintendents now put items in their budgets for golf course maintenance to cover the relatively small cost of the USGA Green Section Regional Turf Service. The USGA cannot provide such a service unless there is reasonable assurance that it will be supported by the member clubs on a permanent basis. The cost ought to be regarded in just that right and be made a permanent part of the club's annual budget. Tufts says, "We feel confident that the returns will far outweigh the expense.

"The cost is about the same as for 35 lbs. of good spray material to combat brownpatch, or for 75 lbs. of good bent-grass seed."

Fred Grau Resigns as USGA Green Section Director

Fred V. Grau, director of the USGA Green Section, resigned, effective Feb. 15. He was with the Green Section since 1945 and organized the research program which coordinated the Green Section's work with that of numerous regional turf research and experimental stations.

Separation of Grau and the Green Section was completely amicable and resulted from a difference in policy judgment. The Green Section is of the opinion that more extension work is required to apply research to golf course operations and that financing of additional services such as that established on the West Coast last

year is a problem for golf courses rather than for all interests concerned with turf. The Green Section's association with the US Dept. of Agriculture as a tenant at Beltsville, Md., and teammate of the USDA on some turf problems involves matters beyond the scope of a golf association, so the USGA has decided. More concentration upon golf turf is USGA policy for the Green Section's future.

Grau's conviction is that problems are so generally in common in every field of fine turf use the research, extension and financing matters should be brought together on an extensive base.

Announcement of Grau's new connection probably will be made soon as several overtures for the services of the widely-known turf authority have been made.

Streamline the Course and Correct "Delicate" Greens

By CLIFF DEMING

Supt., Sleepy Hollow GC, Brecksville, O.

The superintendent and chairman must work together in discovering what places on the course can be corrected to reduce maintenance costs.

At Sleepy Hollow we got rid of bad and inaccessible areas in the rough so we could go over the whole area with a rough gang mower. We tiled wet spots so machinery could get in before the grass was too high to cut.

On a sporty course like Sleepy Hollow we must reduce hand labor jobs to the smallest extent but still have more than the average of creeks and banks to scythe.

Two valley bottoms were made accessible by new opening without steep slopes. Now we can get tractors and mowers in and out of these areas. We filled in places where considerable fill was necessary and finished that work in time for fall seeding.

Streamlining a course for fullest use of machinery is one of the most urgent jobs for superintendents and club officials to investigate and plan. Another job that can't be neglected is caring for the "delicate" greens on which there is the most trouble. In the Cleveland district again last year we noted that greens sheltered from normal air flow, consequently evaporation, are greens too often over-watered in hot, sultry weather. The research men have done much to prevent loss of these "delicate" greens but despite their most welcome and helpful answers the cure of new construction is required.