



### CENTRAL PLAINS DIRECTORS PLAN RESEARCH

Directors of the Central Plains Turf Foundation inspect a bluegrass plot at the Kansas State College, Manhattan, experimental turf plots during a recent visit to the campus to lay plans for their 1954 research program. From left are: L. E. Lambert, supt., Oakwood G&CC, Dodson, Mo., president of the Foundation; Dr. H. E. Myers, K-State; Harold Glissmann, supt., grounds, Boys Town, Neb.; W. R. Yerkes, commissioner of parks and public properties, Topeka; Prof. W. F. Pickett, K-State, sec.-treas.; and Fred E. Wagner, McPherson arborist, vp. New species and variety mixtures of grasses—both cool and warm season—will be added to the work sponsored by the USGA, the Central Plains Turf Foundation, and Kansas State College. Research also will be continued on height-of-mowing and crabgrass control.

scattered over an area of 150 to 200 acres. Add to this the fact that 75 per cent of the staff is hired on a seasonal basis which usually means that a new group must be formed and trained each year.

The training of new personnel occurs during the Spring of the year when we are usually the busiest with the growing season and Spring application of chemicals. It is mainly due to this heavy load of training of personnel that it is most desirable to have an able assistant to the superintendent. The only solution to this labor problem that seems feasible to me is to minimize the problem by maintaining the largest force of full time employees that is consistent with both the funds available and the amount of work that can and should be accomplished during the Winter months. This would in all probability be about 6 men. At that rate 50 per cent of the staff would be well trained and available at all times.

#### Out-of-Season Work Program

Undoubtedly many golfers would wonder as to the requirements for as many as 6 workmen on the course during the non-playing season. Some of the tasks that

might be done are: removal of undesirable trees, pruning and bracing of trees, planting of trees and shrubs, repairing equipment, maintenance of structures, fence repairs, replacement of sand in the traps, winter sports facilities, cleaning out drain tile, and assistance to the club manager in the Winter renovation of the clubhouse building — just to mention a few.

As concerns the more technical aspect of our work, that of growing turf, let us start with the putting greens. The strains of grass now in general use in Chicago for greens are Washington (with numerous varieties), C-15 or Toronto bent, and the ever present, whether desired or not, poa annua. C-15 has gained prominence for several reasons. First, it is available in quantity and in close cut condition from local nurseries and, secondly, because it is such an early starter in the Spring and stays green much later in the Fall than the other grasses. Also it has the characteristic of growing upright without forming as much thatch as other grasses we have been using. The C-15 is rather vulnerable to large brownpatch and is not as hardy in resistance to heat as Washington is. The finer