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Turfgrass Questions Answered

By FRED V. GRAU

Dr. Grau, former director of the USGA Green Section and now agronomist of West Point Products Corp., in this department of GOLFDOM answers questions asked by those in golf course maintenance work.

Dr. Grau's extensive contacts among golf course superintendents at their courses and at turfgrass conferences, and his close association with the men at experiment stations, give him an authoritative close-up on sound course maintenance.

You are invited to submit questions which Dr. Grau will be happy to answer, basing his solutions to your problems on a vast fund of late and nation-wide information which he has available.

Address your questions to Fred V. Grau, Turfgrass Q&A, Golfdom, 407 S. Dearborn, Chicago 5, Ill.

Progress in the turfgrass industry is moving along quickly. New products, and with them, new methods of turfgrass maintenance, are being introduced in rapid succession. There are new machines, new chemicals, new grasses. How to use these new products to best advantage brings many questions to mind.

My work gives me the opportunity to meet with many golf course superintendents who are trying out new products and new methods on their own courses. I am able to attend the many turfgrass conferences throughout the country. And I meet with the men at the experiment stations, where new products and methods are being tested. The information gained from these various contacts may be helpful to superintendents trying out a new product or procedure. The purpose of this column is to pass along the information to those who can use it.

You are invited to submit questions, and we shall be happy to supply the answers based upon the latest information we have available.

Q—Can Merion bluegrass be seeded into our fairways when we renovate this fall? (Ohio)

A—Merion can be seeded into established fairways but it is likely to be several years before the effect of seeding is noticed because Merion seedlings will have a difficult time competing with *Poa annua* and bent and other grasses. The earlier in the fall it can be seeded the better, in order to get good germination before *Poa annua* competes.

Q—We have an area of Merion turf, and there are places in it that are turning brown and throw off a brown dust when mowed. What is the trouble? (Maryland)

A—The Merion is suffering from rust. It is agreed by research scientists that the rust is favored by lack of nitrogen and shortage of water, both of which imply slow growth. Test plots at various locations show that rust occurs only where Merion turf is dry and hungry. The Merion is not harmed and when it is supplied with adequate water and nitrogen it should become beautiful again.