

## EXPERTS EYE GRASS LEAF



At Penn State College Field day a leaf of a Merion bluegrass plant is examined under the glass by (L to R) Prof. H. B. Musser; Arden Jacklin, seed grower; J. M. Duich; and Dr. A. L. Land of Washington State College.

cut. The less leaf surface you can remove at a time, the less the shock is to the plant. Conversely, the more leaf surface removed at one cutting the more the grass is weakened.

Bermuda turf should be fertilized at least three times a year (or more if your budget will stand it) with a good grade of fertilizer at  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 ton per acre. Basic needs can be determined by having your soil analyzed. Remember always that the easiest and cheapest way to have good weed free turf is to grow grass.

### Water Thoughtfully

There is no one person who can tell you the exact amount, and how often to water on all courses. That is determined by different conditions on each course. The soil should be kept moist at all times, and care should be taken not to over-water. Over-watering can cause a very shallow root system; it will encourage sedge grass; other water grasses; and numerous detrimental weeds that thrive on too much moisture. Too much water can cause as much or more damage than not enough.

I would renovate severely in the early spring with an aerator, rotary hoe, or disc harrow — or all three, if necessary. This will thin out a heavy turf of grass and dead clippings, promote new healthy grass and encourage thin areas to cover over.

Then, renovate lightly in early fall, planning your fertilizer program to take place after each renovation.

### Routine Spraying

It seems to me that in the last ten years of developing better turf, we have also promoted bigger and hungrier worms and other insects, in larger quantities. It has proven very beneficial in my experience to carry out a routine spraying of an economical insecticide every 30 to 45 days, with a boom spray. On a limited budget, spot spraying of infested areas with a hand nozzle is justified and essential.

I particularly would like to stress the importance of routine maintenance. You all know the old saying about the man with the "Green Thumb". I think the secret of his "Green Thumb" is that he religiously waters, fertilizes, and cares for his turf. About 90 per cent of the time outside expert advice and so-called miracle remedies are not needed, provided routine and sound maintenance practices are followed.

### TURF RESEARCH FOUNDATION FORMED FOR MARKETING AID

Turf Research Foundation, with Frank Jacobi at general offices at 208 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 4, and Margaret Herbst at 101 Park Ave., New York, has been formed to develop markets for various strains of grass and issue "seal of approval" to seed producers.

The organization currently is engaged in sales promotion for Merion bluegrass and announces a Merion Bluegrass Assn. 16 mm. 12 minute Kodachrome sound film for sale to dealers.

### GOES HIGH AT TREES



National Shade Tree conference at Atlantic City (N. J.) CC outdoor demonstrations feature new equipment for tree care. Among new devices is the tower making work easier and better high in the trees.