

Turfgrass Questions Answered

By FRED V. GRAU

Dr. Grau will welcome questions on course maintenance subjects from superintendents, green chairmen, club and public course officials. There is no charge or obligation attached to this service. Address Queries—Grau, Golfdom, 407 S. Dearborn St., Chicago 5, Ill.

THE MANY questions that arise about turfgrass management point up how great is the need for information.

We have made much progress, but we still have a long way to go. If each of us had to learn the way alone, we would not make much headway. Fortunately we have organizations that enable us to pool our resources and to progress more rapidly. The Golf Course Superintendents Assn. of America is a shining example of the good results achieved through group effort. This year's meeting will be the 26th National Turfgrass Conference and Show—a long and successful record of working together.

Cooperation among superintendents has been an important factor in the progress of turfgrass science. But for a long time turfgrass science itself existed alone, a thing apart from other branches of agronomic science. Recognition of turfgrass science by the American Society of Agronomy in 1948 opened the way to greater accomplishment working side by side with men from related fields.

The Turfgrass committee of the Agronomy Society was organized to study the needs of the industry and to stimulate interest in needed research. At the first meeting of our committee in 1948, we made an educated guess as to the scope of the turfgrass industry. These speculations paved the way for the recent Turfgrass Survey in Los Angeles County which obtained concrete evidence of the size and scope of the industry.

Much more of that type of information is needed. When we have figures that prove the value of our industry it is much easier to get administrators to take notice and to allot us our share of the funds for research. The aims of the committees are very practical ones!

Other practical accomplishments of the committee include discussion of certification of seed and stolons to protect the interests of you, the consumer. The commit-

tee reviews problems and makes recommendations for problems to be considered by research agencies.

The Turfgrass committee gives recognition to graduate students, and encourages students to participate in the turfgrass industry. New blood in the form of young men well-trained for the job is going to have a tremendous stimulation on the industry as a whole. It is significant that several of our agricultural colleges award a B. S. degree in Agriculture to students who specialize in turfgrass management. We are gaining recognition. And we have obtained international recognition through the International Grasslands Congress.

The work of the Turfgrass committee benefits the turfgrass industry in general. Recognition of the industry as a whole gives greater prestige to every individual engaged in it. Through the work of the committee every superintendent has gained stature and official standing. Superintendents are welcomed as members of the Agronomy Society because of the valuable practical knowledge which they can contribute. The more member superintendents there are, the greater will be their representation on the Turfgrass committee. This committee is making decisions that affect everyone in the industry and it is important that all phases of the industry be represented.

Q—How can I become a member of the American Society of Agronomy?

A—Drop a line to L. G. Montney, Exec. Sec'y, American Society of Agronomy, 2702 Monroe St., Madison 5, Wis. Simply ask for an application blank. Or if you prefer you can address this column and an application blank will be sent to you. Most superintendents probably would prefer the associate, non-voting membership which includes a subscription to *Crops and Soils*. The cost is \$6 a year.