

# 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.

**G**OLF course superintendents can be optimistic because they have at their command today a more imposing array of improved grasses, equipment, chemicals, technics and information than ever before experienced.

The intelligent application of the "tools" at his command places the superintendent in a very favorable position to provide greatly improved playing surfaces and thus to command a better relationship with the members and players. Time was when the "greenkeeper" had no readily available source of information when trouble hit. He lived with his problems until he (and Nature) licked them.

Today there is a wealth of good information easily available from several sources including state experiment stations and the extension service which includes the county agents; books, bulletins, turfgrass conference proceedings, journals and magazines; consulting and advisory services and the superintendents' own "self-help" committees. The superintendent, out of the advice and information which he can solicit, has only to make his own decision as to what is best for his conditions.

One of the logical developments has been the recognition of the salesman's place in the turfgrass picture. From obscurity he has become a leading figure in the educational field and has attained membership in the superintendents' organizations. This is as it should be. Because he has been recognized as an equal the salesman is by honor and good business obligated to assist the superintendent in every way possible in addition to supplying needed tools and accurate information as to their best use.

Virtually every golf course is visited several times a year by salesmen who are the manufacturers' representatives. Coverage of this kind cannot be duplicated by

any other agency. It is hopeful and encouraging, then, to see these salesmen eagerly attending the educational conferences. Most of them take careful notes in order better to prepare themselves to be most useful to the superintendents, particularly from the standpoint of helping them to understand and to use their products to best advantage.

**Q**—We are resodding a number of our tees from our Merion sod nursery. In the process we are bringing in some soil and doing some regrading. How much and what kind of fertilizer would you think we should work into the sodbed? (N. Y.)

**A**—We are great believers in being generous in the use of fertilizer in the sodbed, especially when the sod is Merion bluegrass which requires large amounts of plant food. We would recommend at least 1000 lbs. to the acre of 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 fertilizer.

Where lime is needed and will be beneficial this is the time to incorporate ground limestone at the rate of at least one ton to the acre or more if required. The limestone and the complete fertilizer may be applied simultaneously. By incorporating the lime and fertilizer in the top 2 to 3 inches the newly laid Merion sod will be stimulated into quick rooting and rapid growth which will permit the tee to be used more quickly.

Regular maintenance applications of fertilizer should begin within 4-6 weeks following laying of the sod.

**Q**—It would seem to us that frequent aerifying of greens would cause them to become uneven. The topdressing soil applied following aerifying would be loose in the holes in comparison with the soil around the cavities. Then rain or irrigation water would pack down the soil in the holes and an uneven surface would result. Would you discuss this? (Ill.)