

# Cornell Conference Answers Many Turf Problems

By JOHN F. CORNMAN

**T**HE eighth annual Cornell Turf Conference was attended by 135.

After registration at Statler Hall on the Cornell Campus, Dr. Jesse A. DeFrance of the University of Rhode Island described the results of planting uniform plugs of Meyer zoysia in established plots of a variety of bent grasses, bluegrasses, fescues, and others. Meyer zoysia spread very little in the better bents and bluegrasses but in the red fescues the zoysia was able to spread much faster because of less competition during the active growing season for the zoysias.

Dr. Michael Peech of the Cornell Agronomy Department described in some detail the methods and purposes of quick-testing of soils. During the discussion period it was brought out that in usual quick tests for nitrate nitrogen, the nitrogen from such new sources as urea and calcium cyanamide do not appear. Arsenic gives the same test as phosphorous, so for an area that has been treated with lead arsenate the test for phosphorous is not accurate. While it is possible to separate these two elements, the procedure is lengthy and expensive.

After lunch Dr. Harold E. Gray of the Cornell Agricultural Engineering Department described the exact procedures necessary to lay out simple drainage lines. He supplemented the talk with exhibits of various types of drainage tiles and pipes and discussed their relative merits. His talk was more specific than the good general discussion in Cornell Extension Bulletin 875 "Farm Drainage", which was distributed to the audience. Additional copies of this bulletin are available upon request. Through the courtesy of Warren Laffin the group saw the new film on Merion bluegrass made by the Merion Bluegrass Assn. The annual meeting of the New York State Turf Association followed.

## Weed Control Reported

On Wednesday morning Dr. Ralph Engel of Rutgers University described a wide variety of experimental work being conducted at that institution. Of particular interest was his description of excellent

success in controlling goosegrass or silver crab with the experimental chemical SESIN 30E. Two successive treatments on putting green turf beginning in June gave 85 per cent control without evidence of any turf injury. While the control was not perfect, it reduced the problem to where hand weeding was again practical.

James McFaul, Associate County Agent in Nassau County, described a variety of turf trials in suburban Long Island. His work with calcium cyanamid for seedbed sterilization has continued to be successful (as described in the New York State Turf Association Bulletin). The very heavy natural rainfall in the autumn of 1954 demonstrated that too much water will reduce the effectiveness of the cyanamid application although, except for some regrowth of clumps of ryegrass, the heavy rains did not diminish the weed killing activities to a serious degree.

Dr. John Cornman described briefly the experimental work with clover control on fairways and putting greens recently concluded by John Jagschitz. The ethyl ester form of 2,4,5-T has continued to give the best control of clover in fairways when used at the rate of one pound acid equivalent per acre. In these experiments the ester form has always been as good and often better than the amine form. A large number of compounds related to 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D have been tested in a preliminary way and none of them has been nearly so successful as the 2,4,5-T ester.

On putting greens, results have been variable. Injury to the turf has occurred in some instances and considerably more caution was suggested in applying 2,4,5-T to putting greens. *Veronica filiformis*, increasingly troublesome in New York lawns, is not controlled satisfactorily with any of the chemicals now widely available.

Endothol has given much the best results, but this is not now marketed in quantities suitable for home use.

Attention was drawn to the interesting work by Gallagher and Emerson in controlling crabgrass late in the season. Three applications of disodium methyl ar-

sonate provided 100% control with no evidence of turf injury. It is understood that this material will reach the retail market this season; it should be a very useful addition to our weapons against crabgrass if field trials are as successful as the preliminary experiments.

On Wednesday afternoon Tom Bowen of the Yahnundasis Club near Utica described his experiences in caring for 18 Piper velvet bent greens and improving fairway conditions to such an extent that reliance on an artificial watering system on fairways was unnecessary.

Tom cuts his greens at 3/16 in. seven days a week. He explained in detail why he chose his particular course of action in each difficulty. The results of the program were illustrated by a colored motion picture.

Al Radko, Northeastern Director for the USGA Green Section, led the lengthy discussion period. There was discussion and varied opinions as to the merits of rolling turf, and extensive comments on the merits of various liquid fertilizers. Wilting problems, fairy ring, and the need for published information on the compatibility of various chemicals were discussed.

In the athletic field section W. H. James, Supt., Building and Grounds, at the Ossining (N. Y.) public schools, described his experiences in developing turf for his school grounds and athletic fields. He presented a complete record of the expansion problems and how they were solved at Ossining. He emphasized particularly the necessity for doing a good job from the beginning.

Dr. Ralph Engel distributed copies of his booklet on athletic fields and discussed possible solutions to some of the most difficult problems in school grounds maintenance. He emphasized the point that schools should acquire enough land early in their development, for there are traffic limits beyond which no turf can be expected to survive. In the discussion period there was considerable interest in how much crown is needed in a football field, as well as the design for curbing necessary for a cinder track to surround the football field.

On Thursday morning George Swanson, Director of the Cornell Plantations and University Grounds, showed pictures of a large number of pieces of equipment and modifications of many of them for the particular maintenance problems on the University Campus.

After the colored film on soils "Making

the Most of a Miracle", Dr. John Cornman described turf observations made during his recent sabbatical leave in Florida. With Dr. Gene C. Nutter, now in charge of turf research in the state of Florida, a tour covered most of the types of turf and some of the new developments in turf management in Florida. Colored slides illustrated how handsome selected strains of *zoysia matrella* are at Christmas time in Miami lawns, and how successful some of the more forward superintendents are with better strains of Bermuda grass holding color without overseeding for winter play.

### HOW TO MAKE MOST OF SLACKS MARKET AT PRO SHOPS

By JACK LUST

In recent years men have become increasingly color conscious of wearing apparel and this trend is accented at the country clubs where the bright and care-free atmosphere prevails.

Much credit for recognizing and developing this style trend and marketing opportunities must be given to the wives of professionals. These women have been quick to sense sound styling and generally have color judgment considerably superior to that of men. It is my studied opinion that the wives of professionals at the smartest clubs have been a far greater factor in shrewdly guiding men's sports styles than is appreciated, even in the men's wear business.

I am sure we can thank these women for the now quite popular custom of men becoming slacks "collectors" and having frequent tasteful changes of golf attire rather than playing in the same well-worn outfits, as was the quite usual habit not many years back.

Often one hears the remark made that a golfer may not play like a professional but he dresses like one. That is a tribute to professionals' good taste in apparel which professionals have been wise to make discreetly apparent, though not glaring. It most certainly is important that the professional be the glass of fashion and the mold of form in sports apparel.

And this comment about "dressing like a pro" is psychologically beneficial to the golfer. When he looks smartly attired he is bound to feel better and, perhaps, play with a bit more confidence.

Selling slacks has become a substantial source of income at most first-class pro shops, whether the club is in a large metropolitan district or in a smaller city or town. And it now is certain that the golfer who buys slacks from the informed pro merchant at the smaller club can get