
Turfgrass Questions Answered by Grau

If you've got a question you want Dr. Fred V. Grau to help you answer in this department, please address it to Grau Q&A, Golfdom, 407 S. Dearborn, Chicago 5, Ill.

THIS month I am reporting on a visit to an outstanding course where there is an outstanding supt. who has an outstanding chmn. Between them they are responsible for making the course what it is.

Woodmont CC A Study In Teamwork

The course is in prime condition. The supt. has an air of confidence. He says the good condition of his course comes from closely following the teachings of experiment stations and other leaders in the turfgrass field. The fact that he is permitted to follow the most recent practices is a credit to his chmn. The supt. himself should get credit for being alert and for following through.

Mutual confidence between supt. and chmn. results in the supt. getting nearly anything he asks in equipment. Getting what he needs to do the job results in members having a near perfect course to play.

It is not our usual policy to single out one from among many excellent supts. for special mention. But many of you will be coming to the 1958 Turfgrass Conference and Show in Washington, D. C. and will want to visit Woodmont CC at nearby Rockville, Md., where Bob Shields and his chmn., Leopold Freudberg, are giving dramatic proof of the value of teamwork. Progressive thinking by the supt. and the confidence and backing of a well-informed chmn. feature this teamwork.

When we visit Bob's course we make a beeline for the nurseries (notice the plural). After we have studied them (and not until then), we inspect the course.

Of great significance in Washington's climate was Bob's remark about his C-1 and C-19 greens. "I rarely look at them; they don't give me any trouble. We aerify them, we use the Verti-cut, we feed them and keep them dry. That's about all there is to it." The greens are just about the ultimate in perfection.

The next statement was significant too:

"Why is it I can have such lovely greens and such lousy collars and tees?" Therein lies a major use for Bob's nurseries. Some tees are being planted to U-3 from one nursery. Others are being planted to Ugan-dagrass from another nursery. Still another has been sodded to a "blend." He doesn't feel that we have the answer yet on the bone-hard collars but you can be sure he will be doing something about it and will have something to show in another year.

He has a large C-1, C-19 nursery for use on the greens of the new course he is building.

When the tees, collars and approaches have the same excellence as the greens, then the Woodmont fairway improvement program will start in earnest. Some work has been done but more experience needs to be gained with newer, improved grasses before the final decisions can be made. The nurseries are helping to decide what grasses will be used on fairways in the future. To me, and I hope to GOLFDOM readers, Bob, his chmn., and his club symbolize the results attained from acting upon the best available information. Bob gives full credit to those who travel the "Orpheum Circuit" of the conferences, to universities, golf course suppliers, green sections and to his fellow supts.

We have been criticized for stressing nurseries. "A nursery isn't the same as a tee or a green that is in constant use" is constantly heard. That is true. The bacon in the refrigerator isn't the same as that cooked on your breakfast platter. But I doubt if anyone would advise dispensing with refrigerators. A nursery is a warehouse from which you can get replacement material on a moment's notice. It is also your private experiment station where you can make mistakes to learn how not to make mistakes.

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Q. We have been building a new 18-hole course. We started in the spring of 1955 and hope to have it completed this year. However we have a major problem at this time and would like your comments. In building our