

Noer — Turf Roundup

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The production of seed heads in creeping bent grass nurseries is responsible for off-type strains. Some growers attempt to stop seed production with weed burners. At Purdue William Daniel prevented seed head formation by using maleic hydrazide. Positive results were obtained even with very light dosages of this chemical.

Soil Sterilization

Cyanamid and methyl bromide have been used mostly for soil sterilization before sowing grass seed or planting stolons. Both are good. Several weeks must elapse between the use of cyanamid and seeding or planting. It does not kill underground Bermuda grass rhizomes. Methyl bromide is very effective, and kills the rhizomes of Bermuda and quack grass. It fails with some hard coated seeds of clover. Seeding or planting can proceed within 48 hours after treating. The liquid is introduced into sealed polyethylene tents. The methyl bromide changes to a heavy gas which sinks into the soil. It is allowed to act for 24 hours. Then the tent is removed and soil is left for another 24 hours before seeding or planting. Treatment cost is high.

A new soil sterilant, "Vapam", looks promising. It is diluted and sprayed or sprinkled over the surface. Drenching with water immediately to wash the Vapam into the soil is essential and said to be the secret of success. Seeding or planting can start in 10 to 14 days.

The turf nursery of Toronto bent at Maple Lane CC in Detroit is pure bent. Even poa annua is absent despite its presence in the area alongside the nursery. Clarence Wolfram follows this program before planting stolons in late fall, and thinks it the secret of weed and poa annua control. The nursery area is prepared by plowing or discing. Then sodium arsenite is sprayed over the surface at 1 lb. per 1000 sq. ft. with a minimum amount of water. The area is worked with a spring-tooth harrow to bring deeper soil to the surface and sodium arsenite is used again at the same rate. He sprays and cultivates six times in all and then plants the stolons.

Faster Play Facilitated by New Maintenance Ideas

Bill Brady, supt., Maple Bluff CC, Madison, Wis., suggests that the supt. and the green chmn. keep their eyes on chances to enable players to get around the course faster, but in having the game made too easy it isn't fun.

Brady says "The greatest improvement in playing condition at Maple Bluff this year has been the lowering of the cut on the blind holes. We used to have a 4½ ins. heavy bluegrass rough and this slow-

ed up play while golfers looked for balls. By lowering the cut to 1½ ins. out about 150 yds. the balls are easily found; yet, there's still rough that is somewhat of a hazard. The player who doesn't get 150 yds. already has lost enough distance and should be penalized more.

"We also left a 10 ft. to 12 ft. strip of protective rough along out-of-bounds fences to keep the ball in the course. Especially along hard and dry fairways such strips save time and money for the player as much of our out-of-bounds is bordered by railroad bank and road.

Research Does the Job

"Research has done a tremendously valuable job for us in providing chemicals with wider range of effective use. We formerly had to buy four or five chemicals for different diseases and go to the expense of applying them separately. Now one chemical will control several diseases in all kinds of weather and without shock or burn to the turf.

"Research that would be of high value to our course would be that developing a hardy grass for our iron-shot tees. We are too far north for good results with zoysia. The grass, we need, preferably of the texture of zoysia, must be able to stand the low cut of our bent tees."

Areas Around Greens, Rough and Ladies Tees Need Study

Areas adjacent to greens and the rough often provide opportunities to step up maintenance with results that are conspicuous and pleasing to the players and the supt., says Walter Leix, supt., Shannopin CC, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Leix relates that at Shannopin this year areas adjacent to the greens and tees were limed and fertilized but, because of topography of those localities, couldn't be aerified. The rough was aerified, limed and fertilized. The Shannopin supt. calls attention to the usual case of budgets being stretched to the limit to do everything possible for the greens, collars, fairways and tees. Due to those primary demands, other areas often get less grooming than the supt. and chmn. would like to give them. When you can get around to giving rough, green and tee areas some special attention the work does a whole lot to make the whole picture of the course sparkle.

At Shannopin, several of the ladies' tees were enlarged. "Women's golf is increas-

ing so much at most clubs that the ladies tees, which commonly are only makeshift jobs of design and construction that have been in 20 years or longer at many courses, can stand studious reconstruction," Leix points out.

This year Leix has had excellent results in applying the new crabgrass control chemicals and advises that this application of one result of research alone has been worth a great deal to his club.

As far as the program for golf turf research is concerned the Shannopin supt. opines: "Burt Musser of Penn State has the experience, knowledge and about everything else but money and additional qualified men to develop turf research along lines that will do most good for golfers. Golf course supts. and chmn. know how difficult it is to get the budgets they need and, of necessity, have tight operating policies. Practically every man responsible for course maintenance in Pennsylvania can testify that every penny Musser and his associates has spent in turf research has paid dividends to golf."

Suggests Turf Research Under Playing Conditions

Lawrence Huber, supt., Ohio State University courses, Columbus, O., voices the opinion of numerous supts. in saying he would like to see more turf research conducted under actual playing conditions. Some subjects that, in Huber's judgment, need scientific study on courses where thousands of rounds are played are crabgrass elimination, poa annua control and compaction. The great practical value turf research has meant in course operation would be substantially increased if research specialists and supts. could devise procedure that would present conditions of actual golf turf use as the basis of research projects.

Huber says that in his own case his practical experience is kept closely coordinated with what he learns by observation of the tests made at the Midwest Turf Foundation plots at Purdue and other experimental stations, and with the experience of successful supts. he meets at the GCSA annual conferences.

One point that Huber stresses in commenting on this year's course maintenance operations is that standards of "house-keeping" at courses have been noticeably better than ever before. He says "better grooming definitely has improved playing conditions. Better equipment and more

of it, increased understanding of the details and policies of course management and, for the first time in years, a higher grade of available labor have enabled many supts. to give more polish to the job than has been possible before."

California Groups Hold Turf Conference

The annual joint meeting of the Northern and Southern California GCSA was held at the Sunnyside CC, Fresno, Oct. 9. The joint meeting of the two groups has been an established custom for many years and was attended by more than 100 supts.

Verne Conklin, pres. of the northern group was host with Jack Baker, Valley Club, Santa Barbara, pres. of the southern group, assisting.

Winton Strong of Fresno State College gave the luncheon talk on soils and irrigation. Using test tubes, flower pots, coffee cans and orange juice cans, Strong told his audience much about water and its use, soils, soil compaction, irrigation and methods of making simple soil tests to aid management and irrigation practices.

Washington Junior Program

The Junior Golf program of Washington, D. C., now in its 29th year, is keeping 400 boys "off the streets and on the fairways from April until fall," according to Frank Emmet, director, who has long played a leading role in providing recreation for youthful clubswingers in and around the nation's capital.

This year, the Washington Junior group sponsored three high school leagues and promoted five tournaments. In past years it has played host to the USGA Junior championship, Simpson Cup (International team matches) and Western Junior championship. The USGA Junior tournament is scheduled to be held under its auspices again in 1957.

Arrangements also were made to send Washington Junior stars to leading national tournaments this year in Massachusetts, North Dakota and Toronto.

Sixteen pros have graduated from Washington Junior ranks and more than 50 amateurs who have won local or national recognition as star golfers got their start in the program. Golf Writer Merrell Whittlesey of the Washington Star was also introduced to the game through the Junior program.