

low-cost weed control and purity of planted strains. Each material has its limitations. The user's choice depends on a number of factors. Use of these materials is increasing.

Pests, Diseases and Insects

Nematodes pushing *Curvularia* and *Poa annua* for No. 1 pest spot. If you can't identify your trouble call it nematodes. Maybe it is poor drainage but both need careful study to detect. Gene Nutter and associates in Florida really working hard on problem.

Diseases really are well under control. Frank Howard, Rhode Island, has done an outstanding job. Manufacturers are to be commended for research and development of broad-spectrum fungicides.

Insects no longer seem to hold terror for turf people who are informed. Sod webworm still is mistaken for dollarspot but then it probably always will be by a few. High-powered safe insecticides largely have eliminated insects as a major turf problem.

Water Problems Serious

Water conservation and proper use has risen to a high position on agenda of most turf-grass groups. It is serious in the Southwest. No area is free from the need for careful study of the subject.

We need "camel" grasses that can go long periods without a drink and still provide good playing surfaces. Soils need to be made and kept open to absorb water quickly. Excessive use of water degrades good turf, is wasteful, raises costs in several ways.

Golf groups everywhere could take the load off the superintendent's back by popularizing firm greens, depopularizing sloppy soft greens that will hold a low hard-hit brassie. Many troubles arise from excess water on areas not built to handle volume.

Research, extension, resident teaching, and the press can do much to awaken "water consciousness".

Poa annua will find its level with continued study and discussion. "If you can't lick 'em, jine 'em". Warm-season grasses will grow in popularity as we learn to use *poa* as the natural winter companion. It never needs reseeding, once you have it. Some research pointed this way is encouraging. Destruction of *poa* will be a long hard (losing?) battle. Some will succeed at the price of know-how, vigilance, and doing everything right. Water is one of the keys in the puzzle.

Equipment Improvement Continues

Equipment is improving steadily with keen competition and awareness of the demand for turf quality. A club is paying for good modern equipment whether or not it has bought it. Once it is bought there must be a man on the staff to keep it in top operating condition. The machine is only as good as its operator.

In the 1951 Roundup I mentioned "vacuum cleaners for fairways". This is still good. Ben Warren (Ill.) has one operating successfully on his turf nursery. Removing clippings will be a "must" where we have vigorous grasses

that respond to fertilizers, grasses that resist decay, and where we have eliminated insects which would grind up the clippings and mix them with the soil.

Extension Service facilities are paid for whether we use them or not. Extension services of the agricultural colleges are taking a more active part in turfgrass affairs. Extension service is there available for the asking at no cost.

You may say, "Our county agent doesn't know anything about greens". Maybe he doesn't -- but the specialists are available at his request. Maybe he can help you in business management, in setting up a budget, in drafting reports, in setting up demonstrations, in getting speakers for meetings. Don't miss the chance to invite your county agent to work with you. He might welcome an invitation to your meetings.

Gala Opening for New Country Club of Florida

Golf notables from the midwest and east attended the formal opening of the new Country Club of Florida, near Delray Beach, Dec. 1.

The course is on a 1250 acre tract which eventually will be sites of winter homes of a select group. Robert Bruce Harris designed an interesting, beautiful and testing course on rolling ground that once was a dairy farm. Charles Maddox built the course and Norman Johnson became its supt. while construction was in progress. Johnson has on his staff two first class supts., Matt Bezak, formerly in charge of Chicago district clubs, and Jerry Vanasse, on leave from a Connecticut club.

The course was brought into remarkably fine condition for a new course on opening day. Holes of the course are named for native birds.

Five residences for occupancy by members, and a charming small clubhouse have been completed.

Johnny Farrell of Baltusrol is professional. He is assisted by his sons, John jr. and Jimmy.

Carleton Blunt, Chicago attorney who is head of the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship foundation, started the new private club off by financing it to the extent of approximately \$1 million.

Dawson Heads Mid-Atlantic

Thomas W. Dawson, of the Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, has been elected pres. of the Mid-Atlantic Association of supts. Other new officers include Paul E. Weiss, Jr. Sparrows Point (Md.) CC, vp, and Francis Coupe, Washington G & CC, Arlington, Va., secy-treas.