
Grau's Answers to Turfgrass Question

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



WIVES of supts. occasionally are mentioned in connection with banquets, husband accepting honors, husband taking on more work as officer in an association,

A Word to the Wives Is Not Sufficient; They Deserve a Volume

or "is survived by . . ." In this brief message we are going to pay tribute to the silent partners of the guys who get the job done with the help of their wives.

When the going is rough, and when it seems as though the whole world is against you and the easiest thing would be to say "the hell with it" and walk off the job and leave the headaches for the next poor sucker, who is it that gives with the moral support, the guidance and the courage to carry on and see it thru? Is it the green chmn., club pres., the players or the pro? All of us know the answer! The wife is the "Rock of Gibraltar."

On those 24-hour deals when the greens are scalding out and the supt. has to sit up nights with his "sick cats," who is it that keeps the supper hot until all hours? It is about time we gave recognition to the long-suffering gals who have learned to take it on the chin and come back for more. They've been overlooked too long!

Most of us male animals would just as soon go around in the sloppy clothes of comfort. Someone has to keep us spruced up and give us a reason for looking decent. That freshly-laundered shirt and the sharp-pressed trousers surely make a better impression than those grimy togs we'd likely be wearing if it were not for someone's checking up on us. Someone has said that

clothes make the man but surely it is woman who makes the man think the kind he is to wear.

At least once a year we like to attend the GCSA national convention and mingle with our fellow man. How much better it is to have the better half along to help us enjoy the affair to the fullest. Chances are we feel a lot better the next morning and for several mornings thereafter, too.

Eulogizing the "Mrs. Supt." isn't exactly up our alley but somewhere, somehow the wives deserve a lot more credit than they get for the important part they play in the success that comes to their husbands. Who else is so likely to give with the unvarnished truth whether it be praise or a dressing down that is needed?

So — a word to the wives — no matter how quiet and unobtrusive you may be, no matter how shy and retiring you are, all of us know and applaud the great job you have done and are doing, uncomplainingly accepting the irregularity of your husband's hours and helping him to succeed in his life's work. Maybe someday someone will engrave a plaque or a medal with words and phrases that will give credit where credit is due. Until then we'll carry those words and phrases in our hearts. Maybe you prefer that to a medal, anyway!

Disease Carriers

Q. Will you please inform me whether or not it is possible for the players to carry disease of fungus on their shoes from fairways to greens? Can the disease be spread in this manner? (N. Y.)

A. Yes, it is possible for disease organisms to be carried from one place to the other in many different ways. The shoes of players are only one small way in which these fungi are distributed. You will find that animals of all

kinds and wind and water are some of the instruments whereby these diseases are spread. We simply accept the fact that disease organisms are carried by many means and we devise programs whereby the disease is stopped before it can do any harm on the greens.

Educational Inquiry

Q. I am a senior in high school. I have decided to attend a Turfgrass Management College to learn to be a supt. I do not know what colleges offer turfgrass management programs. Would you please send me information that is available on schools that offer this program? I also believe I am qualified to go to a good school. (Ill.)

A. One of the first decisions that you have to make is — do you intend to take a four-year course, or would you want to take a condensed two-year course, or even an eight-week course and specialize so that you may become a supt. sooner.

I suggest that you contact William H. Daniel, Agronomy, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. He can give you full information about the Turfgrass Management Courses at Purdue. This is one of the best schools for this type of program, but doesn't offer a short course.

For either a four-year course or four eight-week terms, I recommend that you write to H. B. Musser, Agronomy, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. I enclose the brochure on the 1957-58 Winter Course in Turfgrass Management. At the present time I would confine your inquiries to these two

schools and then decide which will suit your purposes and inclinations best.

Where to Buy Penncross

Q. We were interested in your article on poa annua in the Q. and A. in GOLFDOM in April. However, we have been unable to find Penncross seed. Can you give us the information? (Mich.)

A. Penncross seed seems to be in the hands of only a few dealers and course supply houses. A few seedsmen have it but the fact isn't too well known. The grower source of Penncross creeping bent seed is Arden Jacklin of Dishman, Wash. If you will drop him a letter he will either supply you from his retail store or will refer you to the nearest dealer which he supplies with seed.

Fairway Fertilization

Q. How often should fairways be fertilized — every two or three years? What type of fertilizer do you recommend for fairways and tees? (Ill.)

A. The frequency of fertilizing fairways depends, in a large measure, upon the quality of turf that you would like to produce. If you are trying to produce excellent fairways with good solid, dense turf, free of weeds, I would certainly recommend fertilizing not less than twice a year, preferably in the spring and fall.

The type of fertilizer that I would recommend would be one high in nitrogen, preferably something of a 2-1-1 ratio, such as a 10-5-5 or 10-6-4 or even a 12-6-6. Some of the fertilizers of these analyses contain slow-releasing nitrogen.

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