

Member Sees Supt. As An Expert in His Field

By LEOPOLD V. FREUDBERG

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What are the ingredients of a capable supt? Although outward appearances differ, nearly all successful and outstanding supts. have many characteristics in common.

What are these characteristics?

- 1. They enjoy their work.
- 2. They have confidence in themselves.
- 3. They are constantly striving to learn more about their job.
- 4. They have developed imagination.
- They have a working plan to which they adhere.
- 6. They have developed the knack of building goodwill, both with their staff and members of their club.
- 7. They keep full and complete records daily.

It is obvious that the day's work must be planned ahead in order to get the most out of your men and out of your budget. An unplanned, unregulated day means disorganized and undirected work. I can remember the days when the only important job of the supt. was maintaining the greens in perfect condition.

Today members demand that maintenance of fairways, the rough, traps, tees, disease control, drainage, water supply, equipment care, management of help and keeping records are included among duties that fall upon the supt.

Seen As An Expert

The members regard the supt. as an expert in every phase of agronomy and horticulture. In order for him to maintain that impression, he has to study and keep up with developments in an industry that has made tremendous progress in the last decade.

Someone said, "That the day we cease our efforts to learn, we die mentally." and to quote another philosopher who said, "Alas for our hero - too busy to read - he was also too busy, it proved to succeed."

Study and mix with fellows in your profession. Not one of you by yourself can know all the answers – for as James A. Reid wrote: "No Club can 'afford' the cost of new ideas, new weed controls, new fertilizers, new equipment." The USGA green section, colleges, commercial houses, chemical firms are experimenting and are releasing their findings in conferences, books and monthly magazines and papers. One is lucky to be around today when so much is being uncovered in the science of dealing with grasses and the art of dealing with people.

The keeping of records is an onerous job. You undoubtedly ask yourself if it is really necessary. Just ask Taylor Boyd, of the Camargo Club, Cincinnati, one of America's outstanding course executives, how vital keeping daily records is to your job. The records kept at Woodmont by Bob Shields, our capable supt., has enabled me, as liaison man between the maintenance dept. and the board, to present the actual budget requirements which are based on accurate figures.

There is no guesswork when you have dependable records which take about 15 to 20 minutes a day to keep. The budget committee then sees facts that have been faithfully accumulated showing how every dollar has been spent. Thus the budget committee shares responsibility for the way in which the course and grounds can be maintained.

The budget committee and members of the Board should be made to understand the original big investment the club already has in the course, that it must be maintained with great care. To accomplish this, we must have a staff that understands its job, is devoted and loyal to the interests of the club. It is the job of the chmn. of the green committee to continually educate and impress upon officials the fact that they cannot relax for one moment in the proper care and maintenance of the course around which every other activity in the club must revolve.

South Shall Rise Again -With Turfgrass

By JAMES M. LATHAM

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Demand of the golfing public for better playing conditions and the desire of the supt. for more easily-maintained turf have been the driving forces behind the development of improved grasses. These same groups are responsible for their use. Not too long ago there was quite a division grass-wise between the North and South – bent, bluegrass and fescue for the North; Bermuda, centipede, carpet and St. Augustine for the South. The crabgrass belt from St. Louis to Washington was a no-man's land, not fit for any desirable grass. Mostly, this area depended unsuccessfully upon cool-season grasses. This situation certainly is changing today.

situation certainly is changing today. The old cry, "The South will rise again," is certainly true with turfgrasses. U-3 Bermuda is one of the greatest things to happen to golf in the crabgrass belt with summer problems. Al Linkogel started working with it in 1947 in St. Louis, Eb Steiniger at Pine Valley, Clementon, N. J., has been using U-3 Bermuda for fairway turf. Several other northeastern courses have found it useful as a turfgrass. Certainly U-3 is not the only Bermuda adapted to this area, but it is the only one which has been widely tested and approved. Among newer (Continued on page 77)

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varieties showing promise as being resistant to winterkill are Sunturf, Urganda, and Tifgreen. These grasses begin growth earlier than the U-3.

Bent Moves South

Improved bentgrasses are being used farther and farther south for permanent turf. Bents have been used for a number of years in the Southwest. The Southeast, however, has had more problems to overcome, the solutions to which rest primarily on the individual supt. In 1951 Alex McKay planted Arlington and Old Orchard bents on the Chattanooga greens. The same year Charlie Danner in Nashville began working with bents. Both areas have been quite successful. Ellis Maples planted bent at the Pine Hollow in Winston-Salem, N. C., in 1954. Last year greens at the Cherokee CC in Atlanta were planted to bent, There is also strong indication of more extensive use of tall fescue in low maintenance areas in the upper South.

Many of the new varieties are special purpose grasses. Improved bents are primarily used on greens and aprons. Merion has been used largely on tees and lawns.

Fescues have long been the workhorses. Tall fescues such as Alta and Kentucky 31 are widely used for low maintenance areas such as steep banks, deep shade and rough areas. The new fine-leaf fescues are basically used for lawn or fairway turf where irrigation is not used.

Has Great Variability

Probably Bermuda is used for more turf purposes than any other grass genus. In the South, common Bermuda is successfully used for athletic fields, golf greens, tees and fairways, home lawns and other unshaded areas. Its extreme variability and relative ease of hybridization have made fine-leaf types commonplace. Examples of this are Tifgreen, Everglades I, Bayshore, Tiffine, Texturf 1F and Sunturf, which are primarily used for putting greens.

Tifflawn Bermuda, originally designed for lawns and golf courses, has been used principally for tees and athletic fields, due to its toughness. Texturf 10 is also used for these purposes. Ormond makes very good fairway and lawn turf but is coarser than desired for greens. U-3 has found wide use on tees and fairways due to winterhardiness and wear resistance.

Zoysias Have Slow Growth

The Zoysias have not been as useful for golf as was originally thought, due to slow growth. Meyer and Emerald are improved varieties from breeding programs.

In the South they do well in moderate shade and may be used in areas in which Bermudas do not grow. Slowness of growth, however, means that damage from golf clubs will be long in healing, so their use in areas subject to such damage is questionable.

Improved grasses, both cool and warm-sea-



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son, have been found to be unsatisfactory in many instances. Certainly no amount of testing at an experiment station can approximate the trial on a course. Traffic, weather, soil, and management conditions cannot be standardized on a course. The final judgment of a grass, then, is up to the men who use it - supts. and golfers.

Part of

Consider, then, the prime topic of course maintenance cost. In the Southeast quite a bit of interest is being shown in improved Bermudas for fairway use. What will this practice do to operating costs? They'll probably increase. Mowing equipment must be kept sharper and better adjusted than for common Bermuda. Damage from insects or diseases will be more easily seen due to greater sod density. A closer cut will be asked; therefore more water may be needed. The needs of fertilizer should not change, but fertilizer "burns" will be more noticeable. More frequent mowing probably will be needed. It will be more difficult to obtain a stand of ryegrass in the fall. Be that as it may, if proper grass is chosen a beautiful surface will be obtained. This means that a more careful program is required to give the golfers the things they want without great budget in creases. The new grasses are better known than those which went before but will require a new management program.

Putting green management costs should be less with improved grasses than with the older types. Arlington, Congressional and Penneross are probably the most popular bentgrasses at this time. Their management costs have not been greater than that of their predecessors. The previously mentioned putting green Bermudas should not increase management costs, either.

Ureaform Fertilization on Putting Green Turf

By J. A. DEFRANCE

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The advent of ureaform has opened the door to a whole new era in turfgrass fertilization. Because of the critical importance of nitrogen in the development and maintenance of turf areas, research work has been initiated with respect to the relatively new methylene urea compounds commonly referred to as ureaforms. Fuller and Clark, Yee and Love, and McCool did much of the pioneering work on the breakdown and availability of the ureaform materials. In general, their early studies showed that ureaform materials, if properly formulated, were effective slow-releasing nitrogen sources.

It remained to be determined just how effective ureaform fertilizers would be as a source of nitrogen for putting-green turf where grass clippings are removed. An experiment was started in 1956 to evaluate the effectiveness of ureaform fertilizers as nitrogen sources on putting green turf. This paper summarizes the results of this study as observed throughout the 1957 growing season.

Methods and Materials

The investigation was conducted at the turf plots of the R. I. Agricultural experiment station on a soil classifed as Bridgehampton silt loam of pH 6.2. Experimental plots were each 50 sq. ft. in area and were replicated three times. Plots were located on three separate areas, each a different species of green turf, namely Piper velvet bent, R. I. Colonial and Seaside. All were mowed at one-quarter in. and maintained to simulate putting green conditions as nearly as possible.

Three commercially available ureaform fertilizers, Borden's "38", Nitroform, and Uramite, each containing 38 per cent nitrogen, were applied at the rates of 2, 4, 6, and 8 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. in a single application. In addition, these same fertilizers were applied at the rates of 4, 8 and 12 lbs. as split applications. Since no appreciable variation in response was observed from the three ureaform materials used at the same rate, the turf scores of all three materials were averaged and are reported as ureaform here.

For comparison the fertilizer used for general turfgrass purposes and designated as standard R. I. 8-6-2 turf fertilizer was used in this experiment. This fertilizer, which was based on previous experimentation, derives 30 per cent of its total nitrogen from natural organic

