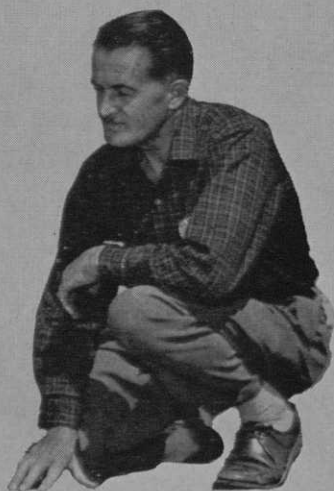


Grau's Answers to Turf Questions

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.



A Study of the Past Makes a Good Beginning

At the start of a new year we are filled with hope and determination. We hope that we will not have so much difficulty

because of fickle, changeable Nature. We are determined to do a better job in our dealings with others and with the material things with which we work.

GOLFDOM has established a fine tradition in publishing its Planning Issue in October of each year. Through the eyes and ears of many people we get to review the past year in order to have a sounder basis for planning the activities of the year ahead. Now, when we come to the brink of a new season, all facilities should be in tiptop shape, ready to go into action with the first breath of spring. (Year 'round clubs in the South, please ignore.)

Last summer when the rains drowned a lot of turf there was not enough good sod for immediate replacement. Has the nursery area been enlarged and has it been planted to the very best improved grasses available?

Areas on greens that held water too long were badly in need of drainage. Have these spots been repaired? Tile or a dry well may save the turf this summer until the green can be rebuilt.

Goosegrass was prevalent on many greens in late summer. We have observed that many samples of topdressing, when planted in a flat, develop solid stands of goosegrass. Have you run a flat test of your topdressing to see if it is weedfree? We would advise not to topdress rather than to plant the greens to weeds. Sterilization of soil is neither costly nor difficult. If you use heat to sterilize, be sure to add nitrogen fertilizer after sterilizing.

Fred V. Grau replies to R. R. Bond relative to Bond's statement on page 58 of GOLFDOM for October, 1958.

• "The tendency for bent greens to become thin during midsummer is not confined to any one strain of bent. It is more the result of management rather than a characteristic of the strain of grass. Where I have observed thinning of bent greens during summer's heat I also have detected signs of malnutrition. Bent greens which have had good management and a steady uniform supply of nutrients have not been plagued by summer thinning.

"Old Orchard is one of the leading superior vegetated bents which we are happy to recommend highly. It was wholly unintentional, and deeply regretted, that the Q & A in GOLFDOM, Sept. 1958 (page 48) gave the impression that there was a weakness in the grass. I was in error in my choice of words. It was intended to point out that a superior grass, such as Old Orchard bent, may become thin during the summer if management fails to meet its requirements. This holds true with all good grasses."