

Charlie Wilson's Notebook



Don't Seed Too Heavily

Harry McSloy, supt. at the Country Club of Virginia, believes most people seed too heavily. Harry stated 15 lbs. of Bermuda per acre was ample in the Tidewater area. In fact, this rate produces better turf than 100 pounds of hulled seed, provided adequate fertilizer is used.

They like common Bermuda for fairway turf in Virginia. It is cheap and combines well with cool-season grasses for winter color. McSloy advocates a 40 lb. per acre over-seeding with domestic rye grass on fairways. Where protection as well as color is needed, the rate should be increased to 250 to 300 lbs. per acre.

The best Bermuda turf is cut low and frequently, given plenty of plant food and very limited water, according to Harry.

Superintendents' Champion

Mid Atlantic supts. have found a new champion in Martin McCarthy, USGA green section committee chmn. and member of Congressional CC. We gathered, from McCarthy's remarks, that good supts. aren't paid enough and their greatest challenge is in exercising diplomacy. Committees like to make changes — usually because of the length of the course. "Always consider the high handicap player," is the advice of Bob Jones and McCarthy is the first to agree.

"Golf will never be able to compete with industry in wages. Train, don't fire; tell labor why as well as what to do; and never by-pass a committee" were McCarthy's final remarks.

Moderation in Fertilizing

Jimmy Thomas, USGA vp and supt. at Army-Navy CC, believes in moderation when fertilizing greens. According to him, the first shot of plant food should come at the tailend, rather than the start of the season. His first feeding is in October. Thus, Jim can delay spring application until the bent is able to respond.

For the critical summer period, Thomas advocates a bland diet applied lightly and frequently. When the weather gets "real sticky" he skips a treatment now and then and stresses using a little potash to strengthen grass tissue.

Fly Control

George Langford, University of Maryland entomologist, says the trend today is to control insects that bother golfers. Greenmaster Bob Shields at Woodmont is cooperating with Maryland's Entomology Dept. in controlling the pesky black fly, and much has been done on the Eastern Shore in mosquito abatement by improving drainage.

One oz. malathion with one lb. of sugar in a gallon of water is Langford's recipe to make friends with the clubhouse crowd. This mixture, sprayed daily around garbage cans, will keep house flies at a minimum.

Taylor Heads RCGA

Gordon B. Taylor, former Canadian amateur champion, has been elected pres. of the Royal Canadian GA, succeeding John M. Blair of Winnipeg. V. C. Holdroyd, Toronto, is first vp and H. C. Lyle, Vancouver, 2nd vp. Taylor represented Canada last year when plans for the World Amateur were made and as pres. of the RCGA, will play an important part in planning this year's Canadian Open.

Texas Turf Officers

The following have been elected officers of the Texas Turfgrass Assn. for 1959: Charles Campbell, pres.; L. W. DuBose, vp; G. A. (Dan) Lynch, executive secy.; Marvin Ferguson, research dir.; Ethan C. Holt and John Jong, conference directors. Albert W. Crain continues as editor of the Turf News of Texas.