
GCSA Draws Up Schedule for Houston Conference

The schedule and program for the GCSA's 31st conference, to be held in the Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Houston, Tex., next Jan 27-Feb. 6, generally have been drawn up with details yet to be filled in.

The conference will be preceded by the GCSA annual golf tournament on Jan. 28-29. The executive committee will meet the following day. Sunday, the 31st, and Monday will be set aside for registration and setting up of exhibits with the educational conference also getting underway on Monday. The educational sessions will continue through Thursday, Feb. 4th. Various committee meetings will be held between Monday and Thursday. The Get-Acquainted hour will be held on Monday evening and the annual banquet is scheduled for Thursday evening. Friday, Feb. 5th, has been set aside for a tour of Houston area golf courses and the following day, the newly elected executive committee will meet.

Exhibit space information can be obtained by writing Conference, GCSA, PO Box 1385, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

A feature of Penncross, not covered by any known research, came to light on a trip that ended just in time to prepare this copy. Two complaints of "puffiness" were discussed in meetings. Both cases were investigated. There was a fear that the vigorous parent, Pennlu, was giving this undesirable trait to Penncross. Upon thorough investigation and sharp questioning (a form of research), it was discovered that an excessively high rate of seeding had caused the condition. There was not room for all the seedlings to grow and expand so, the only thing they could do was to try to grow upward. This caused the "puffiness".

The exact rate of seeding could not be determined with finality but it could safely be assumed to be in excess of 5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. This is in distinct contrast to research and demonstration results where $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. gave best turf in shortest time. Heavy rates of seeding greatly delay the time when the turf can be made ready for play. Also, they deny others the opportunity to use this grass since there is not enough seed to go around. Anything more than one lb. is sheer waste and a detriment to good turf.

The severe winter, plus the extremes of temperatures during the pollination period, caused the shortest seed crop of Penncross and other improved grasses ever experienced. Users are asked to have patience for another year or two. Meanwhile, those who have some seed are asked to use as little as possible (as low as $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. rate) and to share it with others. By establishing nurseries, limited stocks can be stretched greatly.

Use of Water

Water use research has yielded limited data but, when combined with practical experience, it added up to a significant factor in producing high-quality turf this past season. In every case where the supt. was successful in holding turf against heavy odds, it was intelligent water management that helped turn the trick. True, in some cases, heavy constant rain cancelled out careful water use. Even in this event, good water management showed in quicker recovery of damaged turf. Those who combined sprinkler irrigation with judicious hand watering came thru in much better shape. The worst of all were those who allowed set sprinklers to run for hours at a time every night, whether water was needed or not.

Hand in hand with watering is the factor of drainage. Where drainage was lacking turf was destroyed even under careful watering practices. Drainage and turf quality have not been identified thru data obtained in research projects but every supt. knows the necessity for excellent drainage. Well-drained soil is a well-aerated soil. Beneficial organisms flourish in soils that are able to breathe. Many of the poisons applied to correct the effects of poor construction accumulate in poorly-drained soils and actually help kill turf-grasses. In open, porous soils these same poisons are rendered harmless after they have done their work.

Build Them Right

It is regrettable that data is not at hand whereby a golf club, contemplating building a new course, could present figures to the architect and say, "Here is evidence to support our desire to have the best possible drainage built into our greens and other areas so that our course in the future will be easy to maintain even under the most severe extremes of weather conditions." Then the architect would be under bond to build trouble-free greens. It is all too evident that drainage systems appear to be by-passed in order to save some money. It has raised the question: "Why

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