

Turf Schooling — It Offers Big Opportunities

*Facts and Figures for Last Five
Years from Stockbridge School
Show that Turf Management
Graduates Are Faring Well
on Golf Course Jobs*

By **ELIOT C. ROBERTS***

THE question often is asked, "Are opportunities in turfgrass management good for a college trained man?" The answer is decidedly yes. The University of Massachusetts sponsors a two-year course in practical agricultural science known as the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Among 12 major courses of study offered is turfgrass management. Records of student enrollment, academic achievement and job placement for the past five years indicate a bright future for young men trained in this specialty.

An interest in plants and plant science is essential for a student entering a college course in turf management. High school students who enjoy studying biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics and also like working with ornamental plant material do well in turf work. Those most successful in this field have a fondness for outdoor work. For them there is a challenge in creating and maintaining beautiful surroundings, and opportunity in working closely with nature and living plants. They like the close association with sports and sportsmen. Caddies and golfers, because of their close contact with fine



Joseph Troll, instructor in Turfgrass Management, works with three Stockbridge turf majors, Connie Oviann, Larry Thompson and Sam Delmolino (l to r) on an exercise in grass identification.

turf, frequently become interested in turfgrass management as a career.

Experience May Be Limited

Previous experience in turfgrass work or allied fields may allow one individual to advance faster than another. However, it is not an essential ingredient for success. Although a few men with experience in supervising maintenance of golf courses have enrolled at Massachusetts, most students come with limited experience.

Previous education and training of students majoring in Turf Management has varied from those who are high school graduates to men holding degrees from colleges, universities or technical schools. In most cases the degree of interest in turf works counts more than previous educational training in predicting success in this

Age of students has varied from 17 to 46. There is (within limits) no direct relationship between age and early advancement in turfgrass management. Many young men in their early twenties have been just as good students as their older classmates and often become superior students. The maturity of the individual, rather than his age, is the factor which, when allied with technical competence, determines the ability to assume a superintendent's responsibility. This maturity of the student is also reflected in part by his ability to study and produce good work while in college.

During the past five years 67 men have

* Until Aug. 1, 1959 Dr. Eliot C. Roberts was a turf specialist at the U. of Massachusetts. He left this position to take a similar post at Iowa State University, where he succeeded the late Prof. Harvey Lantz. Roberts worked under Prof. L. S. Dickinson at Massachusetts, was in charge of the school's eight-week and two-year short courses, and is specializing in research at Iowa State

FERTILIZE WITH SPEED & ACCURACY



BELT

BROD-KASTOR

- Reduces fertilizing time by more than one-half
- Controlled, uniform spreading pattern eliminates burning and striping
- Spreads pelleted and granular fertilizer from 30 to over 50 ft. wide
- Low, easily loaded hopper . . . largest capacity
- Vibrating hopper bottoms
- On-off control of material-flow to fans easily operated from driver's seat.

BELT CORPORATION Dept. GD ORIENT, OHIO

been accepted for the Stockbridge course. Only 43 have graduated. Of those who did not finish, one-third dropped out voluntarily during their course work, one-third decided they were not interested in turf work after a 6 month placement training and one-third were compelled to drop out because of poor grades. Despite the rather high percentage of students who fail to graduate, interest in this type of course has increased during the last five years. Yearly enrollments have increased from 10 to 24 during this period, the average size of the freshman class being 15 as compared to an average graduating class of 8.

Golf course positions in the Northeast are plentiful, particularly for those young men just getting started who want to get ahead. Statistics for the last five years show that all graduates with a major in turfgrass management who have elected golf course work as a career have been placed in good jobs at a level consistent with their abilities. Fifty-one percent have started as full supts. (65 per cent of this total at 9-hole courses, and 35 per cent at 18 or 27-hole courses. It is interesting to note that with from one to five year's experience after graduation, 17 per cent of those who started as supts. of 9 hole courses moved on to become assistants

at larger courses. Within this same period, 15 per cent moved from 9-hole to 18-hole courses. The remaining 58 per cent have stayed in the same position during this period.

Fourteen per cent of those who graduated started as assistant supts. Within one to five years following graduation, 30 per cent of this total qualified and accepted positions as supts. of 18-hole courses. Twenty-one per cent of the graduates started as workers on golf courses with almost one-half of this total ending up in the service within a year or two following graduation. Several of these men have obtained jobs on service courses while in the Army or Air Force. Two per cent of the graduating turf majors went into types of turf work other than golf courses and 12 per cent left the turf management field completely.

Salary Range

Job opportunities are good. Whether a student qualifies depends entirely upon himself. College provides the student with an opportunity to show what he can do. His professors can evaluate his work and recommend him for a position consistent with his abilities, experience and maturity. The rest is up to him.

It is difficult to report data on salaries

MEN IN *Action* prefer

*Action*KNIT GOLF SHIRTS

"ACTION-KNIT" introduces an improved concept in golf shirts with complete freedom in motion. Full cut, Long shirt tails, Washable, Resists shrinkage, Fast colors. COTTON/DACRON — \$4.95, ALL COTTON — \$3.95, ORLON?WOOL — \$5.95.



Swing in
Comfort
and Style



ACTION-KNIT
back for
perfect
freedom



NO CURL
Collar



FLEX
SLEEVES
with Two
Underarm
Seams

*DuPont Polyester Fiber
*DuPont acrylic Fiber

Orders and Reorders will be
Shipped Promptly

Write for Illustrated Catalog

WILTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, WARE, MASS.

Since 1891

of supts. and their assistants because some are only employed seasonally while others have houses and sometimes utilities provided as a supplement to their income. Many now have expense accounts. Records kept during the past five years represent total earnings per 12 month year regardless of the actual working contract. They include a nominal allowance for housing and other benefits, where applicable. During this period the average starting salary for graduates of the turf major course of study (regardless of type of starting position) was \$4280 per year. This figure represents a range from \$2900 to \$6500 per year. With from one to five year's experience after graduation, the average salary was \$5450 per year, which represents a range from \$2900 to \$8500 per year. One-third of these men earned from \$3000-\$4000 per year; one-fourth from \$5000-\$6000; one-fourth from \$6000-\$7000 and one-sixth more than \$7000. It is not possible to compare the average earnings from different classes following varying years of experience since no two groups completing the course have been composed of men with similar potentialities. Thus, some advanced more rapidly than others.

"This Is Your Life, O. J. Noer"

(Continued from page 94)

tographed bedded down under a Texas Sombrero with a glass of his favorite herbicide in his hand.

Between these photos, Noer was shown as a 12-year-old chicken farmer, the manager of his high school basketball team, a college graduate, Chemical warfare major (World War I), a bridegroom (he was married in 1919 to Julia Carvel Anderson), and thereafter in various stances as an agronomist on the prowl for nematodes, sitting astride a tractor or in his laboratory activating sludge. Lafkin revealed that Noer's greatest contribution to mankind was not, as you would expect, in the field of agronomy but in the compounding of a beverage, while he was serving in France in the first World War, in which the atom was split for the first time. Happily, it was intended to be consumed and not dropped.

The climax of the Noer episode came when his daughter, Mrs. Dirk van der Burch, and her three children, Dirk II, Nancy and Sara, who had been flown in from Palo Alto, Calif., made a dramatic entry into the Emerald Room for a reunion with O. J. and Mrs. Noer.