

Turf Reawakening Demands Experts to Meet Its Challenge

By H. B. MUSSER

Professor Emeritus, Agronomy dept.
Penn State University

We are facing a situation today in the turfgrass field that is very likely to get worse before it gets better. Rapid development of interest in quality turf production has created pressures that will not be met until more determined and systematic effort is made to develop trained personnel than is presently evident.

Let's take a look at the picture. Industry has been quick to recognize the actual and potential market that the rapid expansion in turf production is creating. It is a poor year that does not see a dozen or more new chemicals developed specifically for use on turfgrass insects, diseases, and weeds.

The fertilizer trade is finally recognizing the tremendous potential for new business in the field of special turf formulas. In the last five years we have seen many of the largest companies in the business make a sincere effort to determine what is needed and to produce it.

Equipment manufacturers have been working overtime to develop new machinery and all sorts of gadgets. They hope these will meet the increasingly exacting demands for improvements that will do the more complicated jobs that a greater recognition of needs have created.

Improved Varieties

The seed industry is seeing "the handwriting on the wall." There are still a lot of seed mixtures being made and sold on a purely competitive price basis. And there will be for a long time to come. But there are very few catalogs of the better companies that do not carry descriptions and recommendations for the use of improved varieties of turfgrasses which have been developed because of their superior vigor and quality, disease resistance or some other special character.

Landscape and golf course architects and contractors, more and more, are realizing the necessity of using the best possible materials and construction methods if they are to build a good reputation.

This article is condensed from a speech made by Prof. Musser at the 29th annual turf conference held at Penn State University earlier this year.

ANOTHER



Sizzling
Sixty Series

EXCLUSIVE FOUR TURF-SAVING TIRE WIDTHS

STANDARD — Famous 6 inch "work-horse" tire proven over years of satisfactory service.

DELUXE — 7 inches wide with all Standard features plus extra turf-saving width.

PARGO TURF-TIRE — This 8 inch tire combines low-pressure & coil suspension.

***TERRA-TIRE** — Makes everyday use practical regardless of weather or drainage.

***GOODYEAR TRADE MARK**



Gravetown, Ga.

Post Office Box 86

Phone Augusta, Ga., RE 3-0368

Sales Office, 3731 Hickory Grove Road,
Charlotte, N. C. Phone KE 7-2783

Mr. GOLF CHAIRMAN:

Are You Stuck for Program Ideas? get "GOLF EVENTS"

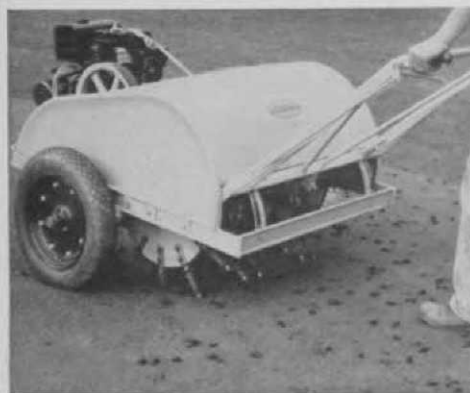
... a 43 page check list of 101 tournament and novelty events that can be used to make any golf program varied and exciting. Measures 4 x 9 inches, only 50¢ each, postpaid, from the

NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION, INC.

407 South Dearborn Street
Chicago 5, Illinois

BUYERS' SERVICE • P. 135

New from West Point . . .



1/4" & 1/2" Flexi-Press 1/4" Thatch Spoon

Now, with the addition of the 3/8" Thatch Spoon and the newly designed, narrowed neck Flexi-Press, you have all you need for fast, thorough, trouble-free aerification of your greens: 3/8" Thatch or Open Spoons . . . 1/2" Thatch or Open Spoons . . . plus the right turf-holding Flexi-Press for the Spoon you select.

Aerification at its Best

Used with either the wide-diameter G-L Aerifier® or the compact JR Model, the West Point Aerifier Spoons can be depended upon to produce the kind of **cultivating action** which golf course greens need for healthy growth throughout the 1960 season.

The time to aerify is at hand. NOW is the time to get in touch with your West Point Products distributor and order the Flexi-Press & Spoons you need!



West Point Products Corporation
West Point, Penna.

Supervisors of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and other public recreation areas are beginning to understand that there is a lot more to producing and maintaining a decent turf cover on them than merely buying fertilizers on a low bid basis, and depending on political appointees for management. Supts. of cemeteries and grounds surrounding industrial plants and public and private institutions appreciate that competent management is the best protection of their investment in the turf on these areas.

Highway departments are finding that a knowledge of production principles and practices is essential to both the quality and economy of cover establishment and maintenance on the thousands of roadside slopes, medials and interchanges of modern highways.

Homeowners In It, Too

Home owners, in increasing numbers, are coming to a realization that good lawns don't just happen but are the result of the application of sound principles of production and care. If there is doubt of this, a check of the number of lawn samples received for testing each year by soil testing laboratories is very convincing.

And, finally, there is probably what is the most acute problem of all, — the plight of our golf courses. Figures compiled by the National Golf Foundation on new courses completed in 1959, and additional courses under construction or in the planning stage, point up the situation. If the normal number of supervision replacements needed on old courses each year due to retirement, death, and other causes is added to the requirements on the new ones, the total demand goes far beyond the supply presently in sight.

While this outline of the need and demand for specialized training in turf management has, of necessity, been brief, it should be sufficient to set the picture. Now, no one is so naive as to claim that there must be the same degree of training in all these fields, even though we could wish there was. But certainly, if one is going to manufacture and sell fertilizers, he must know how the basic principles of soil fertility and plant growth apply to this specialized crop. The same thing applies to the production of chemicals.

And, surely, the man who undertakes to write a set of specifications for turf establishment must have a background of training that enables him to evaluate the conditions with which he is concerned, and adjust soil preparation, fertilizer, lime, seed, and all the other essentials, to them.