

The bright young men who are being graduated from two and four year courses at universities are very much in demand. Divot News, the official publication of the G.C. Supts. Assn. of So. Calif. Chapter, says in an article entitled "Looking Into the Future" "A step in the right direction would be hiring of Assistant Supts. at more clubs." Where will these assistants come from but from training courses at universities where the theoretical "why" is coordinated with the practical "how?"

Who but an experienced supt. can complete the training of these young men from the colleges and short courses? Call them "graduates", "trainees", "assistant supts." or what you will, they are the men who will be occupying the top jobs in the near future. They are invited to golf clubs to be paid while they learn. When they have reached a certain proficiency the supt. helps them to secure a position of trust and responsibility as a supt. at some other course. Rarely, if ever, do they take the job of the incumbent supt. unless that man is ready to move or retire. Sometimes they "flunk out" and don't make the grade.

New Standard of Judgment

The way things are moving in the golf field, the progressive supt. may be known by the number of students he helps toward the completion of their training. It must be a great satisfaction to think, "There are 'six' courses right around here that are managed by supts. who got their basic training at State and who finished their practical experience right here on my course."

The salaries of top supts. are beginning to attract high school students who formerly could find no incentive to seek employment in the turfgrass profession. Recognition and social standing also help to attract young men to the work of supts. Improvement in this phase of greenkeeping has been remarkable.

Arlington Needs Nitrogen

Q. I have one green that was built with gumbo. It was planted to Arlington (C-1). I treat it the same as my Seaside greens but it never looks good even though I don't lose any grass. Do you think it needs iron? How about nitrogen? (Kansas)

A. Arlington bent needs about twice as much nitrogen as most other bentgrasses. I would say that the grass is hungry.

Arlington does better if the soil is allowed to become quite dry now and then.

It cannot stand wet feet as well as Seaside. Try aerifying it more thoroughly, feeding heavier with nitrogen and keeping it drier. Keep the thatch trimmed off by 3/16 inch daily mowing and vigorous combing, brushing or vertical mowing.

Aeration Is the Word

Q. Each spring we have some trouble with dead grass, mostly on the greens. Some call it waterkill, others say it is spring-kill. In 1962 we had snow and ice stacked up on our practice green and we noticed that there was no damage at all around each cup hole. The perfect grass extended out 6 to 8 inches from the hole, then beyond that all the grass was dead. The same thing was noted around aerifier holes, but the area of good grass was smaller. How do you explain this? (Wisconsin)

A. To oversimplify, the answer comes in one word, "aeration". The situation you have described has been observed in several locations. The only way it can be explained is that there was sufficient exchange of gases to enable the grass to stay alive. While the grass was covered with snow and ice, the grass was still respiring. Gradually the concentration of CO₂ built up and displaced the oxygen so that the roots were smothered. Where there was a hole there was a chance for CO₂ to escape and oxygen to enter. It is recalled that the soil was soaked from excessive fall rains in late 1961.

Weedy Fairways

Q. Over the past several years our ordinary bluegrass fairways have become weedier. We sprayed for dandelions and plantain and then the clover came in. When we sprayed for clover the turf was left so thin and sparse that it will not hold a ball up. The members complain they hurt their wrists when they hit shots. We have not fertilized because this is rich corn ground. Your help will be appreciated. Indiana)

A. When bluegrass turf is adequately supplied with nutrients it becomes progressively more dense and more resistant to weed invasion. Without seeing soil test results we'd say it is a safe bet that the grass is nitrogen starved in spite of the "rich corn ground."

By all means have your experiment station test the soil. If pH values are below 6.5, apply one ton of agricultural ground limestone (preferably dolomitic) to an acre this fall. If phosphorus is medium or higher, do not apply any of this element. If P and K are both low, you may use to advantage a high-nitrogen complete fertilizer, such as 10-5-5, 12-6-6, 15-5-5 or a 20 per cent at a rate to supply at least two lbs. of nitrogen to 1,000 sq. ft.

If P and K are satisfactory you may use a straight nitrogen fertilizer twice a year until soil tests again show that P and K are needed.