

close the openings and "turn off the faucet."

Plants well supplied with K use less water per pound of dry matter. K increases water in plants, improves stiffness and turgor, keeps conducting vessels open for more effective water movement (and nutrients) in the plant.

### Gallonage Requirements

**Q.** You have talked about fertilization and how it increases water efficiency. Can you give a concrete example? (Missouri)

**A.** In the May-June 1964 issue of Eastern Potash Newsletter there are statements on the subject in relation to corn (a grass). "Adequately-fertilized corn pushed its roots four feet or more into the ground - -." Unfertilized corn rooted only two feet deep.

Fertilized corn used 5,600 gallons of water per bushel to produce 79 bushels. Unfertilized corn used 21,000 gallons per bushel to produce 18 bushels (per acre). We have no figures on turfgrass use of water but the principle would be the same.

### Algae in Pond

**Q.** We have to pump our irrigation water out of a pond that is foul with algae. Are we likely to get into trouble on our greens? (Indiana)

**A.** Yes, quite likely you can develop serious trouble. First you should consult an expert on pond treatment to reduce the algae growth. Copper compounds can be useful but their use must be carefully supervised to limit danger of poisoning, both animal and vegetable.

On your greens you can reduce algae growth by periodic treatments with hydrated lime. One pound of hydrated lime to 1,000 sq. ft. should be enough at one application. Keep soil well aerated and the grass adequately fertilized and let soil become dry now and then. Algae can grow only in the presence of continuous moisture.

### Sporting Goods Sales Up By Five Per Cent Margin

The retail consumer market for sporting goods in the U. S. during 1965 will probably bring total sales to a record high of \$2,744,700,000 in the opinion of Richard E. Snyder, Chicago economist. His forecast appears a study prepared for the National Sporting Goods Association.

Snyder estimates that 1964 sales amount to \$2,594,400,000, an increase of 5.4 per cent over 1963. He says if the projected 1965 increase is achieved, it will represent the largest year-to-year increase since the 1960 increase of 8.2 per cent over 1959.

### Fonken Got Retriever Idea from Watching Kids at Play

Martin (Duke) Fonken, who died a short time ago at the age of 60 in Glendale, Calif., built a business from an idea he got while watching children at play. He was practicing pitch shots on his lawn one day nearly 20 years ago when one of a group of youngsters, who were rolling flanged hoops, accidentally picked up a ball with his hoop. Out of this grew a design for a retriever that is used at many golf ranges throughout the country.

Fonken's first picker-upper consisted of a 3-foot row of flanged wooden discs, set slightly farther apart than the diameter of a golf ball (1.68 inches), that could be pushed by a jeep. The rolling discs picked up balls and tossed them back into a wire basket mounted directly behind the discs. Later, Fonken widened the picker-upper to 9½-feet and substituted rubber capped metal discs for the wooden models on his machine. He went into production with his first retriever in 1946.

According to Fonken's widow, Helene, the firm which he founded will continue to manufacture golf ball retrievers at 433 W. Magnolia ave. in Glendale. Other survivors are two sons, Arch Edward of Glendale, and Robert of Las Vegas, and a sister, Mrs Florence Miller.



Fonken

### Cornell Turf Conference

The annual Cornell University turf conference will be held Feb. 22-24 in Statler Hall on the university campus in Ithaca, N. Y. The New York State Turfgrass Association will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the conference on the 23rd. The Association will elect directors for four sections, one being to fill a vacancy created by the death of John Hohm.

### Midwest Turf Conference

Midwest Regional turf conference will be held Mar. 1-3 at Purdue University, according to William H. Daniel, program coordinator, who is connected with the University's agronomy department.