

New grass pathology study

Experimental putting greens at Clemson University help scientists examine golf course plants.

By JIM MONROE

Golf course superintendents in South Carolina are now receiving valuable specialized assistance from their state in the management of grasses. At Clemson University, project No. 788 involves "investigations of factors influencing the development, production and management of turfgrasses utilized for utility, beautification and recreational facilities." Not the least of these investigations concerns golf course plants, and the superintendents are relying to a great extent as never before on the young and able leader of 788, Dr. Paul M. Alexander, to help them.

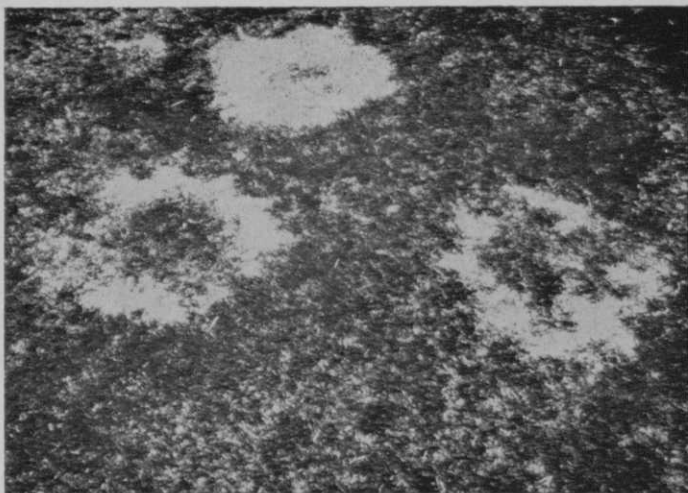
Alexander, a plant pathologist, has already discovered for the first official time in South Carolina, Spring Dead

Spot in T-328 bermuda fairways and Rust on Zoysia. Now, and in the days ahead as bent greens are planted where bermuda was once used altogether, the assistance of such a dedicated pathologist will no doubt prove of paramount importance.

At Clemson House, a handsome hotel on the campus, two experimental putting greens totalling 10,000 square feet have been constructed. An area of 5,000 sq. ft. was built to USGA specifications. On the other half portion of 5,000 sq. ft. the green has been constructed only by bulldozing to grade and adding topsoil. Eight equal sections of the two greens were planted to C-7 and Pennncross bents and T-328 and Tifdwarf bermudas. (See



Dr. Paul M. Alexander of Clemson University's Project No. 788 (left) investigates new turfgrass plot on one of the putting greens with graduate student Gerald Stacey.



Section of one plot at Clemson House on University campus which was planted in late June. Mulch shown is pine straw spread over section of pennncross bent.

figures below for arrangement of sections.) One may observe both the conventional and USGA application of greens construction, planting and management. Design, construction, materials and maintenance equipment all were donated to Alexander by interested individuals and business firms of the golf trade. Complete color and sound film has been produced of each step of the building of the putting greens and will be available in 1967 at the USGA Golf House, film library, New York City. Many observations and studies will be made at the Clemson House greens.

In Clemson's turfgrass research program, started by Dr. Alexander in 1960, numerous turfgrass plots have followed.

Today, on 130 plots may be seen over 50 varieties of bermudas, four varieties of Zoysias and two varieties of bents. The first turfgrass graduate student is now working for his masters degree in the Department of Horticulture under which the project operates. The project receives grants-in-aid annually from Carolina Golf Course Superintendents Association and from the Carolina Golf Association.

As research and teaching responsibilities permit, Dr. Alexander is available on a consulting basis to golf courses. In addition to his regular duties at Clemson he is secretary-treasurer to the Carolinas G.C. Superintendents Association for North and South Carolina. •

Diagrams below show the eight sections of two putting greens planted on Clemson campus.

