# GRAU'S Answers to Turf Questions

By FRED V. GRAU

At a recent Short Course there was spirited discussion concerning several vegetative bentgrasses for putting greens. Several superintendents indicated that they would like to use Cohansey (C-7) bent but, "I don't like the color!" This has happened many times before. They say that the color is "too light" or else it is "too yellow."

At this recent gathering I expressed my opinions forcefully to the effect that: 1) I've never known a *golfer* to object to anything about a well-kept carpet of Cohansey, color particularly. The color contrast with surrounding grass of darker hue can be sensational.

2) A golf course superintendent has no moral right to pass judgement based on his personal likes and dislikes concerning the color of an adapted grass if it can do as well, or better than, another kind of grass.

3) The turf is established and maintained for the *golfers;* therefore, one selects the grass that is best adapted and will provide the best putting surface.

It should be added that this recent discussion occurred in an area that is subjected to high summer temperatures. Cohansey is known to be particularly heat-resistant. The light color seems to reflect the rays of the sun, thus reducing the heat buildup in the turf which is believed to occur in dark-colored grasses.

**Q.—We plan to use a mixed fertilizer over the entire course next spring. We have obtained prices on our preferred formula and we are surprised at the variation in quotations. We are interested primarily in a fertilizer that won't burn and that will be long-lasting. We've been advised to lean heavily toward the organics. Two outfits offer our formula; one says theirs is 60 per cent organic, the other says theirs is made so that 60 per cent of the nitrogen is derived from ureaform. The 60 per cent organic mix is less expensive. Isn't it just as good?**

**(Pennsylvania)**

A.—The supplier who would sell you "60 per cent organic" material probably can afford to sell cheaper than the other supplier because he has used *urea.* Urea is classed as "organic." It costs less per unit of N. Urea is completely soluble. It will burn grass severely. It lasts a short time and, while it is working, it produces a rapid soft lush growth.

The material made to provide 60 per cent of the N from ureaform naturally will cost more but it is non-burning and it is long-lasting. You can afford to pay considerably more for the material that has the 60 per cent ureaform nitrogen. The "60 per cent organic" supplier should tell you from what sources the N in his product is derived. •