turf questions *continued*

Budget—Up-to-date? Detailed? Improvements? Provisions for increased costs?

Supplies—Fungicides? Insecticides? Herbicides? Lime? Fertilizer? Top dressing? Soil amendments? Safety features installed?

This complete "check list" may serve to jog the memories of management teams for better organization of their facilities. The smooth, efficient operation of a golf course requires organized teamwork wherein all members of the team are constantly informed of operational procedures.

New Inventions

The other night there came an unexpected phone call from an owner-operator-superintendent who was full of his new invention. A new design has been created for a grass catcher on power greens mowers which, according to the inventor, collects 40 per cent more clippings than conventional catchers and gathers better than 95 per cent of all clippings. Repeated trials on his Penncross greens indicates 1) less disease; 2) less fungicides required; 3) reduced tendency to thatch; 4) closer smoother cut with improved putting qualities; 5) less *Poa annua* by virtue of virtually all seed heads being collected. Plans are in progress officially to check the inventor's claims. This could be a significant breakthrough in putting green management.

Q.—The work of Schmidt and Blaser in Virginia with fall and winter applications of N on cool-season turfgrasses so far shows that the turf is greener through the winter but with no noticeable increase in diseases or other ill effects. Could this principle be used to maintain satisfactory green color in warm-season grasses so as to reduce the necessity of overseeding?

(Alabama)

A.—Your question is intriguing and has been asked several times in discussion groups. No satisfactory answer can be given right now but there are indications that, to a degree, fall and winter treatments with N may replace overseeding with cool season grasses. Considerable work on this is in progress.

Q.—Some short-term research reports show that recovery of N is quite different from solubles as compared to ureaforms; 51 per cent vs. 19 per cent, for example. What is a reasonable explanation for this big difference? (Maryland)

A.—One answer is that, during the short period covered by the experiments, only part of the useable N in ureaform was converted to nitrate nitrogen whereas all of the soluble material had been converted. Ureaform is made so that most of the N is converted slowly over many months and, if the experiment were continued, there would be total recovery comparable to the soluble. In other experiments different techniques showed a recovery of about 90 per cent for both solubles and ureaforms. Short-term trials are not designed to show ureaforms to advantage; invariably they favor the solubles.

Q.—I am a member of the American Society of Agronomy. In the Agronomy Abstracts all measurements are in metric terms. One paper says, " . . . both grasses were favored by a mowing height of 5.08 cm rather than 2.54 cm." This means that these grasses were favored by a two-inch cut rather than a one-inch cut. Should we, as superintendents, take steps to convert English equivalents to metric? (New Jersey)

A.—Since the metric system will become the universal system, I would urge the GCSAA and all affiliated chapters to provide members with a conversion chart to facilitate the changeover to metric units. It will not be easy. It will take time. It may be necessary for extension services to give aid through education talks. Turfgrass councils and foundations can help, too. Industry will be of great help through field representatives. OK, boys, on with the kilometers, hectares, liters and kilograms. □