



by Fred V. Grau

## ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

### People problems

This was the subject of my lecture on March 12th before the First International Panorama of Golf held at Palm Springs, Calif. This brief review is intended to cause each reader to think, "How many of my problems really are turf problems and how many of my problems are caused by people?"

A superintendent starts a calcium arsenate program to control *Poa annua*. The membership had not been warned as to the potential. Heat and humidity took the *Poa* out faster than anticipated. A crash program, with the assistance of a consultant, put the course in shape with the help of new grasses and a revised fertilizer program. Most of this situation had to do with people although it was called a turf problem. Essentially the problem was concerned with errors in judgment at several points.

Many recommendations for a fertilizer program have fallen on deaf ears because the material was considered as "too expensive." The real problem was failure to understand the principles of the product involved.

When a superintendent investigates prowlers at night on the course and is beaten to death with

golf clubs, we have a real problem and it isn't turf.

A new driver is mowing fairways and is tearing up the turf because a wheel came off. He didn't lose the wheel—he had it in the toolbox.

A chairman is tearing his hair because they can't control the "dollarspot." They had sod webworms. Was that a turf problem? Both can be controlled; identification comes first.

A borrowed farm sprayer had some Atrazine left in the tank. The greens that were sprayed out of this equipment were killed. A turf problem? No—a people problem, an error in judgment.

Uncertified "Penncross" bent was planted on new greens. It cost less than Certified. The turf was unsatisfactory. Penncross got a bad name. The trouble was that something other than Penncross was planted. This was not a turf problem.

A chairman decided to build the greens his way using layers of soil, cinders and horse manure. The bent roots penetrated less than one inch. In the nursery on unmodified native sandy loam soil the bent roots were 18 inches deep. Theirs was not a turf problem.

Everyone who has visited golf courses over a period of years could tell of many more such instances. Let's do some sorting out of causes and consequences. In many cases we will find that people are responsible for most of our so-called turf problems.

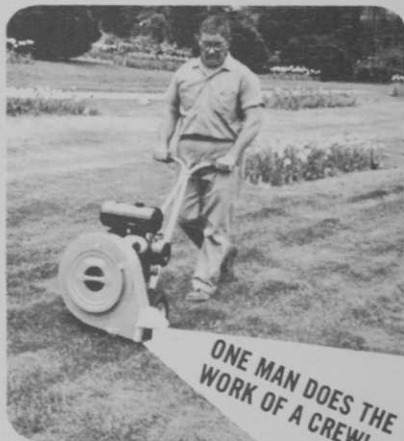
*Q.—We are on a UF-potash program on our fairways (phosphorus is very high). Our complaint is that we don't get a "quick green" in the spring. What can you suggest?*

*(Maryland)*

*A.—First, you haven't been on the program long enough to achieve the desirable carryover which will give you the early greening you want. Second, I am not at all sure that this early green is what is best for the turf. Yes, you could apply*

*(Continued on page 38)*

## GREATEST LABOR-SAVER IN ALL OUTDOORS



ONE MAN DOES THE  
WORK OF A CREW!

### Lo-Blo, the Air-Broom

Fastest, easiest way to lick the problem of leaves, litter, trash, refuse, debris, twigs, clippings. We now make 8 models to fit every need . . . sold nationally. Send for literature and name of your nearest dealer/distributor.

ATWATER STRONG CO., Inc. P. O. Box 68  
ATWATER, OHIO 44201 • Ph. 216/947-2344

For more information circle number 278 on card

## ITALIAN TWO-TONE GOLF GLOVE



From the hands of world-famous Italian glovemakers to the hands of American golfers comes the latest look in golf gloves. Snap-back design in thin, tough and tacky capeskin. Highlighted with leather contrasting piping and Par-Mate emblem. Snap-off ball maker.

In 12 color combinations. Men's Sizes S-M-ML-L-XL, also Cadet Sizes in lefts only. Ladies' Sizes S-M-L. Lefts, Rights and Pairs. \$5.00

Write for Latest Catalog  
AT PRO SHOPS ONLY or write to

### PAR-MATE®

10 West 33rd St., New York, N.Y. 10001

For more information circle number 244 on card

**GRAU**

*Continued from page 35*

soluble N to achieve early green, but then you may have much more grass than you want a little later. With a good bluegrass turf it is best to work along with nature and not force this "early green" at the expense of quality turf the rest of the season.

*Q.—When you first came to California we showed you kikuyugrass and asked, "How can we get rid of this pest?" You asked a few questions about its ability to stand drought, its fertilizer and water requirements. Then you asked, "Why would you want to get rid of it?" Now, with good management, kikuyugrass is one of our best fairway turfs, needing no irri-*

*gation and no fertilization. My question is, "Do you still feel that we can live with this grass when it is managed?"*  
(California)

*A.—Yes, especially now that we have heavy power equipment to keep the turf eminently playable. We do need to know how to control its spread into bunkers and greens.*

*Q.—We have been told that we are foolish to buy organic fertilizers (ureaform and natural organics) when the soluble nitrogen materials cost so much less per unit of plant food. We like the organics but we also are concerned with economics. Can you give us a guide?*  
(North Carolina)

*A.—Inorganic (soluble) forms of nitrogen are more easily misused and, when improperly understood and applied, they are capable of causing considerable damage. I've seen so much evidence of ignorance concerning soluble forms of N that I've swung heavily toward the side of the safer fertilizers. A good UF, for example, can be misused rather badly and still will not markedly upset the equilibrium. True, the organics cost more per unit. The safety, the reduction in numbers of applications, the more uniform growth—all help to compensate for the differential. One bit of evidence of the value of the slow-release materials in spite of the cost is in the home-owner fertilizers. Nearly all of them now contain significant amounts of the safer materials that last longer.*

*Q.—I have been asked to use certain growth regulators along ditch banks and around trees on our golf course. Materials suggested are Maleic hydrazide, Gibberellic acid, Cycocel, B-Nine and Phosphon. Should these be applied in spring before growth is over 2 1/2 inches? Do you consider them economical?*  
(Canada)

*(Continued on page 42)*

**Tear out this ad and save it!**

**MEMO TO:  
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS**

**FROM:**

**Warren's TURF NURSERIES**

**WE HAVE THE CORRECT GRASS FOR EACH LOCATION AND EVERY USE AT WARREN NURSERIES ACROSS THE NATION, FROM NEW YORK TO CALIFORNIA.**

Following is a schedule of the types, strains and species of grasses produced at the various Warren Nurseries (see code for the growing location).

**NURSERY CODE**  
Growing Areas of Warren's Fine Lawn and Golf Course Grasses

Illinois.....	IL	California.....	C
Wisconsin.....	W	Minnesota.....	M
Indiana.....	IN	Nebraska.....	NE
New York.....	N	Kansas.....	K
Ohio.....	O	Missouri.....	MO

**NOTE: A word about Warren's Grass developments and discoveries**  
**WARREN'S® A-20 BLUEGRASS** rated highest in disease resistance by leading universities engaged in turf grass research. It greens up sooner in the spring and stays green longer in the fall. Recovers from injury sooner, takes a short cut

TYPE STRAIN OR SPECIES	NURSERIES WHERE GROWN (see code below)									
Warren's A-20 Bluegrass.....	IL	W	I	N	N	O	M	N	E	K
Warren's A-34 Bluegrass.....	IL	W	I	N	N	O	C	M	NE	MO
Warren's A-10 Bluegrass.....	IL	W	I	N	N	O				
Warren's Blue Grass Blend.....	IL	W	I	N	N	O				
Merion Blue Grass.....	IL	W	I	N	N	O				
Meyer (Z-52) Zoysia Grass.....	IL	I	N	N						
Creeping Bent Grass Sod & Stolons										
Toronto (C-15) & Cohansy (C-7)	IL	W	N							
Penncross (Sod only).....							N			
Nimisila (Stolons only).....							O			
Pennpar (Sod & Stolons).....							O			
Warren's Low-Cut Bluegrass Blend C										
Warren's Hi-Cut Bluegrass Blend C										
Bermuda Grass Sod & Stolons										
Tifgreen, Tifway, Santa Anna...C										
Hiway Sod.....	IL	W	I	N	N	O	C			

**WARREN'S® A-34 BLUEGRASS** is tolerant of up to 65% of the daylight hours in shade. It is a vigorous grower and can be mowed down to 1/2 inch in open or slightly shaded areas.

**WARREN'S® A-10 BLUEGRASS** is excellent in hot humid areas where bluegrass usually has trouble. It is a vigorous grower. It is fine-leaved and the color is a beautiful dark green.

Write for address of nearest nursery or franchise grower of Warren Grasses or look in your yellow pages

Keep the grass you plant on your tees, fairways or greens healthy and green with **WARREN'S LAWN FOOD** used to produce the finest in lawn and golf course grasses at less cost.

(The world's largest, most experienced and one of the oldest growers of fine lawn grasses)

**HOME NURSERY AND RESEARCH FACILITY**  
8400 West 111th St., Palos Park, Illinois  
PHONE: (312) 974-3000



**WARREN'S TURF NURSERIES**

**SAVE this ad TODAY** as it will run a few times only

For more information circle number 261 on card

**Cutting Height as Low as....** **3 7/8"**  
**Frequency of Cut as Close as..** **1/2"**

**10 BLADE HIGH SPEED REEL:** For the finer groomed creeping Bent in the North and the new improved fairway Bents and Bermudas in warmer climates.

**EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF CLIPPINGS:** With new scraper-deflector, grass clippings are evenly distributed, eliminating bunching, dropping and windrowing.

**AVAILABLE** in Hollow Roller or Rear Wheel Drive. 3, 5, 7 and 9 gangs.

**PREVENTATIVE MATTING AND THATCH CONTROL:** Presents a preventative control of thatch and matting by cutting as low as 3/8 inch with a 1/2 inch frequency of cut.

**ELIMINATES SCALPING ON MOUNDS:** The 26 inch cutting swath of each unit gives greater flexibility. No "ribbed appearance." Smoother, more uniform cut.

*Gives Putting Green Appearance to Fairways, Aprons and Tees!*



**ROSEMAN MOWER CORP.**

*Nation-Wide Sales and Service*

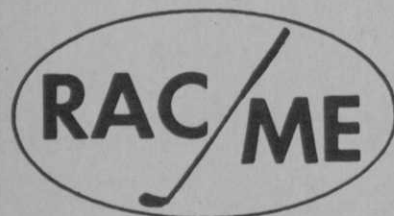
2300 W. LAKE AVE. • GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS



**FIRST IN MOWING PERFECTION**

For more information circle number 201 on card

## GOLF BAG STORAGE RACKS



**37 YEARS IN BUSINESS**  
**Call Collect 301-322-3900**  
**Or Write For Free Literature**

### INSTALLATIONS INCLUDE:

Chevy Chase C.C., Chevy Chase, Md.  
 Congressional C.C., Bethesda, Md.  
 Garden City G.C., Garden City, N.Y.  
 Dunbar C.C., Lake Arrowhead, Calif.  
 Scarsdale G.C., Hartsdale, N.Y.  
 Royal Poinciana G.C., Naples, Fla.  
 Longboat Key C.C., Sarasota, Fla.  
 Woodbridge C.C., Woodbridge, Conn.

## IMPROVE BAG STORAGE SAVE TIME AND SPACE

**WE DESIGN YOUR LAYOUT**  
**ECONOMICAL — EASY TO**  
**ASSEMBLE HEAVY DUTY**  
**FURNITURE STEEL**



**ACME IRON WORKS, INC.**

4900 Frolich Lane, Kenilworth Ind. Park  
 Tuxedo, Md. 20781

For more information circle number 256 on card

## GRAU

*Continued from page 38*

A.—Maleic hydrazide is the only one that I would consider economical the way you intend to use it. The last three are strictly for floral and horticultural use and are not useful for grass and weeds.

Yes, MH will be more effective on new, young growth, but to save mowing it may be applied just after an area has been mowed. MH will not control all vegetation equally. There will be some types that will be affected very little, which will require a certain amount of mowing.

Q.—We have Pythium and it is severe. We have used all of the newest fungicides that are claimed to "knock the fungus cold." Right after we spray—we get a hot shower (95°F.) and the Pythium keeps right on rampaging. We are way over our chemical budget now. Is there any relief?

*(Indiana-Maryland)*

A.—At the risk of upsetting a dozen or so pathologists I am suggesting a spray (or dust) of hydrated lime in between applications of chemicals. Rate: one-half pound to 1,000 square feet. Apply in evening, rinse it off next morning. The instant change in pH in the micro climate (to as high as 9.5) can subdue the fungus. Hydrated lime is a temporary expedient—no more permanent than the fungicides. Many superintendents have said that, "the only cure for Pythium is a change in the weather." This fungus works only at high temperatures and when moisture is in abundance.

Q.—Where can we get some literature on Penncross bent? We would like to know more about how it is produced.

*(California)*

A.—Drop a line to Penncross Bentgrass Growers Assn., 4491 Liberty Road, South, Salem, Ore. 97302. Ask for their flyer on Penn-cross bentgrass. □