



by Fred V. Grau

ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

Determining authenticity

Q—Our club has an application blank from the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council wherein golf clubs are invited to join as Sustaining Members at \$100 a year. Would you consider this to be a good investment? What might we expect in return for our membership? Isn't this something new? (Pennsylvania)

A—Yes this is something new, and I consider it a good investment. In return for \$100 a year, each Sustaining Member club will have the privilege of: 1) receiving periodic news releases in the Keynote, the official publication of the P.T.C.; 2) supporting scholarships at Penn State wherein top-notch students are rewarded for their scholastic proficiency in their efforts to become turfgrass managers; 3) compensating in part for years of free advice and service from the staff at Penn State; 4) insuring the continuance of high-quality programs of research, teaching and extension and the training of replacement golf course superintendents and 5) making possible another authentic Turfgrass Survey to assess the true scope and value of the turfgrass industry.

These are a few of the important elements that can be accomplished with money from a one-year Sustaining Membership in P.T.C. Already 15 commercial firms have indicated their support of the goals by joining the council. Several hundred golf course superintendents have dug into

their pockets for individual memberships to support its progress.

Q—We have a weed in our putting greens called pearlwort. It is dark green and looks quite good. What can you tell us about it? (Maine)

A—Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) was described in Piper and Oakley's book "Turf for Golf Courses" in 1917 (out of print). It was common in putting greens throughout Pennsylvania in 1935. The use of arsenate of lead, the introduction of superior types of bentgrasses and improved knowledge of liming and fertilizing have just about eliminated pearlwort. Some superintendents equip their men with rubber gloves to rub arsenate of lead powder into pearlwort patches. Penncross bentgrass gives pearlwort stiff competition. Brown-patch sometimes seriously affects pearlwort.

Kikuyu fills the bill

Q—At Hickam AFB we have large areas of kikuyugrass in some of our fairways. The turf is a beautiful green, weedfree and does not seem to suffer when water is short. We have been moving sods to areas where salt is a problem. Do you condone this practice? Are we headed for future trouble? (Hawaii)

A—After inspecting your golf course and learning something of your conditions I have no choice but to approve your program. Kikuyu is doing a great job and seems to be a low-maintenance grass. It needs to be mowed closely and thatched occasionally. It does have a tendency to develop a spongy cushion under indifferent management. With good power edgers I see no real problem around the greens. Like any aggressive grass, it will need management in and around bunkers.

Q—Not long ago we had occasion to mix, in water suspension, hydrated lime and an ordinary mixed fertilizer. We experienced extreme discomfort from ammonia fumes and we had poor results from the application. Can you suggest an explanation? (Hawaii)

A—The explanation is simple in terms of beginning chemistry. Hydrated lime ($\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$) reacts with inorganic nitrogen, presumably sulfate of ammonia ($\text{NH}_4)_2(\text{SO}_4)$, to form ammonia (NH_3) a gas, and calcium sulfate (harmless soluble

(Continued on page 22)



**HIGH DENSITY
PLASTIC WEATHER-PROOFED**



Sturdy, attractive, won't rust, yet low in cost. Rake-Ezee stands erect on point, reminds golfer to rake trap. Fully guaranteed with tough plastic head. See your distributor, or write: ➤

MFD. BY
NORTH CENTRAL
Plastics INCORPORATED
ELLEDALE, MINN.

For more information circle number 172 on card

PRO-LINE

Leather reinforced, webb-type carrying handles

Puffer-proof locking design

Brass, pin-tumbler lock

Sewed-on Identification Card

Heavy duty, jumbo pull tabs

Four half-inch brass ball rivets and strong, panel board base

Patented

GOLF BAG | carry-all

Suggested retail price \$17.95 ea.

ONLY \$17.95 ea.

Assorted colors available

Write for literature and discount
S. I. JACOBSON MFG. CO.
 1414 So. Wabash Avenue
 Chicago, Ill. 60605

For more information circle number 191 on card