

# Famous For Championship Performance



Master-Matched  
**Power-Bilt**  
Golf Clubs

Exclusively at your Pro Shop

**HILLERICH & BRADSBY CO.**  
P. O. Box 508, Louisville, Kentucky 40201  
Makers of Famous **HOB** Athletic Products

For more information circle number 173 on card

## It makes sense



for Pros to install

**Golf  
Pride**<sup>®</sup>  
GRIPS

and **MAKES \$\$\$**  
for your shop

Installing Golf Pride grips is a helpful service to your members—helps them play better, enjoy it more.

DO IT NOW, WITH

- Little Equipment
- Little Effort
- Little Investment
- **BIG PROFITS**

Talk to your Golf Pride distributor, or write to us.

**EATON  
YALE &  
TOWNE**  
INC.

**FLEXI-GRIP** DIV.

AKRON, OHIO 44321

For more information circle number 138 on card



by Fred V. Grau

## ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

### A hard look at financial realities

Golf courses are being squeezed from several fronts. Taxes are up. Income tends to be down. Costs of equipment and services are up. Spending among unemployed executives, who are normally high salaried, is down. Many articles have been published that document details behind these over-simplified statements.

The hard facts are that the total situation means "belt-tightening" on the part of the golf course superintendent. He will be expected to maintain high-quality turf as usual, but his budget may not be approved to cover the higher costs of operation. Not all clubs will be affected equally. For those that are feeling the squeeze, there may be some guidelines that will help them weather the storm.

Reduce water use. It must be conserved and re-cycled. Less frequent irrigation will result in less frequent mowing.

Introduce drought-tolerant grasses. It is one thing to introduce these grasses, it is another to manage them properly. Overwatering has reduced turf quality in countless cases. Golfers like to hit controlled golf shots. I recall vividly hitting golf shots years ago with Al Watrous and the late Horton Smith in the Detroit area. Both men preferred unwatered fescue turf for playing a controlled shot. They did not care whether the grass was brown, yellow, black or green—

they wanted primarily close-cut firm turf.

Our principal fairway grasses are, in the main, drought tolerant. Bluegrass and bermuda can survive for weeks without supplemental irrigation particularly if the grass is well nourished.

Return to nature. I cannot believe that every weed from fence to fence has to be killed to provide enjoyable golf. Many lovely wildflowers have been destroyed by all-out weed control programs. Many sloping areas out of the line of play can be seeded to ground covers that require no maintenance. One superintendent asked, "Will golfers accept this?" My answer was to the effect that they will have little choice and that they might be pleasantly surprised.

This brief discourse is only a beginning. I've made no pretense at completeness. Much more will be written on these subjects in the months to come. Hopefully my readers will contribute their ideas so that we can plan future guidelines.

### Less artificiality, more naturalness

**Q**—At Penn State I recall hearing you talk about turf in South Africa and that almost without exception the turf is composed of some type of bermudagrass (*Cynodon*). You said that the turf is dormant and brown during the winter months and that little, if any, over-seeding with cool-season grasses is done. Don't golfers object to the brown color of the turf? Do they play the year around?

(North Carolina)

**A**—There is little or no over-seeding done. There is golf activity 12 months of the year. The players are used to the fast brown turf and they voice no objections that I could determine. There does not seem to be the demand for such a high degree of perfection as there is in the United States, yet everyone seems to enjoy his game. There is less artificiality and more naturalness.

**Q**—I would like to increase the supply of magnesium in my putting green soils. What method would you suggest? I have nine holes that are two years old which test "good." The greens on the old nine that are 10 years old test "medium." The pH is perfect.

(New Jersey)

**A**—The best and most economical source of magnesium is dolomitic limestone that has a high magnesium

(Continued on page 29)

content. You say that your pH is perfect which indicates that you may not need to apply limestone at this time. This will give you time to locate a source of high magnesium dolomitic limestone ready for your next application. My feeling is that with reading of "medium" and "good" you do not have a problem of magnesium deficiency nor are you likely to have one in the near future.

**Less costly greens**

**Q**—*Anticipating some curtailment in operating expenses, several of us have been discussing the possibility of some other grass for putting greens than bent or bermuda. Didn't you write once about some zoysia greens in the Washington, D.C., area? What kind of zoysia is it and are those greens less costly to maintain? Do they satisfy the golfers?* (Virginia)

**A**—The putting greens at the Naval Ordnance Lab near Washington are Meyer (Z-52) zoysia. They were installed in 1948 to 1949 as the result of a request for greens that could be maintained at low cost. Several years ago Ed Ault redesigned and relocated some holes that were dislodged because of highway construction. The new greens were Meyer zoysia. Those people wouldn't have anything else now. They are mowed at one-fourth inch whenever they need it. Very little irrigation water is used. No pesticides have been used to my knowledge. Slow-release fertilizer maintains reasonable color and slow steady growth. You have to see them and putt on them to believe them.

**Q**—*We are studying about what kind or kinds of grass to plant in the roughs of our new course. Someone mentioned weeping lovegrass as a possibility. What would be your opinion? Our soil is on the sandy side.* (Tennessee)

**A**—Weeping lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) could be very good choice for your roughs. I saw a lot of it in golf course roughs in South Africa, which is its native habitat. It makes a bunchy clumpy turf which exacts rather severe penalty. It is extremely drought tolerant and singularly free of insects and diseases. It grows well on extremely poor soils and can tolerate occasional mowing. The seed is very small and usually not more than five to 10 pounds per acre are required. It is used extensively on high-

way slopes and in combination with lespedeza and crownvetch through a large part of the South and as far north as Maryland.

**Q**—*We have sodded our tees with Warren's A-20 bluegrass. Should we remove the clippings? What is the best mowing height? What is a good level of nitrogen feeding?* (Maryland)

**A**—Yes, remove the clippings by all means. Mow regularly at three-quarters inch except for a three-foot wide strip in the day's teeing area; mow this at one-half inch. Maintain nitrogen levels the same as for Merion, at about six pounds nitrogen per thousand square feet for the sea-

son. Balance nitrogen with approximately equal quantities of potassium sulfate or potash. Maintain PH at 6.7 to 7.0; keep the phosphorus level low with a once-a-year fall application of 20 per cent superphosphate. Irrigate as needed. □

**DuPont discontinues Corfam**

Plagued by insufficient sales volume, **DuPont** has announced plans to discontinue the manufacture and sale of Corfam, a material used extensively in golf shoes and to a lesser degree in golf bags.



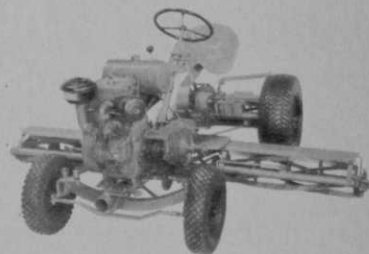
## Cut mowing time in half around greens and traps

National Triplex mowers cut 68 and 84 inches wide, several times the width of a hand-propelled trimmer mower. But they maneuver sharply, climb banks, cut on hillsides. You get the advantages of a wide cut, with small-mower neatness, do a precision job without skips or scalping.

Reels reach over to trim the edges of traps and they're free-floating to dip down in hollows and climb over ridges. Trim close around trees and hazards, cut through heavy growth on roadsides.

\*Built to quality standards of performance and durability.

Write for brochure.



**84-inch TRIPLEX**

Handles the whole job on 3-par courses except for greens. Rugged and dependable.



**NATIONAL MOWER COMPANY**

662 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55114, Phone 612/646-4079

For more information circle number 162 on card