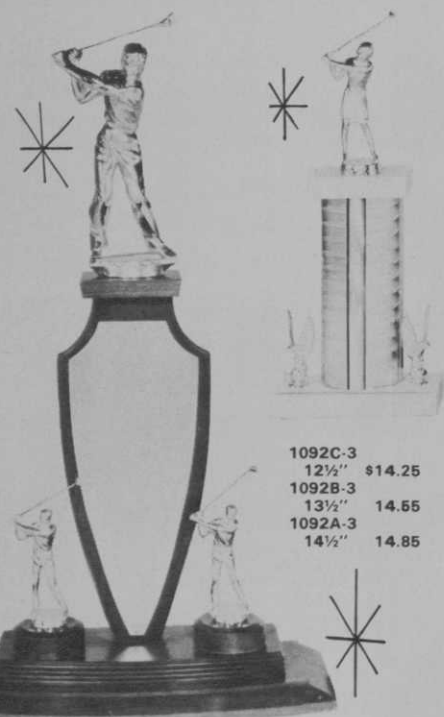


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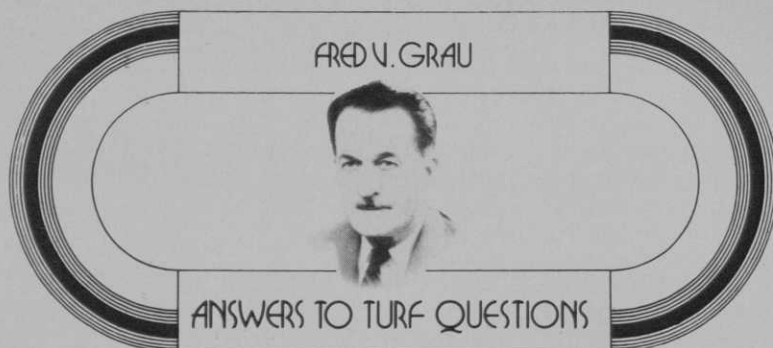
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FRIENDS OF TURF HONORED

This month the uppermost thought in this writer's mind is "Hooray for Herb and Joe Graffis!" The Green Section Award, given to these two outstanding friends of turf, puts the spotlight on the lifetime of service they have shared with all of us. No one who has met them and listened to their counsel can ever forget them. Others already have written eloquently of the many fine things they have done for golf. The one thing that has spoken authoritatively over the years has been GOLF-DOM, which the Graffises "raised from a pup" and developed into a voice of turf. I was fortunate when they invited me to write the Q & A column and the turf roundup (1950, 51, 52). It has been a joy working with them!

Thank you, Herb and Joe, for all you've done for all of us!

Q—Our Pennncross greens do not look like Pennncross—at least not the way better Pennncross greens look. We have a limited budget, so we don't water our greens too much. Someone suggested that the less desirable strains become dominant as Pennncross turf increases in age. Do you think that our watering practices have driven out the good strains? (Pennsylvania)

A—First, I don't believe that the better strains have been run out by your limited irrigation program. Just the reverse is more likely to happen. The stronger strains tend to increase under an austerity program. Second, as Pennncross turf grows older, assuming that management has been adequate, the more desirable strains tend to dominate. Only in winter can any separation of strains be detected. Third, if, as you suspect, you may

have "Pennncross" greens that were planted to other types of bents that came in the seed, you may very well be seeing strain domination. To overcome this problem, if you have a mixture, overseed your greens at three-quarters pound per thousand spring and fall for two years. Use only Putting Green quality Blue Tag Certified Pennncross bent seed.

Q—Our new greens were seeded to Pennncross bent in October 1971, then heavily mulched with straw. Now when I pick up a handful of straw the young tender grass (I have a good stand) comes up along with the straw. Can you suggest a way to remove only the straw? (Ohio)

A—The problem is familiar. Because the grass is not yet strongly rooted, I suggest waiting until spring. When the Pennncross starts to show signs of deeper rooting, go over the greens with a sharp-bladed rotary mower set just above the tips of the grass blades. Then use a power vacuum to lift the chopped-up straw by air suction. This should remove a good portion of the straw without damaging the Pennncross. Do not try to remove all the straw. As the grass grows the straw will rot. As the grass is mowed most of the visible debris will be taken away. Do not try to rake the straw off. No doubt you will devise improvements on this idea as you work with the problem.

Q—Two years ago the rains brought Poa annua into our greens. Is the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council set up to do or to encourage work on Poa to change its characteristics to make it a more desirable grass? Geneticists are able to change markings on fruit flies and to vary the colors in sweet peas. They should

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