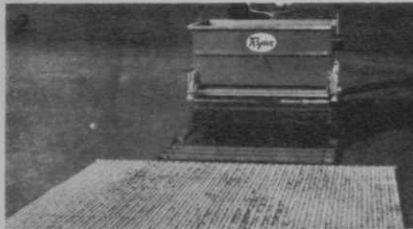


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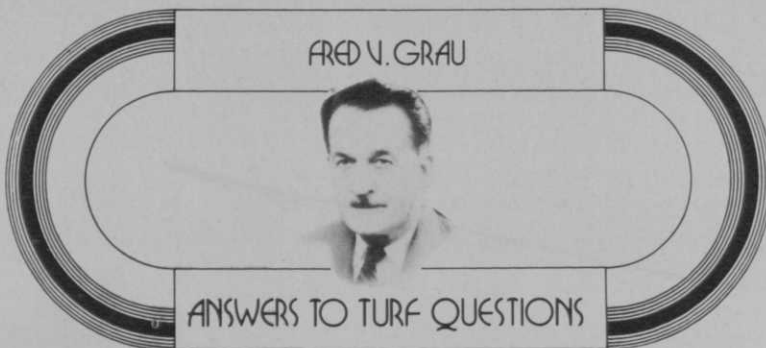
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## SUPERINTENDENT RECOGNITION GAINING

Two ideas crowd my thoughts as I sit at my desk and look at my backyard display of brilliant azaleas.

First, the golf course superintendent is being recognized. I was the speaker at the recent monthly meeting of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA at Crofton, Md. A copy of the USGA Journal had just arrived and I showed the article on Richie Valentine and said a few words about how I worked with his father, Joseph Valentine. Recognition can come not only to the famous or to those who are kin to the famous, but to all who are diligent, successful and who can capture the fancy of the public and press.

An excellent case in point is the recognition that has been given to George Thompson of Columbia CC in Washington. He is Mid-Atlantic president and presided effectively at the meeting where I spoke. The next morning's mail brought the May Golf Superintendent, and who should grace the cover but George Thompson!

Another fine recognition for a superintendent appeared on the cover of Grounds Maintenance for April. Ted Woehle, director of GCSAA and superintendent at Oakland Hills CC in Michigan, is pictured on the job. A fine story is carried inside on his irrigation system.

Recognition of this kind is the best public relations that can be found. The stories are not only reaching other superintendents, but the general public, who now better appreciate the superintendent's job.

Second, the Mid-Atlantic Assn. has taken the lead in forming and giving moral and financial support to the new Maryland Turfgrass Council, now being organized. All turf interests will join hands to de-

velop a strong, unified voice that can be heard and will have its effect on legislation and at the university. For too many years the turfgrass interests have struggled for research and education that would benefit this extremely important phase of agriculture. Planning committees have been appointed and a second meeting is due soon. I am sure that turfgrass interests everywhere join me in saluting the fledgling Maryland Turfgrass Council and wish it every success. With guidance from the Virginia Turfgrass Council on one side and from the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council on the other, the Maryland group can be assured of support. Characteristically the Mid-Atlantic GCSA indicated that it would assist all three.

**Q—Our greens last fall (November) were treated with tri-calcium arsenate at two pounds and again in March at the same rate. The results were so good that we have bare areas where the Poa annua disappeared. The bentgrasses are vigorous and healthy. We've been on a "no-phosphorus" program for five years. The thin and bare areas will be reseeded at once with Penncross on the greens and Manhattan ryegrass on the approaches. Do we have enough toxicity to act as a pre-emergence for goosegrass (Eleusine indica) or should we apply some kind of preventive chemical when we reseed?** (Virginia)

**A—**Under the circumstances I would use a small amount of phosphorus with the seeding and avoid the use of any more preemergent chemicals at this time. Give the grass a chance to grow and fill in. You have at least a full month before you can expect goosegrass to germinate.

Because you are using very light

*continued on page 17*

**GRAU** from page 14

applications of soluble N, I would advise using a soluble 20-20-20, 24-24-24 (or similar) at seeding time to assure the seedlings of a good send-off.

**Q**—Recently I heard that "the mark of a good superintendent is a thin, shallow carpet of grass on his greens; it shows that he feeds his grass abundantly."

Our greens (Pennncross) are thin and shallow, but why not? We do everything from the top; cultivating underneath is hard and not very productive. Our fescue fairways (unwatered) shows roots 12 inches deep; our greens do well to reach down two inches. Please tell me if you think that grass, which is abundantly fed, should have roots that leave the "well-fed thin shallow carpet" and extend down 4, 6, or 8 inches? I don't believe it! I can't believe that grass roots are neurotic—striving for the impossible. They are not like Hillary, who climbed Mt. Everest "because it is there." They do what comes naturally; they live off the top. Tell me, am I wrong or am I a success at growing "a thin, shallow carpet of grass?"

(Pennsylvania)

**A**—Everything is relative. Compared to prairie sod where roots of native grasses extend to depths of 4, 5 and 6 feet, the turf on any putting green is more like a "shallow carpet." I've measured bentgrass roots on a putting green well below the 12-inch level, but that still is "shallow" compared to the prairie.

The depth of roots of grasses on putting greens are affected by many factors, one of which is water. By maintaining a saturated surface we can keep roots shallow. Conversely, we can help them forage deeper by careful management. Well-drained porous soil helps.

I must confess that I am puzzled at the concept of the "thin, shallow" carpet being the mark of a good superintendent. That doesn't seem to be a very high goal to shoot at. I would feel demeaned were I a superintendent. Perhaps there's more to the story. Your sharing this with us is appreciated. If you can maintain excellent putting surfaces at all times, you are a good superintendent. □



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