

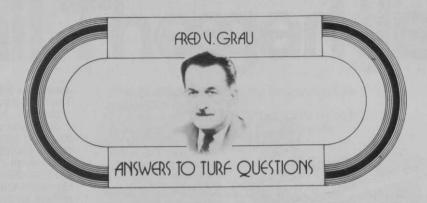
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INTERNATIONAL COORDINATED TURFGRASS TRIALS?

Nearly 25 years ago we held what was then called national coordinated trials. Crabgrass control and evaluation of Merion Kentucky bluegrass were involved. Prior to that time there were "pie greens" scattered over the country; also reports on turf gardens. Data was condensed into simple understandable comparisons, charts and graphs. They were on the practical side, somewhat lacking in sophistication. Conclusions drawn left little doubt about the best way to proceed. Practical and scientific men alike derived benefit from the work. There was one weakness. The information reached only a few of those who needed it. It boiled down to a simple matter of membership and financial support.

Now we seem to have lost the art of communicating on a broad scale. For example, Penn State's information reaches about 400 at the winter conference; it ought to reach 40,000! Purdue's regional winter conference draws 700, but the territory embraces 100,000 or more. The annual Golf Course Superintendents of America conference boasts a record attendance of 4,000, vet more than 10,000 golf courses exist in the United States alone. Count those in Canada, Europe, Mexico, Australia, and Japan, and it becomes clear that the masses have not been reached. Information is distributed mainly to those who pay their dues.

Regional trials are gathering strength and momentum slowly. Advances are gained painfully and with great effort by a few dedicated individuals. Lethargy and indifference, sometimes antagonism, retard progress. There is pride and provincialism involved, both false to a degree. Reluctance to share findings with other technical workers also has its discouraging effect.

National coordinated trials deserve to be approached cautiously and tentatively with one or two items that have across-the-board appeal. Regional trials have the advantage of bringing climatic effects into focus, especially when results are compared among regions.

There would be no losers in an organized national effort—every-one would gain. There are bound to be disappointments when a favored item fails to perform as anticipated or as advertised, but this is the name of the game. Technical people want to provide information to the consumer so he can use those items that have the best chance of giving him success.

Who should be concerned with the coordinated trials that we have been discussing? It would seem that just about everybody should be interested and involved. State experiment stations are at the head of the list in my book, together with the United States Department of Agriculture. The United States Golf Assn. Green Section and GCSAA together serve several thousand golf clubs and country clubs and their superintendents. Every industrial concern that serves turfgrass interests deserves to share in the findings. Golf architects, golf course builders, the National Golf Foundation, all golf associations and the Professional Golfers' Assn. share the common interest of trying to do a better job for those they serve. There are cemetery associations and athletic field groups who are hurting

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-AQUA-GRO FAIRWAY wetting out PROGRAM

Stoma-SEAL PROGRAM
Spray 16-oz. 10% PMA plus 22-oz. Aqua-GRO in 50 gals. water per acre weekly on irrigated fairways, and every other week on non-irrigated areas. Start the program in mid-June to July 1, and continue thru Labor Day to Sept. 15th-

AQUA-GRO PROGRAM (Weekly)

Spray 44-oz. Aqua-GRO in 50 gals. water per acre weekly or bi-weekly for 6 to 8 applications. Start sprays as early in season as weather permits. Retreatments should not be necessary until the following season. On real trouble areas continue weekly sprays as long as necessary. There is no danger of accumulating a toxic level.

AQUA-GRO PROGRAM (One Shot)

Spray 8 to 10 quarts of Aqua-GRO in 80 to 100 gals. water per acre. Water treatment into profile IMMEDIATELY with 10 to 15 minutes irrigation. Do not make application to stressed grass. If necessary irrigate area for 5 minutes to "freshen" grass before spraying - or spray during a steady rain. The ONE-SHOT application affords a quick and efflicient means to treat fairways that are not up to par during the height of the golfing season.

COMBINED AQUA-GRO & STOMA-SEAL PROGRAM

(A) Spray 44-oz. Aqua-GRO in 50-gals. water per acre weekly for 3 to 4 weeks as early in the season as weather permits. In mid-June add 16-oz. 10% PMA plus 44-oz. Aqua-GRO in 50-gals. water per acre weekly. Continue this spray for 3 to 4 more weeks. Then finish season with weekly sprays of 16-oz. 10% PMA plus 22-oz. Aqua-GRO in 50-gals. water per acre.

(B) Make a ONE-SHOT Aqua-GRO application in Spring, and start normal Stomaseal program in mid-June. If season has started and Stoma-Seal is being applied. make a ONE-SHOT application in mid-week when the irrigation can be done - or during steady rain.

SPREADER

Use 2-oz. Aqua-GRO per 100 gals. spray solution for improved effectiveness. For superior wetting use 16-oz. Aqua-GRO per 100 gals. spray.

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for information. Then consider the various state-oriented turfgrass councils, associations and foundations. I've said nothing so far about seed companies which grow, process and distribute seeds designated to produce better turf. Some promote items which have not had adequate field trials to support claims of superiority. If it were possible to bring together these widely diverse interests in turf into a nationally or internationally coordinated source of unbiased information, perhaps we might be able to avoid some of the pitfalls of poorly-prepared, inadequate specifications and faulty recommendations which have been the nemesis of natural turf while encouraging the use of artificial turf.

Can we find or develop the kind of international organization that could function as a coordinator? Would the several groups mentioned be willing to lend moral and fianancial support?

It would seem inappropriate for this writer to suggest that any one group might be best qualified to serve. Hopefully, these editorial meanderings may elicit a series of responses that would give direction to the idea.

O—The large number of bluegrass varieties has created confusion. but now we seem to have a similar situation developing with turftype perennial ryegrasses. Are the ryegrasses being recommended as blends the same as are the bluegrasses? (Maryland) A-Yes. There are ryegrass blends on the market. One that came to my attention last year at the Tifton conference was Medalist II, which is used for overseeding dormant warm season turf. Regretfully no one could tell me anything about the varieties that made up the blend. Another that has become very popular both in the North and in the South is PaLaMoRa. It is a blend of Pelo (from Holland), Manhattan (bred and released by Rutgers University) and Pennfine (bred and released by Penn State). Each one is superior in its own right. Combined they provide excellent diversity to overcome temporary weaknesses due to disease, climate or stress.