



What price turfgrass progress?

New golf courses are coming into play in ever increasing numbers. There is a growing demand for superintendents and turfgrass managers. The need for better grasses, equipment, chemicals and fertilizers becomes more apparent every year. The purse and prizes for tournaments grow ever richer.

Funds for supporting turf research, teaching and extension continue to dwindle. Tax assists and state aid diminish as pressures for tax funds increase. Grants-in-aid for turf-oriented firms have dropped off alarmingly. Unless help comes soon, some states may consider reducing their turfgrass programs. This would be unfortunate from every standpoint. There is a growing demand for college-trained turfgrass managers. The need for superior grasses and management techniques was never greater. Turfgrass interests of all kinds are being short-changed because they do not get the extension specialist assistance to which they are entitled.

The Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council is one tax-exempt organization that has developed a plan to give needed financial support to the turfgrass project at the Pennsylvania State University and to maintain it at its present high level. There are other councils, foundations and associations working along similar lines. With the exception of necessary operating expenses (stationery, postage and secretarial help) every penny collected goes to the turfgrass project. There are no salaries or travel expenses. Briefly the council invites sustaining members at \$100 a year and individual members at \$10 a year. Total involvement is the name of the game. Sustaining members

include golf clubs, industrial firms, golf course architectural firms, turfgrass consultants, golf course superintendent associations, cemetery associations, sod growers and others. Provision is made for those who feel they cannot afford \$100 and for those who can afford to contribute more. Some clubs have set up a "council membership" item in their maintenance budget—a recurring item. It's all explained in a new brochure just off the press, free for the asking at Box AA, College Park, Md. 20740.

This plan may not be the best, because we have not tapped tournament gates and purses. We believe that we can keep the program going. With over 500 golf courses which are direct beneficiaries, we believe that the future of turf in Pennsylvania is secure.

Q—*In the May, 1971, issue of GOLFDOM you answered a question on zoysiagrass. I have a few tees ready to plant in the spring on which I had planned to use Pennncross bent. What do you think about my using a variety of zoysia? I'll mow the tees about three-eighths inch. If I use zoysia, should I buy sprigs or plugs or is seed available? Could I overseed with ryegrass?* (Wisconsin)

A—My advice is to stay with the Pennncross bent and mow at one-fourth inch. Your season is too short for zoysia of any variety. Pennncross will do well on a low phosphorus diet, using about six pounds each of slow-release nitrogen and of potash from sulfate of potash. You can blend this mixture yourself from 1,200 pounds of ureaform and 800 pounds of sulfate of potash. Ten pounds per thousand of the mixture three times a season provides the needed N and K.

Q—*We have Pennncross bent greens and common bermudagrass col-*

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lars, approaches and fairways. There is quite a bit of encroachment of bermuda into the greens. Is there a chemical that will kill the bermuda but not the bent? (North Carolina)

A—We know of no chemical that will kill bermuda and not harm the bent, unless it would be Tupersan. It has been reported to be quite damaging to bermuda. I doubt that Tupersan has been recommended by the manufacturer for this purpose, so treat it experimentally at first. The other approach is to be extra diligent

about edging and picking the runners out by hand.

Q—*We would appreciate having the answers to several questions about Penncross bent. At what height should it be cut from 1) the playing viewpoint and 2) the greenkeeping angle? Under normal conditions, how often should it be cut? What feeding program is considered to be adequate?* (Iowa)

A—Best height of cut for greens is three-sixteenth inch; for tees one-fourth inch, and for fairways one-half

inch. Turfgrasses must be managed to suit the players—management is forced to adjust.

Best frequency of cut is daily on greens, three to four times a week for tees and fairways. By keeping tees and fairways on the dry side mowings can be reduced.

Guidelines on feeding include 1) maintain pH close to 7.0; 2) keep phosphorus low; 3) use equal quantities of nitrogen and potash (preferably slow-release nitrogen and sulphate of potash). Don't over-feed with nitrogen.

Q—*We have sent you specimens of some cup-shaped bodies that occurred in one of our putting greens. Included is a plug of turf. The cups seem to be filled with seeds. Can you help us identify the invaders and suggest a cure?* (West Virginia)

A—The specimens went to New York before coming to College Park. They arrived three weeks later in good shape because you packaged them so well.

The cup-shaped bodies are fairy-ring producing fungi belonging to the *Peziziales* family. What appears to be seeds are spore masses.

Fungi thrive on acid, low-nitrogen media. My suggestion is to shrivel them with repeated sprays of hydrated lime at one pound to 1,000 square feet. To supply nitrogen at the same time I've had excellent success with powdered ureaform at two pounds per thousand added to the hydrated lime in the spray tank. Remove all screws to avoid clogging. Spray in the evening and don't rinse it in until morning.

Q—*We have heard some discussion of contract maintenance for golf courses. No one seems to know much about it and we would like to know more. Can you enlighten us?* (Texas)

A—I am not an expert on contract maintenance, but I have encountered it in one form or another at various times. In South Africa a number of golf courses contract their weed control to a company that is staffed by experts. It relieves the superintendent of many decisions and headaches. The company guarantees the work. It looked good to me.

We have contract maintenance with us on the West Coast where it has been successful for many years. I

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do not know the details of how the business is run but reports of performance is good.

Some older experienced superintendents look after more than one course. This in effect is a form of contract maintenance. They assume a certain responsibility for which they are paid.

Contract maintenance could be conducted by a responsible corporation which would assume full responsibility for year-around grooming. The club would meet contract payments, but would have no further requirement. Performance would be bonded. The program would be conducted by certified superintendents who have proved their ability by past performance. I can visualize an enhanced status for qualified superintendents, together with an improvement in pay scale, retirement and fringe benefits. A profit-oriented corporation would be obliged to maintain high standards in every department.

It would appear that more efficient large-scale buying (or leasing) would bring about savings in equipment, fertilizers, chemicals and other items.

There must be some disadvantages in the idea of contract maintenance but so far no one has pointed them out to me nor have I discovered them.

Q—An official at our club engaged a private independent soil testing laboratory to sample and test the soils on our new course which isn't built yet. We are quite unfamiliar with their figures and their terminology. They reported the quantity of nitrogen in the soil and used that to calculate the N needed to establish the turf. We think that their recommendations are too low. We enclose a copy of the test results. Your comments? (Virginia)

A—Nor am I familiar with their method of reporting. It seems that they are farm-oriented because their explanations revolve around manure, legumes-plowed-down and crop residue. I must agree that the nitrogen recommendations for establishment are too low. Ureaform was recommended but the quantity was too small to be significant.

My suggestion is to contact your state extension turf specialist. □

Samaritan Law. This law gives laymen (club officials) and professionals (doctors, policemen and firemen) the right to render first aid without fear of legal prosecution," he says. "It has been discovered in some states, that physicians would pass the scene of an accident because of fear of malpractice suits," Dr. Granzen says. "The New York law protects the 'good samaritan' even if he does things totally wrong. Club officials should check with lawyer-members to see if their states have such a law. Clubs are more liable to have lawsuits brought against them if they are not prepared to handle an emergency," says Dr. Granzen. "In some cases, suits have charged clubs with negligence, because they did not anticipate strokes and have the emergency equipment available."

Both Dr. Granzen and O'Donnell agree that good first-aid procedures are really common sense. "There can be only one boss at the scene of an accident directing traffic," Granzen says, "and he must keep the crowd away from the victim, administer first aid and keep the victim from panicking." "One of the major concerns of older people," O'Donnell adds, "is the reassurance that they are going to be okay. Their primary concern, however, is generally over their spouse."

Death or serious injury on the golf course because a club was not prepared can have a detrimental effect on the attitudes of the membership. They could always wonder what would happen if they were next. Besides causing sleepless nights for the unprepared manager, professional or superintendent, it may also cost him his job.

Saving a life can take a few dollars worth of investment in equipment and a few hours investment in education. But you can't put a price tag on the results if you're caught unprepared. First aid: It's equipment and knowledge you need, but hope you will never have to use. □

Correction

Merit Associates Inc., manufacturer of the Sight-Line Putter, was erroneously listed in our PGA Merchandise Show preview (GOLFDOM, January, p. 71) as Merritt Assn., Inc. The company's address is 224 South St., Freehold, N.J. 07728.

ment. "We were just out of our line with turf maintenance equipment," he says. "Warren's does not expect to continue in the turf maintenance area, but will instead increase its concentration of distribution of its line of turfgrasses."

Jack Hahn, executive vice president of Hahn, said that the agreement with Ransomes would be a milestone for both companies. "The position of Hahn West Point distributors in this country will be greatly strengthened through the addition of a wider range of specialized grass cutting equipment. Hahn's gross sales last year were \$16 million," Hahn says. "Ransomes sales were \$31 million. We expect the agreement to increase Hahn sales by between 10 to 20 per cent initially. We will complement each other very well," Hahn says. "Ransomes is involved in walk behind green mowers and has gang mowers. Hahn has riding mowers, verti-cutters and aerators."

As part of the agreement, Ransomes has made a convertible loan of a substantial amount to Hahn, thus ensuring a long-term relationship between the two companies.

Credle changes name to Midwest Toro
Credle Company, a distributor for The Toro Company, has changed its name to **Midwest Toro**.

Midwest Toro is the distributor for Toro's three major product lines—power mowers, turf equipment for golf courses, parks, schools and cemeteries, and Moist O'Matic underground lawn sprinkler equipment. Midwest Toro is also the distributor for over 50 other turf equipment product lines.

Japanese ball hits pro-only market

The first Japanese-manufactured golf ball for pro shops only has been announced by Jiro Yamamoto, president of **Rainbow Sales Company** of Gardena, Calif. The **Skyway** golf ball is manufactured by Bridgestone Tire Company, Ltd., of Japan.

The ball is coated with a new, thick chemical (polyurethane) for extra durability. The cover is abrasion and moisture proof and has a liquid center. The ball, approved and tested by the United States Golf Assn., is being offered in pro shops in 80, 90, and 100 compression.