



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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