



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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