

GRAU from page 12

clubs, individuals and associations that are involved in turf. These membership monies are turned over to qualified research institutions, which do the job of developing and testing these newer and better things for better turf.

Because this writer belongs to several councils, but is more intimately associated with the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, let me tell how the Pennsylvania system works. Golf clubs are invited to join as Sustaining Members at \$100 a year. Superintendents are urged to put this item in the maintenance budget so that it becomes routine. Tax-assist money and grants-in-aid no longer can support the full-blown program. Firms that make their living from turf also are invited to join at \$100 a year. We have not neglected the individual, who can be affiliated for a modest \$10 a year. Then, too, there is a slot for contributions. In this category anyone can help, no matter where or who they are. We have people who enjoy the fruits of

Pennsylvania research in such far-away places as California, Hawaii, Australia and South Africa. With the exception of minor expenses for clerical help and office supplies, all monies are transferred to the Pennsylvania Turfgrass program—with no overhead skimmed off the top.

Other states operate similarly. Plans are afoot to coordinate activities among state councils.

NEW RYEGRASSES WORTH COST?

Q—*In overseeding bermudagrass greens, most clubs have relied mainly on common (domestic) ryegrass. Now clubs are being urged to use the new turf-type perennial ryegrasses, which, among other things, are said to be easier to mow clean. Do you think that the extra expense is justified? Are these grasses that much better?*

(Georgia)

A—I will vote for the new turf-type perennial ryegrasses, preferably in a blend. Leaders include Pennfine, Manhattan, NK-100 and NK-200. Supplies are limited, which is one reason for blends.

Blends also overcome a weakness in one strain or another. Mowing clean is but one advantage. These new ryegrasses are less competitive with bermuda; they persist longer into hot weather (smoother transition), which gives the bermuda a better chance to recover and they are much more resistant to diseases. The color is brilliant compared to annual ryegrass and the texture is comparable to bentgrass. Resistance to cold is another plus. Yes, I would say that the higher price per pound is amply justified. Expense may be only a little greater, because less seed is required.

LIME DUST PROBLEM

Q—*Most golf courses in this area, and in the rest of the state, use limestone generously to improve fertilizer efficiency, to keep thatch to a minimum and for the general good of the grass and micro-organisms. The trouble is, every time lime is spread there is a general outcry because of the dust on golfers' shoes and in the air. Dust drifting onto ericaceous plants is*

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