

1 of 63 PAR AIDE PRODUCTS for 1963



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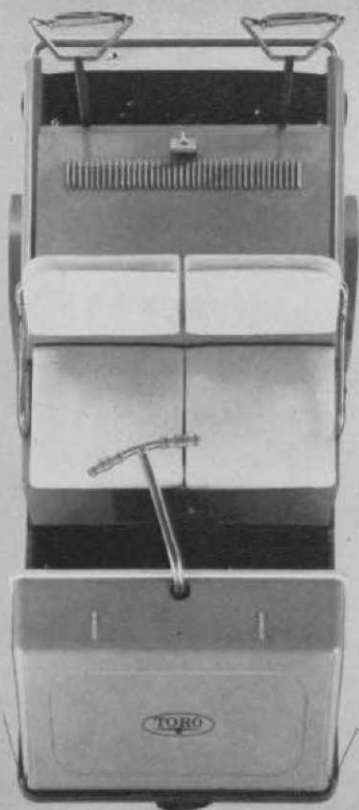
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GRAU'S ANSWERS TO TURF QUESTIONS

BY FRED V. GRAU



Much Remains to Be Done in Drawing Up "Specs"

Two factors are gaining increasing* attention in this fast growing field of providing new facilities for the nation's golfers.

1. Specifications: There have been many so-called "specs" prepared and approved for submission to builders for bidding. The kindest thing that can be said of some of them is that they say, in effect, "We want a golf course built." In too many cases the specific responsibilities of owner, builder, and architect are not spelled out and only a generous amount of mutual respect and tolerance serves to get the course built.

Too often the specs fail to specify the details of seeds and seed quality, fertilization, mixtures of soil and amendments, depth of soil, grades and other essential information. Exact areas and quantities must be made known to the builders so that realistic bids may be submitted.

Different Conditions

Not many new course specifications find their way across our desk. But among them those prepared by Ed Ault, course architect of Silver Spring, Md., and Jack Snyder of Scottsdale, Ariz., seem to be sound and sensible and a definite asset for the owners, and for the builders who bid on the basis of the specs. Each new course presents a different set of conditions which must be handled according to need. The specs from the last course can be used in part, supplemented by fresh recommendations of professional specialists in each line: engineering, agronomy, hydraulics, etc.

Smooth Out Rough Spots

2. Professional Assistance: The rate at which architects are designing new courses and preparing new specs for bidding by

construction companies seriously limits their ability to adequately cover every detail in the specifications. Close checking by specialists in the various lines smooths out the rough spots and insures a more realistic set of specs which, in turn, will be a break for the owner as well as for the builder.

Specialists often can help in the wording of specs so that clear cut lines of responsibility are drawn. There are cases where the maintenance crew, ready to maintain a "finished" golf course, is forced to pick stones (one of the builder's job) so that the seeding can be done. Sadly enough, the specs failed to spell out areas of responsibility covering this. There is certain to be a heated argument before all claims are settled.

Build It Right

It is not difficult to see how a confused situation has been allowed to develop in this rapidly growing field. Leadership in "Building A New Course Right The First Time" has been lacking. There has been far too much of the useless but necessary practice of rebuilding the course a year or two after it has been put into play. Perhaps some of the essential research data has been missing but it is more likely that much of that which is available has not been put to use.

We do not pretend to have the final answer to the dilemma of the new golf courses but it is assured that we will keep digging until the real answer, or a reasonable facsimile, is found. Readers may, if they wish, write their views to this department in an effort to aid in improving specs and construction.

Fall or Spring Seeding

Q. We are building a new course on some very sandy soil. Construction may drag on until it is too late for an early fall seeding. One question being discussed is: "Shall we go ahead



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and seed when construction is finished or should we wait and make a spring seeding?" Another is: "What will happen to our seedbed fertilizer if we fertilize and seed late in the fall?"

(Maryland)

A. The questions are basic and important. The second question logically comes first.

Seedbed fertilizer, in the absence of active, live, absorbing plant roots, can suffer varying degrees of loss depending upon the character of the fertilizer. Nitrogen and potash will suffer the greatest loss, phosphorus little if any. Soluble sources of nitrogen (urea, ammonium nitrate, sulfate of ammonia), which are used in commercial grades 10-10-10, 10-6-4 and similar, may lose up to 70 per cent of their nitrogen from the leaching action of winter rains and snow.

Potash is soluble and will be leached but not to the same high degree as soluble N because it will be held to a greater extent by soil colloids. Insoluble sources of nitrogen (sludges, tankage, oil meals and ureaforms) will suffer little or no loss of nitrogen over winter. Therefore, if seedbed fertilization includes insoluble sources of nitrogen, it is practicable to consider late fall seeding.

Late fall seedings that do not emerge as seedlings until spring are known as "dormant seedings." Dormant seedings are recommended if adequate erosion protection can be established. This usually means straw or hay mulch or the new wood cellulose pulp. A good example is

Skimont at State College, Pennsylvania where the entire planting was made just before freeze-up.

Since the shale soil was porous and early spring greenup was desired, the source of nitrogen was ureaform. Straw mulch was secured with asphalt tack. Slopes, quite naturally, are much steeper than one would encounter on a course. When the snow pack melted and spring rains came it appeared that every seed germinated with only slight erosion. Similar good results have been achieved on new golf courses. One such is the Lower Cascades in Hot Springs, Virginia.

He would favor late fall (dormant) seeding using non-leaching types of seedbed fertilizer. Erosion-resisting mulch is a *must*. A big advantage is that operations during a soggy spring are avoided. Seed in the soil will start to grow as soon as conditions are favorable. Course opening could be advanced by several months. Weeds in the new turf are likely to be less troublesome with a dormant seeding.

Clover in Seaside

Q. We have Seaside greens. Clover is becoming a problem. What do you suggest?

(West Virginia)

A. Your first problem is the Seaside itself. This grass is composed of many, many different
(Continued on page 75)

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3M Competition Offers Chance to Play in '64 Crosby Pro-Am

The first nationwide tournament which will allow the winners to play in a big time event, the 1964 Bing Crosby Pro-Am, is being sponsored by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. (3M), St. Paul. The competition, known as "Beat Bing" is being held in behalf of 3M's Thermo-Fax dealers.

To qualify, contestants will enter their scores, validated by the pro of the club of their choice, on any day between Aug. 4 and 24. Crosby will play one round against them on Aug. 24.

All entrants who beat Crosby are eligible to compete for prizes which include 27 expense-paid trips to Tucson National GC for a special "Beat Bing" playoff in Oct. The three top winners of this event will receive expense paid trips for two to Pebble Beach to compete next Jan. 16-19, in the Crosby Pro-Am. Additional prizes based on performance at Tucson will include six expense paid trips for two to Pebble Beach as spectators. The three pros who authenticate scores of the three playoff winners also will get trips for two to Pebble Beach.

Entry blanks can be obtained from Thermo-Fax dealers. The 3M competition is open to any business or professional man or male government or civil service worker who is an amateur, 21 years of age, and living in states which permit such competitions.

Entrants who beat Crosby will be divided into three handicap classes: A — 0 to 12; B — 13 to 20; and C — 21 or over. Only Class A contestants will be eligible to play in the Crosby Pro-Am. Winners in other classes will attend as spectators.

Hagen Trophy to Ouimet

During the Open at the CC of Brookline Francis Ouimet was named the third winner of the Walter Hagen trophy for contribution to Anglo-American relations through golf. Hagen was first winner of the trophy presented by Daks, British makers of sports clothing. Bob Jones was second winner. Members of Golf Writers Assn. of America select the winner. Lord Brabazon of Tara was the runner-up this year. The trophy was presented to Ouimet by Joe Looney, vp, GWAA, at the organization's meeting in the press room at Brookline.

The Royal Montreal Golf Club and The Royal and Ancient Golf Club in Scotland both use this mower



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Turf Talk

by Bob Miller

Excellent turf can be established and maintained with any source of nitrogen. However, the characteristics of the nitrogen source must be understood to obtain best results and avoid burning or discoloration. On a golf course at Virginia Polytechnic Institute excellent turf has been produced and maintained (over the past 5 years) by using the same amount of nitrogen but from 3 different sources. The annual number of applications and the source varied on different areas: soluble nitrogen—13 applications, natural organic nitrogen—7 applications, "Uramite" ureaform—only 2 applications. The advantages of a minimum number of applications are obvious.

Another advantage of "Uramite" is that it builds up "residual" nitrogen. However, until this residue is built up, there can be times during periods of stress when a small amount of soluble nitrogen is needed for color.

As T. G. Byrne and O. R. Lunt (U. of Cal. and U.C.L.A. respectively) have pointed out: "Urea formaldehyde has been promoted on its ability to supply nitrogen at a slow, steady rate for prolonged periods. Its successful use in this role is dependent on the development of an adequate level of residual nitrogen in the soil.

"A common cause of disappointment from the use of urea formaldehyde is the failure to develop this reserve."

However, when ureaform has been used for a long enough period to allow the adequate reserve of residual nitrogen to develop, "annual application rates are no larger than those required when frequent applications of soluble materials are made."

Bob Miller

More superintendents tell keep greens with Du

► Shown at right, checking turf, is Clem Coble, who is now in his fortieth year as Greens Superintendent at Broadmoor Country Club, Indianapolis, Indiana. He says, "We like Du Pont Turf Products because they 'like' us. We have been using 'Tersan' for over 15 years and haven't lost an inch of turf to disease since. The best indication of the success we've had with the Du Pont disease control program is our satisfied club members."

▼ And at the Biltmore Country Club, Barrington, Illinois, Greens Superintendent John Ebel examines a green which has been regularly fed Du Pont "Uramite" ureaform fertilizer. He says, "I have been using 'Uramite' as the basic source of nitrogen on my greens for the past four years. We've found that 'Uramite' gives uniform growth and safety—keeps greens in good playing condition at all times—and even under heavy traffic."



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