

EDITOR

Avoid the Temptation Sand Topdressing . . .

John R. Hall, III, Extension Specialist, Turf, V.P.I.

Many gold course superintendents are observing with great interest the experimental practice of frequent sand topdressing of golf greens. The cheaper cost of straight sand topdressing is certainly tempting when compared with some of our more commonly used topdressing materials. The choice of a topdressing mixture is no less important to the quality of a putting green than the choice of soil mixtures for new green construction. Bad decisions in either instance can lead to golf greens which are costly to manage at best or impossible to keep alive in the summer, at worst. The most expensively constructed greens, utilizing mixes specified by laboratory tests can be ruined by the improper choice of topdressing material.

Topdressing of bentgrass greens has as its primary function the "truing" of greens by stabilizing the puffy thatch layer that normally develops in a bentgrass turf. It has come to be realized that topdressing also encourages stolon rooting, aids in thatch decomposition, stimulates new shoot growth, provides micro-organisms antagonistic to parasitic fungi and provides nutrients to the turf. In winter

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USGA Green Section Conference Set

Our office has received the following schedule for the USGA North Central Region Green Section Conference to be held Tuesday, March 20, 1979 at Broadmoor Country Club, 2155 Kesler Boulevard, Indianapolis, Indiana. A \$15.00 fee, which includes luncheon and registration should be sent to Mr. Carl Schwartzkopf, P.O. Box 592, Crystal Lake, Illinois, 60014, no later than March 12, 1979. EDITOR

Morning Session - 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Presiding - Ray D. McDonald, Executive Secretary, Indiana Golf Association.

9:00 - REGISTRATION

10:00 - WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS, Alvin Raphael, Chairman, Green Committee, Broadmoor Country Club. Eugene S. Pullian, Vice President, USGA.

10:15 - THE USGA AND ITS ROLE IN GOLF - Stephen M. Foehl, Manager, Regional Affairs, USGA.

10:30 - MARKING THE GOLF COURSE - Thomas J. Meeks, Director, Rules and Competitions, USGA

11:00 - USGA GOLF HANDICAP SYSTEM AND COURSE RATING - Thomas J. Meeks, Director, Rules and Competitions, USGA

continued on next page

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continued . . .

11:15 - IMPLEMENTS AND BALL FILM

11:35 - USGA GREEN SECTION AND TURF
ADVISORY SERVICE

12:00 - LUNCHEON

AFTERNOON SESSION - 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Presiding - Lee Webb, CGCS, Superintendent,
Crooked Stick Golf Club, Carmel, Ind.

1:00 - U.S. OPEN FILM - CHERRY HILLS - A MILE
HIGH DRAMA

1:30 - **GOLF CART PANEL - Purchase or Lease** - Tom
Gcorhouse, Vice President, Boylan Leasing Company,
Plainville, Mich. **Cart Maintenance** - Ralph Kitchen,
District Manager, Boylan Leasing Company, In-
dianapolis, Inc. **Golf Course Design with Carts in
Mind** - Pete Dye, Golf Course Architect, Delray
Beach, Fla. **Cart Control on the Course** - John Morris,
CGCS Highland Golf and Country Club, Indianapolis,
Ind.

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