



# MID- ATLANTIC News Letter



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Our August meeting was not held at a Golf and Country club. Instead we attended the first Annual Turf Field Day of the Department of Agriculture. It took place on the turf plots of the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland. The date was Tuesday, August 6, 1957.

Those of us who have been going out to Beltsville occasionally were aware that there was a bit of activity taking place around the turf areas, particularly in the neighborhood of the bermuda grass trial plots. Yet, none of us realized what a busy bee the little Doctor who came from Michigan State College is, and we wish to compliment Dr. Juska on his efforts and accomplishments in such a short period of time at Beltsville.

Dr. Juska was ably assisted and supported by Charles K. Hallowell of the USGA Green Section; W.A. Genter of the Weed Control and Crop Section, USDA; D.L. Klingman, Paul C. Marth, Bernard A. App, and Adolph S. Schindler. Through the combined efforts of the above named individuals, the first Turf Field Day under the auspices of the United States Department of Agriculture was a complete success.

The Beltsville agencies helping in the first Field Day were: Agriculture Research Service, Crops Research Division, Forage and Range Research Branch, and the Grass and Turf Section. All component services of the USDA and the Green Section of the USGA also cooperated.

## BELTSVILLE TURF FIELD DAY

The following subjects and topics were covered:

- Zoysia breeding and irradiated space nursery
- Lawn seed mixture
- Kentucky blue grass mixtures
- Crabgrass control, using chemicals under two heights of cutting and two levels of fertility
- The control of wild garlic in mixed blue grass turf
- The use of Gibberellic acid as a plant growth regulator
- The use of insecticides
- Golf course problems of 1957
- The fertilization of Merion blue grass
- Bermuda grass species and strains under two mowing heights and two sources of nitrogen
- Strains and species of zoysia

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The use of Gibberellic acid on turf grasses  
The use of soil sterilants in turf  
Calcium Cyanamid fertilizer usage on mixed turf

We should all get behind Dr. Juska and help support him with his plans for turf research at the Beltsville Plant Industry Station. The only thing missing at the present time are plots of creeping bent grasses and the Doctor tells us that these are to be added to his program of activities in the near future. He plans on establishing plots of the better strains of putting green bents.

As a final word, we say our trip to Beltsville was an eye-opener as to what has been quietly going on right under our noses. Make it a point to visit Dr. Juska and get him to tell you about the revival of the Beltsville turf projects.

The editors of the "NewsLetter" are in receipt of two letters from our good friend, Dr. Fred V. Grau. So as not to take up too much space, we are printing extracts from each letter and in doing so we are trying to bring out the principal points that Fred refers to. The first one covers our June meeting at the Fairfax Country Club; the second one applies to the April meeting at the Baltimore Country Club.

We quote from Dr. Grau's letter: " The meeting at Fairfax was thoroughly enjoyable. For the record and not to be critical, I should like to discuss for a bit the report on the zoysia. The point that I would like to make again is that of the same amount of fertilizer had been applied during the best growing season of the zoysia ( no babying or extra grooming) we would have seen better cover."

" Even so, the zoysia is making the best playing turf of any grasses on that fairway. I hold no particular brief for zoysia, for bermuda, or for any grass for that matter, but I do like to try to evaluate a situation accurately, either for or against. I still maintain that, under the circumstances that have prevailed on No. 3 fairway at Fairfax, zoysia has performed creditably."

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Re: Constructive Suggestion Report in the May, 1957 issue :

" I believe that there was an omission which ought to be corrected in a future issue of the " NEWSLETTER".

" The sentence read : ' Tests are being conducted on the Roland Park greens in the use of organic nitrogen. Milorganite and urea formaldehyde fertilizers are the materials being tried out.'

" I believe that this sentence should read this way : Milorganite and Nitroform are the materials being tried out."

" The way the sentence is worded and the way it appears in the "NEWSLETTER", the brand name of only one of the fertilizers is given. I'm sure that this is not the editorial policy of the " NEWSLETTER". "

Editors note: The NEWSLETTER is glad to publish Dr. Grau's views and we hope that his opinions have been thoroughly expressed.