



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents did not hold a regular monthly meeting in August. We spent Tuesday, August 4, viewing the turfgrass experimental plots at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland. There was quite a large turnout for this annual event and we were joined by others from all over the country including a few visitors from Canada.

The Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Maryland is where the United States Department of Agriculture conducts most of its research program. The contributing agencies to the Field Day were: the U.S.D.A., Crops Research Division, Forage and Range Research Branch, and the Grass and Turf Section.

Dr. Felix Juska, Research Agronomist for the Grass and Turf Section, was our host and master of ceremonies for the day. The day was one full of activity, starting with registration at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until late in the afternoon. Plots of many varieties of grasses were to be seen at different heights of cut and rates of fertilization. Both cool and warm season grasses were included in the tests.

One area of turf was devoted to pre and post emergence control of crabgrass and other weeds. Many weed control plots were on exhibit allowing us to evaluate the use of old and new herbicides. Also, for the first time in several years, space was set aside showing the different creeping bents suitable for putting green sod.

After luncheon the group assembled in the station auditorium for a session of talks. Dr. A.A. Hanson in charge of the Grass and Turf Section gave an outline of the turfgrass breeding program at Beltsville. Dr. F.V. Juska spoke on the fertilization of highway turf. Mr. Charles K. Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Director of the U.S.G.A. Green Section, brought us up-to-date on golf course problems as they have existed so far in 1959. Dr. O.J. Noer, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, gave an interesting summary of what has happened turf-wise in his thirty years of experience in this field.

Dr. Juska and his co-workers deserve the highest praise for their accomplishments at Beltsville. The scope of their work is expanding and improving every year. We of the Mid-Atlantic are indeed fortunate to have research work of this nature available so close to us and we should view it at every opportunity.

Two recent turf bulletins have made some very pertinent observations and comments of interest. The Mid-Continent Turfletter of the U.S.G.A. Green Section notes that where winter-kill of putting green turf was severe this past winter, recovery was hastened through frequent aerification and proper watering. The method of watering was a syringe program similar to that used in hot weather for wilt.

We also quote from the Turfletter an interesting comment: "That greens which were designed and built 20 to 40 years ago for a small amount of play, perhaps no more than 50 or 70 rounds a week, are simply unable to stand up under present day demands of 200