

JAMES RIVER COUNTRY CLUB SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS. The jovial, highly respected superintendent, Hurley Savage, is concerned with shade on greens. Here's what he had to say: " Sure was a nice turnout at Meadowbrook, what does a chef do when he expects 40 and 120 show up? They surely handled the unexpected crowd well, and what a nice place they have there.

The subject of winter shade on bermuda greens has been so interesting to me that I have started a color slide series on it. This will be a two year study on our greens here and I hope to finish it in about 6 months. Anyone who would attempt to grow bermuda greens in the shade just doesn't know bermuda and is in for lots of trouble. Often a superintendent is not asked, he is told where the green shall be. Maybe there is no shade on the green in the summer when the green is planted because the sun is high up in the sky. But, come fall and winter when the green has been overseeded, the sun is lower. Nearby trees that didn't shade the green in the bermuda growing season are now shading maybe a third of the south or southwest side of the green. You will notice the overseeded part in the shade will be doing much better. Odd but true. The seed we have used likes the shorter days and the shade. I wonder what this heavy growth is doing to our dormant bermuda. It is using up the plant food, but we can easily replace that. The dense tops and roots will choke and retard the bermuda in the spring. What about transpiration? Even the dormant bermuda needs some water movement. Could the heavy growth be stealing moisture needed by the rhizome? What about this shaded area when it stays frozen for days longer than the part that gets full sun all day? Causes and effects we will leave to the scientist, but the superintendent must know the cure. Let's say the H--- with it and cut the trees down or else move the green. Yours for full sun on the green" .- Hurley Savage.

JIM REYNOLDS FROM HERMITAGE ADDS HIS THOUGHTS. These are the words this Richmond superintendent had to say-" You asked for suggestions on improving the soil situation in some of your greens at Meadowbrook during our March meeting and I would like to offer the following suggestions for your consideration. During my round of golf I examined the plugs you had taken out of your greens for our inspection. On the first and ninth greens the soil mixture would have made better roads than golf greens. The soil was very tight and in some cores contained a generous amount of gravel. Your club is new and I know that your Board of Governors are doing their best to build up the membership and get the club on a paying basis. In order to help them I would not tear up the greens completely and rebuild them at this time. There are other remedies to try first. In my opinion you should purchase an aerifier -- a machine that punches holes in the greens -- to punch as many holes as possible in the greens in May, June and July. Topdress after each operation with a mixture of 35% good, weed-free top soil, 50% course sand and 15% old sawdust or some other form of humus. Be sure to water the greens after aerifying if it is hot. About the 1st of May you should fertilize your greens with a good nitrogen fertilizer such as Arcadian ANL. This is an ammonium nitrate and lime fertilizer that really makes bermuda grow. It runs 20% in nitrate. It can be put on dry or will mix with water and you can put it on with a sprayer. If you use a sprayer, add 3 pounds of ferrous sulphate per tankfull of water. I use about 50 pounds of AN and L to the green providing the weather isn't too hot. This fertilizer should be watered in by hand whether you put it on dry or spray. You should check the trees in back of #1 and # 9 greens for shade. Bermuda doesn't like shade and I believe these greens are shaded in the afternoon. Good Luck "- Jim Reynolds.