(sometimes lighted for night play), swimming pools, artificial ice skating rinks, playground and picnic areas, a community center building, camping, hiking, nature study and sometimes ski areas.

All the above listed factors are making it easier to sell a municipal golf course proposal to the public. While many new municipal golf courses have been built in recent years, NGF studies reveal there is still an enormous need for more public golf facilities in numerous areas throughout the nation.

Providing assistance in the planning and development of golf courses is one of the principal functions of the National Golf Foundation. Highly trained NGF facility development consultants are available to assist golf course planning groups in making feasibility studies to ascertain their need for golf and outlining a plan of action including methods of financing and operation. Facility development consultants are located at eight strategic locations throughout the country. For further information on these services contact Don Rossi, Executive Director, National Golf Foundation, 707 Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Illinois 60654.

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## WHY ARE SOIL TESTS NECESSARY?

During the coming years we will be facing a continuing shortage of raw materials necessary for the formation of all fertilizers. With this fact in mind it would behoove us all to make use of our university soil labs to determine what specifically our soil requirements will be for all areas of the golf course and club grounds.

In the future soil tests will be used to guide against over-application of fertilizer or eliminate unnecessary amounts of N, P, and K altogether. A soil test reveals your soil texture, *pH*, available magnesium, phosphorous, and potassium. On the basis of these results, lime and fertilizer can be scientifically recommended for specific turfgrass needs.

Lime and fertilizer are used most efficiently by plants when supplied in the proper amounts. Determining the amounts to apply would be a simple task if the requirements of all plants were the same, and if the capability of all soils to supply plant nutrients were the same. But this is not the case.

Some plants require large amounts of nutrients, while others may be miserly in their needs. It is possible to predict the total plant food requirement of most plants. But without a soil test, it is difficult to predict how much food can be supplied from the soil and how much must be supplied from lime and fertilizer.

The State of Maryland offers a good example of the need of soil tests. Maryland is divided into 3 major physiographic regions—the Coastal Plain (eastern shore and southern Maryland), the Piedmont (central Maryland), and the Mountain Region. Soils of these regions were developed from different parent materials characteristic of each area; thus, some soils are vastly different from others.

A further breakdown reveals that there are approximately 280 different soil series in Maryland and each soil series has a different capacity for supplying food. If we consider variations in surface texture, we must contend with about 700 different soil types. If we then consider variations in previous practices such as fertilization, cultivation and drainage, the soils in Maryland have literally thousands of different combinations of fertility and soil capability levels.

Because of these variable soil characteristics, the best way to predict the amounts of lime and fertilizer needed to balance the natural soil fertility and to satisfy plant needs is by having your soil tested. The University of Maryland Soil Testing Laboratory provides this service free for Maryland residents.

In some cases, soil fertility problems are unusual or more complex than normal. To help diagnose these problems, the University of Maryland Soil Testing Laboratory also runs special tests on soil samples. However, for most crop and soil conditions, it is not necessary to have these special tests run on your soil. If you have a specific problem with your crop, contact your county Extension agent to determine if the special tests may be helpful in diagnosing the problem.

## WHEN SHOULD SOIL SAMPLES BE TAKEN?

Soil samples can be taken anytime during the year when the soil is in s satisfactory condition for sampling, that is, not too wet, frozen, etc. Soil samples taken when the soil is too wet should be air dried before sending to the soil testing laboratory.

## SUBMITTING THE SOIL SAMPLE FOR TESTING

Be sure that the sample was carefully taken so that it is representative of the soil in the lawn, garden, or field. Complete the information sheet and submit it with the sample. The sample can then be delivered to your county Extension office or delivered directly to, or mailed to the Soil Testing Laboratory, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

The soil sample is often the weakest link in the soil testing program. To strengthen this link, and to assure that the soil test results will ba as accurate and as meaningful as possible, *you* must see that the soil sample is taken carefully and conscientiously. The testing procedures used by the Soil Testing Laboratory are precise, and can be used to determine the fertility status of the soil in the sample. But to be useful, the soil in the sample must be representative of the soil in the area sampled.

**Remember! Soil test results can be no better than the soil sample you submit.**

Maryland Soil Technical Reference from Maryland Extension Service fact sheet No. 207, V. A. Bandel, Ext. Soil Specialist.

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**NEW GCSAA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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**CHANTILLY NATIONAL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB**

Our March dinner at Virgil Robinson's Chantilly C.C., which came in a succession of surprise platters, was undoubtedly one of the best dinners our association has had the pleasure to enjoy. Our thanks go to Virgil for his work and efforts which made for a very successful first meeting of 1974.