Iowa State University student recipients of $400 scholarship checks from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America are these horticultural seniors (l. to r.): Jack Burns, of Waverly; Larry Vetter, Muscatine; and Craig Monroe, Charles City. At right is Professor Edward Cott, acting chairman, Horticulture Department and Extension Turfgrass Specialist at the University. Dr. Louis M. Thompson, associate dean of agriculture, is seated.

$400 GCSAA Scholarships Awarded Three Iowa Students

Three $400 scholarships sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America were presented recently by Associate Dean of Agriculture, Dr. Louis M. Thompson, at Iowa State University, Ames. Three seniors majoring in horticulture received the checks which came from contributions made by National Golf Day, GCSAA exhibitors, industrial firms and other commercial groups, and the GCSAA general funds.

One recipient, Jack Burns, gained golf turf experience at Washington Park Golf Course in Cedar Falls, at Waverly Golf and Country Club, and for the past year has been superintendent at Homewood Golf Course in Ames. The latter position was maintained while attending Iowa State University. He is experienced in the sod business and has worked for Wright Tree Service in Des Moines.

Larry Vetter, another scholar, has had five seasons' experience in golf turf maintenance at the Park Lane Country Club in Muscatine. Upon graduation, he will be assistant superintendent at the Minikahdo Golf Club in Minneapolis, Minn.

The third horticulture major receiving a financial boost was Craig Monroe. He has been superintendent at the Charles City Country Club where he has gained golf course maintenance experience for the past seven summer seasons.

Soil Acidity Affects Health and Vigor of Turf

Soil acidity can seriously affect the health and vigor of turfgrasses, reminds Joseph Chaves, extension agronomist at the University of Rhode Island's College of Agriculture. Good lawn grasses will not grow or do well on highly acid soils. This means that liming has to be considered a very important part of a lawn management program.

Chaves notes that high acidity interferes with the work of soil organisms in making nutrients available to plants, and is also the cause of thatch. Thatch is the buildup of undecomposed layers of grass and roots that retards water penetration. Bacteria, that bring about the decomposition of plant residues and make plant nutrients available, prefer a soil that is neutral.

It is quite important that soil for turfgrasses be kept near the optimum growing range of pH 6.5. To do this, Chaves suggests periodic applications of lime based on soil tests.