

Turfgrass Management

**A University Field
of Specialization
Qualifying Students
For the Industry**

**Panorama of Iowa State University Turf
Training Presented By Eliot C. Roberts**

Laboratory exercises include work with nutrient solutions used in turfgrass culture, above. Students also study conditions on 18-hole golf course and campus grounds.

Many classes taken by students specializing in turfgrass management are held in Agronomy Building, right. Same holds true on most campuses since basic soil courses are mandatory for turf specialists.



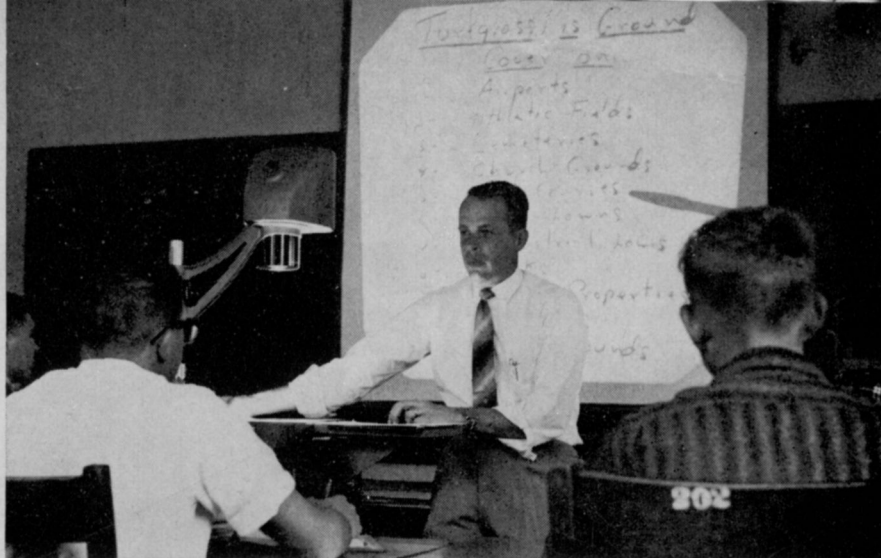
Vegetatively propagated grasses grown in greenhouse are inspected by student group below. Students also observe root development of various grasses grown in solution culture and maintained at different nutrient levels.



SKILLED supervisors and assistants for parks, cemeteries, playgrounds, industrial parks, golf courses, athletic fields, and similar areas are in demand. College training helps the young man seeking a career in turfgrass management to better serve the industry. Today, there is a shortage of professionally trained specialists.

Because of the unique need for such personnel, WEEDS TREES AND TURF magazine has completed a survey outlining training offered at the college level. Final installment of this national study is being carried in this issue of WTT.

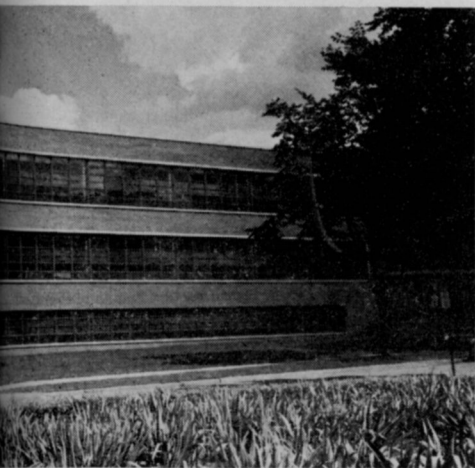
Dr. Eliot C. Roberts, professor and turfgrass management specialist at Iowa State University, offers this panorama of turf study activities at Iowa for review as typical of those at many institutions. Dr. Roberts previously taught turfgrass management at the University of Massachusetts and has kept in close touch with programs at Penn State, Rutgers and Purdue Universities.



Lecture outline is presented at start of a Turfgrass Management class period. Students study needs of turf based on use for all types of public, commercial and private grounds. Practical work is done in the field to supplement classroom exercises.



Fertilizers used on fine turf differ in physical and chemical properties. Students compare these materials prior to using them in a laboratory exercise. Different types of application equipment are also a part of training.



Turfgrass growth, left, is measured by weighing clippings taken during a laboratory exercise.

Root zone soil tells much about turfgrass growth conditions. Students, right, learn to relate foliar appearance with physical soil properties. Students also learn about grasses by evaluating amount of foliage produced under varying conditions.

