

New National Golf Group Has HQs in N. Carolina

A national golf group, known as the American Golf Assn., has recently been formed in Morganton, N. C. Operating as a service organization to individual golfers throughout the states, the AGA will devote its efforts toward making the game a more enjoyable sport for all golfers.

Offering its members advantages such as a computed point handicap system, tournaments, contests, and the official monthly publication, the AGA intends to promote fellowship, good sportsmanship, and course etiquette.

AGA officers point out that their organization is not in competition with any existing golf association and will extend its co-operation to all golf groups. Currently serving as Executive Director is Edward L. Poteat and as President, P. N. De Vere.

National HQs are at 206 S. Green St., Morganton, N. C. 28655.

Control of Illinois Pond Weeds Proves Complicated

Attempts to control "water weeds" in Illinois ponds and small lakes are bringing to light some interesting information concerning aquatic vegetation.

In his 10 years of studying the effects of various herbicides on unwanted aquatic plants, Survey biochemist R. C. Hiltbran has noted that changes in one component may set the stage for the spread of other species.

For example, in 1960 northern milfoil covered 95% of 5-acre Miller Pond in central Illinois, while only a few plants of sago pondweed were present. The following year found that a mixture of these 2 species had infested about 70% of the pond, while later that summer 2 other species — slender naiad and southern naiad — made an ap-

pearance. From 1962 through 1966, sago pondweed and southern naiad had become the predominant plants in the pond.

Efforts to control curlyleaf pondweed in another pond reduced that species drastically but enabled the previously minor component, water horsetail or chara, to practically take over the pond.

Observations reveal that, although it is understood that all plant species do not react in the same way to control chemicals and do not reach maximum growth at the same time of year, much additional information and experimentation will be necessary to come up with satisfactory year-round and year-to-year control of unwanted pond vegetation.

Even Grass Seed Can Be Pretty "Corny"

William M. Cranstoun, a New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture seed inspector, recently purchased a 5-lb. bag of "grass seed" and discovered that almost half of the bag's contents proved to be ground-up corn cobs.

Although obviously intending to defraud the consumer, the distributor did not break the state seed law, explained Cranstoun, as the package does bear a statement that 46.50% of the contents is "inert material."

Cautioning buyers of lawn seed to read labels carefully before completing a purchase, Cranstoun reported that a good grass mixture may contain some inert material but that the proportion would be extremely small.

Dept. of Agriculture seed inspectors regularly make the rounds of retail outlets where seed is sold and check to see that the "truth in labeling" law is being maintained. Checking the list of materials contained in a package, however, is the buyer's responsibility.

Trimmings

Wise Men Will Still Practice Safety. Findings of the Maryland State Board of Agriculture that workers face no danger in exposure to malathion and Dibrom-14 is good news. But it doesn't lessen the need for caution in handling pesticides. Nevertheless, the study reported by Jerry Mallack, MSBA, did show that there is no hazard for workers who follow recommended procedures in space spraying. Workers studied handled diluted mist sprays and concentrated materials used in preparing them for a period of 12 weeks during which they were exposed a total of 420 hours. The extensive test and the favorable results bode only good for the sprayman.

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Another Synthetic Turf. A new one, known as saran evergreen, has been developed in Japan. The so-called textile turf is being made of polypropylene base cloth and saran or vinylidene chloride yarns. The maker, a joint venture by Asahi Chemical Co., and Dow, reports the yarns to be resistant to water and flame, and to hold their color. Domestic market price is expected to be \$7 per yard.

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A Million Acres By 1973? Will golf courses cover a million acres in the next 5 years? Could be. Present acreage for almost 9400 courses in the country is 850,000. Capital investment is more than \$2 billion, based on National Golf Foundation estimates. Cost for maintaining courses across the country ran \$255 million last year. Courses were busier than ever, with more than 10 million golfers playing 190 million rounds, according to the NGF.

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Keeping It Natural. Natural landscape beauty is often destroyed when new highways are built. Florida officials are seeking ways to preserve more of the natural vegetation growth along new highway rights-of-way. A \$35,000 grant from the Florida State Road Department is helping support such a study project at the University of Florida. Idea is to take the best which a piece of land has to offer and combine it with the most economical way of preserving and conserving its natural vegetation during highway building.