

Annual Report of the Green Section for 1933

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Chairman, Executive Committee

The Green Section is glad to report that it has been able to efficiently continue many of its activities during 1933, notwithstanding the work was crippled very materially by the reduction in its budget to \$28,062, as compared with \$44,759 for 1932. By exercising rigid economies, we were able to keep within the budget.

Since 1929, due to the business depression, available funds have been reduced over 40 percent. This has interfered greatly with the continuation of experiments started years ago, and which, to be of constant value, must be continued. Research work must also be continued in adequate study to solve the many and ever-increasing turf problems of the numerous golf clubs of the country. Many are yet to be satisfactorily solved, and a much larger technical staff could well be employed to obtain valuable information in the interest of turf maintenance and economy.

General Activities During the Year

The Staff has been enabled to perform its necessary travel to clubs and meetings through generous contributions by private clubs and other associations and organizations. There was a continued demand for all types of information on economy in course maintenance, disease, and other unfavorable influences. During the year a larger proportion of the member clubs than usual requested the Green Section to examine and report on seed and soil samples and to give advice on numerous maintenance and construction problems. The advisory service has been carried on through correspondence and, as much as possible, by personal interviews on golf courses, Green Section gardens, in offices, and in laboratories.

The principal research of the Green Section has been conducted at Arlington, Washington, and at the Mid-West Turf Garden, Chicago. A number of experiments were also conducted on golf courses in chosen localities on turf maintained under heavy playing conditions. These tests were conducted through arrangements made with the golf club committees. Also, much valuable data has been accumulated through demonstration gardens established at various selected parts of the country. The extension or educational work has been carried on through various Green Section meetings and exhibits. Summer meetings were held, attended by large numbers of greenkeepers and chairmen of green committees. Educational work has been also carried on through the Bulletin and by selected articles in certain other publications. The Green Section staff has also helped in the educational work of the national and the various sectional greenkeepers' organizations and of greenkeepers' short courses held at various state colleges.

Experimental Work

Experimental work was continued at Arlington, supplemented with tests on local golf courses under playing conditions. Interesting observations were made on different species and strains of grass for putting green purposes and different mixtures for fairway purposes. Earthworms were particularly troublesome, as they were elsewhere in the country, and remained so in spite of repeated trials of remedies hitherto effective. Considerable work was done in test-

ing some new remedies. Particularly good opportunity was afforded for advanced studies of brownpatch on a low-lying, shaded, more humid area planted to fine turf beside the Potomac River. This garden continued to prove its value, since, due to its location, disease studies may be continued there at times when diseases are inactive on the main garden with its open exposure. The systematic study of fertilizers, which has been under way for some years, was also continued. An experiment on the effect of different rates of inorganic and organic complete mixed fertilizers on bluegrass fairway turf was continued on a nearby golf course, and information regarding turf improvements, increased soil fertility, and organic matter in soil was obtained. Weed control studies were continued. Many positive results were obtained in controlling with chemicals a number of weeds, particularly crabgrass on fairways. With some further work on this subject, results should be obtained which should prove extremely valuable especially to the many golf clubs in the large area where crabgrass is the most troublesome turf problem.

The Mid-West Turf Garden contains different sets of tests, supplementary to the Arlington work. Many of these tests were planned to procure a more complete understanding of the specific problems of the Middle West. Part of the original work planned has been discontinued, in order to curtail expense.

Demonstration Gardens

The series of demonstration turf gardens continued to provide much information for those interested in turf maintenance on courses in the vicinity of the gardens. There are now 18 gardens in various sections of the United States, and one in Canada, which is maintained through cooperation with the Royal Canadian Golf Association. The Green Section has had splendid cooperation from those in charge of the courses where these demonstration gardens are located. Extensive reports have been received regularly this year and assembled for publication. Soil samples were sent in upon request. The taking of a number of samples from each plot, packing and shipping them, required considerable work on the part of the greenkeepers in charge of these gardens. The Green Section appreciates their cooperation. An analysis of these soils from plots, most of which have received specific treatments for five years, should produce valuable information.

Well-attended gatherings of golf club officials and greenkeepers have been held at the gardens, and the behavior of the different grasses, fertilizers, and other treatments has been discussed on the grounds. At many of these meetings members of the Green Section staff have been present to explain the work. It has been found that discussions of turf problems are much more valuable where such demonstrations are at hand than are discussions of similar problems indoors, where direct examples of results cannot be exhibited.

Educational Program

The expenses of these summer meetings, including travel, were paid for by organizations in the districts interested. A series of meetings were held as follows:

May 31—Keller Golf Course, St. Paul, Minn.

June 9—Mid-West Turf Garden, Mill Road Farm Golf Course, Everett, Ill.

- Aug. 7—Pine Valley Golf Club, Clementon, N. J.
- Aug. 7—Philadelphia Country Club, West Conshohocken, Pa.
- Aug. 9—Westwood Country Club, Clayton, Mo.
- Aug. 21—Municipal Golf Course, Niagara Falls, N. Y.
- Aug. 21—Santa Monica Municipal Golf Course, Santa Monica, Cal.
- Sept. 11—Los Angeles Country Club, Los Angeles, Cal.
- Sept. 14—Kenwood Country Club, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Sept. 18—Canterbury Golf Club, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Sept. 20—Detroit Golf Club, Detroit, Mich.
- Sept. 22—Wakonda Country Club, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Sept. 25—Tulsa Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.
- Sept. 25—Claremont Country Club, Oakland, Cal.
- Oct. 10—Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass.

The Green Section also assisted in other educational programs. These included short courses given by the Pennsylvania State College of Agriculture, State College, Pa.; Michigan State College of Agriculture, East Lansing, Mich.; Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa; and the Annual Convention of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America. Members of the Green Section staff were present at various other local gatherings of chairmen of green committees and greenkeepers, in addition to the above meetings.

Correspondence and Service to Member Clubs

The staff was able to keep up with the usual large amount of seasonal correspondence with member clubs regarding the various problems encountered last season. Several periods of high humidity and heat occasioned serious turf problems on putting greens in several parts of the country which required considerable attention by the staff, including correspondence, soil examinations, and inspection trips. Increased interest in information regarding soil improvement, fairway watering, and weed control was noticeable. The Green Section was able to supply helpful information in these instances.

The staff visited a large number of courses on request and gave advice on numerous turf problems. Due to the demands, at certain times, on the time of the staff, it was not always possible to visit courses immediately upon being requested. With few exceptions, however, it was eventually possible to visit the golf clubs which desired such service, and in some instances clubs were saved travel expense money by grouping the requests so that two or three clubs in one vicinity could be visited while the Green Section representative was in that neighborhood. During 1933, members of our staff visited courses located in 25 states, including California and Oregon, and in Canada, Mexico, Cuba, and Panama. The staff traveled over 50,000 miles in service, extension, and research work, which was paid for by clubs requesting the visits.

Green Section Bulletin

The plan started in 1932 of publishing the Bulletin in six numbers instead of 12 was continued in 1933, grouping related material in a single number and making them in two cases much larger than the old monthly numbers. Some subjects cannot be effectively handled in Bulletins of smaller size, and under the old system of 12 numbers to the volume it was necessary to break up this material into two or three separate numbers.