



Better Turf for Better Golf

TURF MANAGEMENT

from the USGA Green Section

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THE GREEN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND HIS SUPERINTENDENT

By RICHARD S. TUFTS

USGA SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN OF USGA GREEN SECTION COMMITTEE

Even the Chairman of the House Committee and the Chairman of the Handicap Committee do not have the opportunity to bring the pleasure and satisfaction to fellow members of their Club that is offered to the Chairman of the Green Committee. His good judgment and wise decisions will largely determine the excellence of the playing conditions at his club and the cost of maintaining these conditions.

Unquestionably, the success or failure of a Green Committee Chairman's term of office will be decided by his relationship with the greenkeeper or greenkeeping superintendent. The care of a golf course today requires far more than the ability efficiently to manage labor and plan work.

A modern golf-course superintendent must have, among other varied information, some knowledge of biology, plant pathology and chemistry, a technical proficiency which few Green Committee chairmen can hope to attain. Therefore, it is well for the Chairman to start by realizing that his superintendent must be an expert technical man as well as a capable manager. If the superintendent is a good man, he merits the unqualified support of his Chairman, but if he is not,

it is the first duty of the Chairman to find the best man available and put him in charge of the course.

In working with the superintendent, it is important for the Chairman to become familiar with daily maintenance and operating problems. Without this information, he cannot know what the superintendent is up against and be in position to help him in the efficient performance of his job—as he might by the purchase of some new piece of equipment, an expensive treatment of the greens, a change in some feature of the course to cut maintenance costs or simply protecting the superintendent from unreasonable demands of Club members.

The Chairman should remember that he is probably the only member of the Club close enough to the superintendent to appreciate his difficulties and that, therefore, the success of the entire operation depends largely upon his ability to work sympathetically with the superintendent.

Budgeting

One thing that a Chairman should require of his superintendent is the preparation of a careful annual budget. Not only does this practice provide valuable information for the Club directors

but it serves as a control of the operations and makes for better planning of the work.

There should likewise be a long-range plan for architectural changes in the course, in case any are considered desirable, and a long-range plan for turf improvement. Each year a decision should be made as to what part of these long-range plans should be incorporated into the budget.

A further requirement the Chairman should establish for the superintendent is that he keep himself well posted on all the latest developments in greenkeeping.

The superintendent should be a member of the National Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association and should when possible attend the annual meeting of this important organization. He should likewise join the local greenkeepers' association, keep in touch with his state extension services and attend all local greenkeeping or turf conferences.

It is also desirable that the Club keep in touch with modern trends in turf

development by cooperating with local groups or with the USGA Green Section to carry on, either at the club or cooperatively with other clubs, any limited amount of research that might be recommended. Funds for these activities should be included in the budget.

It sometimes happens that a superintendent who is quite capable in all other respects will fail to take advantage of the services which are available to him through the USGA Green Section and the other organizations operating for his benefit. The Chairman can render no more complete service to his Club than by insisting that the superintendent take every advantage of these opportunities to better equip himself to carry on his work.

For his conscientious and sympathetic interest in his job, the Green Committee Chairman will be richly rewarded by his close identification with a fascinating study, to wit, the maintenance and management of outstanding special-purpose turf.

GREEN SECTION SERVICES

By FRED V. GRAU

DIRECTOR, USGA GREEN SECTION

Every USGA Member Club and Course and every Green Section Service Subscriber is entitled to Green Section services. Many who are entitled to the services do not use them.

The Green Section exists as a part of the USGA for the purpose of developing a national program of turf improvement designed to give Member Clubs and Courses and Subscribers more complete information on the subject of turf management.

Information is developed through a program of research at Beltsville, Md., and at 16 cooperating state and regional experiment stations throughout the country. Information is developed also through close cooperation with greenkeeping superintendents by observing successful practices.

The information is disseminated (1) through the USGA JOURNAL, one copy of which is sent free to each Member Club

and Course and to each Green Section Service Subscriber, (2) through articles in other publications, (3) through lectures at turf conferences and meetings sponsored by cooperating groups, through correspondence and through advisory visits for which travel expenses and a service fee are charged.

The membership dues for clubs and courses and the Service Subscription dues for non-golf and commercial turf interests entitle the clubs, courses and firms to all services, at no additional cost, except advisory service visits. These services include (1) free advice by correspondence on any subject related to turf management, (2) identification of weeds, grasses or seeds, (3) expert and unbiased opinion on the most effective use of chemicals, seeds, equipment, water, fertilizers and so forth, (4) examination of specimens of soil to be used in building putting greens or other specialized