

1950 NATIONAL TURF FIELD DAYS

"Highly successful" — "best ever" — and similar statements from many of the 233 registrants made the Green Section Staff feel that the National Turf Field Days were worth-while. The weather cooperated, too—lovely Autumn weather, perfect for anything out-of-doors. Twenty-one states were represented, including Wyoming and Nebraska, in the programs at Washington, D.C., and Beltsville, Md.

Nearly 85 turf enthusiasts were present at the opening session Sunday evening, October 15. This was an open meeting designed to give graduate students in turf research, their advisers, and others in turf extension or resident teaching a chance to tell about their work. The workers who participated are:

MASSACHUSETTS: Geoffrey Cornish.

NEW JERSEY: Ralph Engel.

NEW YORK: John Cornman, Gene Nutter.

PENNSYLVANIA: C. K. Hallowell, Jack Harper, H. B. Musser, Ed Merkel, John Stanford, Neal Wright.

PURDUE: William Daniel, Earl Staten.

RHODE ISLAND: J. A. DeFrance, James Simmons.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: Ian Forbes, Jr.

USGA: Marvin H. Ferguson, Fred V. Grau, Al M. Radko, Charles G. Wilson.

Movies for Television

Monday was spent on the plots at the Beltsville Turf Gardens, and it would be difficult to imagine better conditions. The sunshine was of just the right quality for Maynard Speece and Harold E. Wingo, U. S. Department of Agriculture Radio and Television Service, to take color movies for later showing on television.

The U-3 Bermudagrass turf was firm and close-cut for the foot action of Mr. Ritchie of the Washington Baseball Club, who had his spiked shoes on for testing the turf. Roger Peacock, representing the Professional Golfers' Association, found the turf to his liking for hitting beautiful shots far up the "fairway."

Bill Glover removed three large sods to show the root development. (The sods disappeared soon afterward.)

Most visitors were impressed with the performance of zoysia turf produced from seed of the Z-52 strain of *Zoysia japonica*, with the quality of Merion (B-27) bluegrass compared with common bluegrass, and with Arlington (C-1) and Congressional (C-19) creeping bents developed by the Green Section which have maintained excellent green and fairway turf with no water other than rainfall and without fungicides.

Promising New Strains

Several other new strains show great promise, especially C-115, which was selected by Dr. Fred V. Grau, Director of the USGA Green Section, in 1946 at Dahlgren, Va. Judging from the stolons of C-115 that were carried away, we should have plenty of test areas soon.

The appearance of the maleic hydrazide plots should make anyone very apprehensive about using this chemical on good turf. A single application resulted in much dead grass and an increase in crabgrass.

A demonstration of planting sprigs and plugs of improved grasses by machine was very stimulating. The machine, furnished by C. C. Simpson of the John Deere Co., was designed for planting tobacco and vegetable seedlings.

Other features included seed production studies on Z-52 zoysia, combinations of cool-season and warm-season grasses, trials of various "nursegrasses," spring renovation trials, zoysia breeding, including various hybrids and selections in combination with bluegrass for height of mowing studies; fescue trials, and crabgrass tests.

The general conclusion after this tour was that great strides have been taken toward the ultimate goal of providing foolproof and weedfree turf with little or no help from chemicals. Most of the superior grasses and combinations being developed are based on drought resistance, disease resistance, relative

immunity to insect attacks, wear resistance, and tolerance to close mowing.

Economies in Maintenance

High point of the meetings was an after-dinner program at the Prince Georges Golf and Country Club, Landover, Md. The central theme was "Economies in Turf Maintenance." Toastmaster was Dr. Grau, and individual topics were discussed as follows:

Water Usage — Prof. H. B. Musser.

Seed Usage — A. E. Rabbitt.

Fertilizer Usage — O. J. Noer.

Equipment Maintenance — W. H. Glover.

Labor Management — Taylor Boyd.

Grasses for Economical Maintenance — Neal Wright.

Economy in Insect Control — E. N. Cory.

Economy in Weed Control — Charles K. Hallowell.

Dr. Grau introduced four past presidents of the National Greenkeeping Superintendents Association — John Anderson, Joe Ryan, Marshall Farnham, and Carl Bretzlaff.

Richard S. Tufts, USGA Secretary and Chairman of the Green Section Committee, pledged continued support by the USGA in the interests of better turf.

Cliff Eisele furnished the Club's facilities for the dinner and the meeting. The West Point Lawn Products recorded the talks, to be transcribed and mailed to those who registered.

The next day the Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenkeepers conducted tours of the Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Md., and the Fairfax Country Club, Fairfax, Va. The tour of Woodmont was conducted by Rudy Wills, greenkeeper; Leopold Freudberg, chairman of the green committee; Alfred H. Tull, architect; Frank Murray, builder, and George Fazio, professional. The new Woodmont course is about a year old. One feature of interest was that no bluegrass, ryegrass, or redtop was used in seeding the course.

After an informal lunch at Fairfax, Bill Glover and Charles Treacy took parts of the group on a walking tour. Features

included putting greens of various grasses and combinations, including Arlington (C-1) bent alone, Arlington and Congressional (C-19) mixed, Arlington, Congressional and Collins (C-27) mixed; Old Orchard (C-52) alone, Toronto (C-15) alone.

U-3 Withstands Beating

A number of tees plainly showed how severe the punishment of turf can be on a public course and how well U-3 Bermuda can thrive under that severe treatment of 1,800 players a week. Seeded Bermuda was poor in comparison. Zoysia and Merion bluegrass have been planted in fairways for further evaluation and comparison with U-3 Bermuda, which is providing clover-free turf. It was significant that flexible combs on fairway mowers have reduced crabgrass to an unimportant factor — no chemicals.



John Connolly and Bill Glover are to be complimented for such a beautifully conditioned course for public play. The Green Section expresses appreciation to Fairfax for testing new grasses under heavy play. This arrangement represents the ultimate in cooperative research.

The genuine interest in the Turf Field Days was evidenced by the fact that nearly 100 visitors stayed until the last feature.

Dates for the 1951 National Turf Field Days are October 7, 8, and 9.

Grateful appreciation is expressed to the Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenkeepers for their cooperation and assistance, to the G. L. Cornell Co. for flags to mark the plot locations, particularly to the Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Va., for the use of a jeep and a public address system, and to all others who helped make the event such a success.