

NEW SERIES OF TURF EXPERIMENTS AT PENN STATE



The related problems of soil compaction, thatched turf, and water economy will be the subjects of a new series of turf experiments being established at the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station. The studies have been made possible by a fellowship grant of \$3,000 from the West Point Lawn Products. The experiments will be under the supervision of Profs. H. B. Musser and Russel B. Alderfer.

E. J. Merkel, a graduate in agronomy at Penn State, has been selected to receive the fellowship grant and will be directly responsible for conduct of the work.

Mr. Merkel worked practically the entire summer on construction of six tiers of terraced plots which will be used in the tests. Each tier consists of 12 plots 8 feet wide by 16 feet long on a 7 to 10 percent slope. Individual plots are separated by steel divides and are designed with flumes at the bottom so that run-off water can be collected and measured. The entire area of approximately 10,000 square feet will be sodded with turf of Arlington bent supplied by Dr. F. V. Grau from his farm near the college.

Principal objectives of the program will be determination of effects of aeration on water absorption and run-off under different conditions of soil compaction and thatched turf.

INTERESTING READING

"THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CRABGRASS CONTROL," by Warren E. Lafkin, Golf & Lawn Supply Corp., White Plains, N. Y.

"PEAT AND MUCK IN AGRICULTURE." Mimeographed circular, 9 pages, by M. S. Anderson, S. F. Blake, and A. L. Mehring, USDA. This should be on every greenkeeper's desk. Requests should be addressed to:

Dr. M. S. Anderson
Soil Management
Plant Industry Station
Beltsville, Maryland

"CONTROL OF ANTS." John C. Schread, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Circular 173, December 1949. If ants trouble your turf, you need this circular.

"THE JAPANESE BEETLE," Cornell Extension Bulletin 770, July 1949, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., by J. Alfred Adams and John G. Matthyse. The authors have covered the subject thoroughly. The effective control methods are discussed for turf areas. This

is a valuable bulletin for the greenkeeper's library.

"AERIFICATION STUDIES IN PROGRESS AND PLANNED." A mimeographed publication of the West Point Lawn Products, West Point, Pa. This publication lists 10 states where Aerifiers have been placed at the disposal of the experimental staffs for research. A brief description of the tests in progress is given for each state. Many results are incomplete but all show promise.

"GYPSUM, A SOIL CORRECTIVE AND SOIL BUILDER." Bulletin 200, December 1945, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arizona, Tucson. This bulletin should be in every golf course superintendent's library, especially if the golf course is located where there is alkali (white or black) or where soils are irrigated. Consult the soils department at your own agricultural experiment station for their specific recommendations on the use of gypsum.