

"The sensational-type advertising campaigns, resembling closely the medicine-show copy of yesteryear, make claims based on only superficial testing and the copy usually makes no mention of the fact that the product's effectiveness varies greatly in different types of soil, method of use, etc.

"Research by independent groups indicates that not only do soil conditioners fail to contain 'plant nutrients' as claimed in some more flagrant cases, but that many are scarcely one-twentieth as effective as the best brands. One research group reports that some of the new brands of soil conditioners form 'soil aggregates' all right, but the sponge-like aggregates dissipate with the first rainfall, leaving the soil just where it was at the beginning . . . and the user a poorer, wiser, and probably very wrathful man.

"Our hope is that the soil conditioner situation may be straightened out as speedily as possible so that the sheep may be clearly distinguished from the goats. People in the industry who know how the public reacts have reason to be uneasy. They know that an entire industry can get a black eye over the misrepresentations of just a few, and legitimate manufacturers naturally don't want this to happen."

*From AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS, Vol. 7, No. 8, August, 1952, "The Editor Comments."*

### USGA MEDALS TO GCSA WINNERS

Golf Course Superintendents hail a new champion, John Zoller, of Berwick Golf Club, Columbus, Ohio. He scored 72-71-143 to take the title at the GCSA annual tournament at the Columbus Country Club, in September. The runner-up was Paul Schurtz, Ironton Country Club, Ironton, Ohio, with 71-73-144. Both will receive USGA medals.

Medals were won in the Senior Division by John McGunigal, winner, superintendent at the Henry Stambaugh Country Club, Akron, Ohio, and Rocky Schorr, runner-up, Bluefield Country Club, Bluefield, W. Va.

The USGA medals are presented by the USGA Green Section to encourage superintendents to play golf and to see their courses as the members see them.

### WILD WHITE CLOVER

Advertisements proclaim that wild white clover will control crabgrass and will produce a fine lawn. The USGA Green Section has no data, nor do we know of any, that will support such claims.

### INFORMATION, IF YOU PLEASE

The USGA Green Section is compiling a list of suppliers of improved turf grasses for which no seed is available. This refers primarily to:

Creeping bent such as C-1, C-7, C-19, and others

Meyer (Z-52) zoysia

*Zoysia matrella*

U-3 bermudagrass

Tifton 57

Tifton 127.

JOURNAL readers who know of local sources of supply of one or more of these grasses are cordially invited to send this information to:

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION  
GREEN SECTION

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION  
Beltsville, Md.

This information will be compiled to answer many inquiries that reach this office.

### CORRECTION

In the September JOURNAL we named Bitter blue St. Augustine as a "better turf grass" because of its resistance to chinch bug. O. S. Baker, a Green Section Service Subscriber, writes to inform us that Bitter blue seems to have lost its reported resistance and that thousands of lawns of that grass were ruined by the bug in 1952. He says that the zoysia-grasses continue to resist the chinch bug. Do other JOURNAL readers have similar observations?