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## DIRECT TURF SERVICE TO USGA CLUBS IS NEW EMPHASIS FOR GREEN SECTION

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Better turf at lower cost.

That has been an objective of the United States Golf Association for its member clubs ever since the USGA Green Section was established in November, 1920.

It has been accomplished in the past mainly by (1) development of knowledge through Green Section research, (2) stimulation of cooperative research by other agencies, and (3) dissemination of results through the printed word, conferences, and a limited number of visits to golf courses.

The emphasis heretofore has been on research, and a large body of knowledge has thus been discovered.

Now the emphasis is being changed. Now stress will be placed upon direct service to USGA member clubs and courses — in helping clubs, at the local level, with their own particular problems.

The new program will be called the USGA Green Section Regional Turf Service.

However, continued research and ex-

perimentation will be necessary. If your doctor is to be of greatest help to you in preventing sickness and in helping overcome it when it strikes, he must keep up to date with developments in his profession. So with the Green Section. Research always will be needed if the USGA is to help its member clubs have better turf at lower cost.

But in the new scheme of things, the Green Section will give financial and moral support to research by others rather than engage in much research itself. This is a logical procedure since turf research is a broad and costly field which benefits many interests besides golf. There is no real reason why golf should carry the research load for such other interests as parks, home lawns, cemeteries, play fields, and highway shoulders, to name a few. But golf can cooperate with those other interests in financing research to produce results of benefit to all.

Then, the results having been produced, golf needs its own highly specialized staff to take the results direct to the golf courses.

### Regional Offices

This is to be accomplished by establishment of a number of Green Section regional offices — perhaps five or six eventually — rather than by having the entire staff work out of one office in the East, as has always been the case. When the plan is fully established, every USGA member club will be within easy reach of a Green Section Regional Director. Each Regional Director will be a practical scientist — a trained agronomist who has specialized in golf course problems.

Here, we believe, we have a well-rounded program. It will result in two principal benefits if the member clubs want it enough to support it:

1. Intimate, specialized consultation service on a regular and permanent basis, located so as best to serve the convenience of the subscribing clubs.

2. Maintenance of turf experimentation on a broad scale, and nationally coordinated through the several Regional Directors so as to bring the greatest possible return to the member clubs.

Ever since World War II the Green Section has been decentralizing research activities away from the Washington, D. C., area and out into various regions where peculiar sectional problems must be met and solved. When this cooperative research program was accelerated in 1945, fewer than 10 men at four or five experiment stations were working on turf management problems. Now there are approximately 100 workers, at more than a score of stations. The new emphasis is a continuation of that decentralization in terms of direct service.

In general, we believe the new program ultimately will be the strongest yet presented by the Green Section.

### Benefits of Regional Service

Here is approximately how the Regional Turf Service will be organized:

Each Region will consist of about 200 USGA clubs which subscribe for the Regional Service. They will be divided into about eight groups of 25 clubs each.

Each subscribing club will receive the following benefits (this is subject to alter-

ation depending upon the geographical distribution of the subscribing clubs):

1. At least three direct consultations with the Regional Director each year, on the following schedule:

(a) One half-day visit to the club by the Regional Director, followed by a written report from him. (Special visits might be made as time permits.)

(b) Two group conferences in which the Regional Director will meet with the golf course superintendents and green committee chairmen of the 25 clubs in each group.

2. Assistance by correspondence and telephone.

3. A periodic Turfletter from the Regional Director to the subscribing clubs in his Region, at least six times a year.

4. A subscription to the USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT, published seven times a year.

5. A voice in the direction of broad-gauge turf research whose results would benefit golf courses.

The keynote of the whole program will be to prevent trouble, not merely to

### DR. GRAU RESIGNS

Dr. Fred V. Grau resigned as Director of the USGA Green Section, effective



Dr. Grau

February 15, in order that he may enter a national turf research project of somewhat broader scope than turf for golf.

Dr. Grau has served as Director of the Green Section since 1945. The present program of decentralized and coordinated turf research projects at various stations throughout the country was effected during his tenure in the office and has greatly increased the body of scientific knowledge concerning turf.

Alexander M. Radko is now serving as Acting Eastern Director of the Green Section office at Beltsville, Md., with Charles G. Wilson as Western Director in Davis, Cal.

prescribe remedies for sick golf courses.

The program is designed to undergird the green committee chairman and the golf course superintendent, and to assist them in keeping up to date on the turf developments all over the country which might be useful to their golf course.

The Regional Turf Service will be open, in the golf field, only to USGA member clubs and courses. The fee will be as noted below (in addition to standard USGA membership dues); the breakdown items are approximate and may be changed at the discretion of the USGA Executive Committee:

	Less than 18 Holes	18 to 27 Holes	More than 27 Holes
1. Service fee, including travel expenses	\$58	\$78	\$98
2. Appropriation to research, primarily within Region of the subscribing club — approximately 20% of total	15	20	25
3. Subscription to USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL FEE</b>	<b>\$75</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$125</b>

**EXPLANATORY NOTES:**

1. There will be no extra charges for travel expenses for regular visits by the Regional Director to courses and group meetings. The total fee covers all services and expenses.
2. A portion of the total fee will be expended for research. A ratio cannot be definitely fixed until there has been some experience with the plan. Tentatively, it is intended to appropriate from 20 to 25% of the total fee for research. It is also intended that most of this will be expended within the Region of the subscribing club.

Each Club Green Committee should make the fee a part of its course maintenance budget.

Heretofore the Green Section has made advisory visits to USGA member clubs for a fee of \$50 per day plus travel expenses. This service will be continued for sections not having regional offices until it can be supplanted by the nation-wide system of regional offices.

The speed with which the program can be put into effect nation-wide depends

largely upon the interest and the support of the USGA member clubs and courses.

The first regional office was opened last June at Davis, Cal., with Charles G. Wilson as Western Director. The full program of service is now being established in his Region, which for the time being comprises Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

Other regional offices will be established as fast as practicable. Green committee chairmen of USGA member clubs are earnestly requested to write us to express their degree of interest and their comments on the program.

This is a program of service. Its benefits to the individual club will be considerable. Countless times in the past one little bit of knowledge from the Green Section has saved a club many times the cost of USGA service.

We strongly suggest that green committee chairmen and golf course superintendents now put items in their budgets for golf course maintenance to cover the relatively small cost of the USGA Green Section Regional Turf Service. The USGA cannot provide such a service unless there is reasonable assurance that it will be supported by the member clubs on a permanent basis. The cost ought to be regarded in just that light and be made a permanent part of the club's annual budget. We feel confident that the returns will far outweigh the expense.

The cost is about the same as for 35 pounds of a good spray material to combat brownpatch, or for 75 pounds of good bentgrass seed.

The Green Section program is now in a period of transition, in which the emphasis is being shifted from direct research to direct service to clubs. In this period of transition, however, the Green Section is not relinquishing any constructive activity unless and until arrangements can be made for such activity to be handled by another agency. This is part and parcel of the sole purpose of the Green Section, which always has been and will continue to be just this:

Better turf at lower cost.