



Better Turf for Better Golf

TURF MANAGEMENT

from the USGA Green Section

Correspondence pertaining to turf management matters should be addressed to:
 USGA Green Section, Room 331, Administration Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.
 Western Office: Box 241, Davis, Cal.

NEW SOUTHWESTERN OFFICE OF USGA GREEN SECTION

The Regional Turf Service of the United States Golf Association Green Section has been expanded with the opening of a Southwestern Office on July 1 at College Station, Texas.

The Southwestern Director is Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, who will serve also as national Research Coordinator of the Green Section.

The Green Section now has three offices, the others being the main office at Beltsville, Md., with Alexander M. Radko as Acting Eastern Director, and the Western Office at Davis, Cal., with Charles G. Wilson as Western Director.

Locations for other new regional offices of the Green Section are being considered, in order to extend the Regional Turf Service to all USGA member clubs and courses.

The heart of the Regional Turf Service is periodic visits by the USGA Regional Directors to individual courses and group meetings with golf course superintendents, to assist them in keeping informed on the latest and best in turf management. The visits are supplemented by written reports to the individual clubs and by Regional Turfletters applicable to the prob-

lems of the courses in the particular region.

The Service is available at annual fees which cover all work and expenses and which are fixed on a cost basis. A percentage of the fees (currently 20%) will be appropriated to research, primarily within the region of the subscribing club. The total annual fee for an 18-hole course is \$100; for nine holes, \$75.

Opening of the Southwestern Office now makes the Service available to USGA member clubs and courses in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Dr. Ferguson returns to the Green Section staff after an absence of somewhat more than two years. He will not only provide direct service to the subscribing clubs in his seven-State Region but will serve as national Research Coordinator of the Green Section's various interests in scientific turf investigations. Under the Regional Turf Service program, it is expected that the Green Section will sponsor a growing volume of research projects at State institutions and experiment stations.

Dr. Ferguson has spent his entire pro-

fessional career in turf management. He was born in Buda, Texas, 35 years ago, receive a B. S. degree from Texas A. and M. College and a Ph. D. degree in plant physiology from the University of Maryland. He has held the following positions:

1940-42—Agronomist, USGA Green Section.

1942-47—Assistant Agronomist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Forage Crops and Diseases. (Military furlough 1944-46; served in Navy as pharmacist's mate.)

1947-51—Agronomist, and Agronomist in Charge of Research, USGA Green Section.

1951—September, 1952 — Senior Agronomist, Military Air Transport Service.

September, 1952 to June, 1953—Assistant Professor of Agronomy, Texas A. and M. College, from which position he retired to become associated again with the USGA Green Section.

Dr. Ferguson's various positions have given him a working knowledge of all types of turf and turf use. His work with the Green Section and the U. S. Department of Agriculture were of national scope. As Senior Agronomist of the Military Air Transport Service, he handled turf problems in many parts of the world under difficult conditions.

Dr. Ferguson is Chairman of the Turf Division of the American Society of Agronomy, is a member and Research Director of the Texas Turf Foundation, and holds membership in Alpha Zeta (national honorary agricultural fraternity), Society of the Sigma Xi (scientific society), and Phi Kappa Phi (national honorary society, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

He has contributed to approximately 20 publications, and in 1950 compiled and edited the Green Section's Turf Research Review.

Regional Turf Service Well Received

The Regional Turf Service is being enthusiastically received in the Western Region, the first in which it was introduced the past spring.

The essence of the Service is to help



Photo by W. J. Mead

Marvin H. Ferguson, of College Station, Texas, has rejoined the USGA Green Section staff as Regional Director of the Southwestern Office and national Research Coordinator.

USGA member clubs and their golf course superintendents to keep informed, up to date, on the best scientific and practical developments in turf management.

It is not possible for the individual superintendent to read all the literature and visit all the research projects developed for his course's benefit. This is a natural function of the trained agronomists on the Green Section staff, who, being highly specialized in their work, can serve as effective agents of all clubs and superintendents in obtaining and distributing information. They thus can enrich and undergird the work of the green committee chairman and the superintendent.

Some superintendents have mistakenly feared that the Regional Turf Service would reduce their own usefulness; however, such fears are without foundation, for one object of the Service is to do exactly the opposite, and to help the superintendent become increasingly useful to his club. This is what the Green Section has always done since it was established in 1920, and it is a continuing purpose of the Green Section.

The following extracts from letters from turf enthusiasts in the West attest to the value of the Regional Turf Service as provided by Charles G. Wilson, the Western Director:

FROM ROBERT O. SHEARER, PRESIDENT,
ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOLF COURSE SUPERIN-
TENDENTS' ASSOCIATION, DENVER, COLO.:

"Regarding reaction of Rocky Mountain Area Golf Course Superintendents to the Regional Service by the Green Section of the USGA, we are getting more benefit now than ever before and we all are really happy about the whole thing.

"I was very much impressed and we feel greatly rewarded by being advised by Charlie Wilson, Representative of the Western Division of the USGA Green Section, during his visit to our Course regarding little tricks and practices that have been developed by member clubs throughout the West. We appreciate the valuable information contained in our Western Turfletter written by Charlie Wilson and printed in Davis, Cal., the location of the Western Division of the USGA Green Section.

"We are all very mindful in subscribing to this valuable service that the USGA operates solely for service to golf and not for profit, otherwise the cost of this service would be absolutely prohibitive to the majority of our golf courses.

"We sincerely hope that all eligible golf clubs will take advantage of this wonderful bargain. We appreciate the value of personalized recommendations made regarding

TURF MANAGEMENT

The book "Turf Management" sponsored by the United States Golf Association and edited by Prof. H. B. Musser, is a complete and authoritative guide in the practical development of golf-course turfs.

This 354-page volume is available through USGA, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y., the USGA Green Section, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.; the USGA Green Section Western Office, Box 241, Davis, Cal., or the McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y. The cost is \$7.

each course visited. We are also sure that this service will become more effective as time marches on."

FROM J. L. HAINES, GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT, DENVER COUNTRY CLUB, DENVER, COLO.:

"The boys in the area are getting more good use of the USGA Green Section through these on-the-field inspection tours and recommendations than they have ever gotten from the Green Section before. Charlie Wilson is doing a wonderful job in this area."

BERMUDA FAIRWAYS AT ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB

By JIM THOMAS and REAR ADMIRAL JOHN S. PHILLIPS
GOLF-COURSE SUPERINTENDENT AND CHAIRMAN, GREEN COMMITTEE

The summer of 1952 was a disastrous one for turf on many golf-course tees, fairways and greens in the Mid-Atlantic area. The preceding winter and spring had been ideal for the growth of *Poa annua*. However, the picture changed abruptly during June. The weather reversed itself suddenly, with *poa* doing its usual seasonal disappearing act. Many golf courses were left with open surfaces devoid of any grass cover, and summer weeds soon occupied these areas.

During this period, the Army Navy Country Club, in Arlington, Va., found it had an "ace in the hole" on its fairways: namely, that many parts of the grounds abounded in bermudagrass. The original establishment of this grass took place before our time. To all appearances,

the growth has been there a long time, even to the point of being native to the soil. Legend has it that a former green committee chairman used to carry bermudagrass seeds in his pockets while playing and scattered them at every opportunity.

As a team-mate and companion to our "ace," the property is infested heavily with *Poa annua*. That is an ideal combination which, in seasons of normal weather, provides us with a green covering the entire year. The first is a warm season perennial which thrives in very hot weather. The other is a cool-season annual which grows profusely in the cool, moist season of fall, winter and spring.

Many consider *Poa annua* a pest and seek to eradicate it as they would an ob-