

sor the USGA program. Eugene L. Larkin and Dr. M. E. Husted have been instrumental in creating an awareness of turf grass research needs in the Metropolitan New York area and in raising funds.

Mr. Radko will serve not only as northeastern Director but also, for the time being, will continue in charge of the Green Section office at Beltsville, Md. Other USGA Regional Offices are located at Davis, Cal., with Charles G. Wilson as Western Director, and at Texas A. and M. College, College Station, Texas, with Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson as Southwestern Director and National Research Coordinator. Locations for additional Regional offices are being considered, in order to extend the Regional Turf Service to all USGA Members.

Radko was born in November, 1916, at Yonkers, N. Y. After World War II while serving as a lieutenant of infantry in Japan, he was in charge of reconstruction and rehabilitation of Japanese golf courses for the occupation forces.

He was employed by the USGA Green Section in 1947. He received a B. Sc. degree in Agronomy from the University of Maryland in 1951, and has served the



Alexander M. Radko

Green Section continuously since then as Agronomist and more recently as Acting Eastern Director.

FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN OFFICE

By MARVIN H. FERGUSON

SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR, USGA GREEN SECTION

The American Society of Agronomy meetings were held in Dallas last November. These meetings provide a yearly opportunity for turfgrass scientists from all over the nation to meet and discuss mutual problems. The Turfgrass Division meeting attracted approximately 80 persons.

Interested attendants were treated to a delightful tour of the Cotton Bowl and some of the Dallas municipal golf courses. The tour was conducted by L. B. Houston, parks director, and his associates. The Cedar Crest Golf Course was one of those visited. It is the site of the 1954 Amateur Public Links Championship. The course is being maintained well and the fairways were especially good.

Wylie Moore, manager of the Stevens Park Golf Course, another of those visited, showed the group a series of test plots of various strains of bermudagrass and zoysia. Moore has conducted an active on-the-course testing program for several years. Following up the results of his strain testing work, he has developed a two-acre nursery of T-35-A bermudagrass. T-35-A is a product of the research work conducted at Texas A & M College. Most of the greens at Stevens Park will be planted to T-35-A in 1954.

Turf Conferences

Other highlights of recent turf activities in the Southwest include the Fourth Annual Central Plains Turf Conference

and the Oklahoma Turf Conference. Both of these conferences were well planned, well attended and well worth-while.

Outstanding features of both conferences were the panel discussions conducted for the benefit of the various interest groups. Such discussions invite audience participation which assures keen interest. They provide opportunities for questions that would not be asked in larger groups.

There is a considerable troupe of commercial representatives who attend all the turf conferences and who contribute freely to the educational programs. As a matter of fact, these men form the backbone of many a conference program. They are up to date on many subjects and can discuss almost any turf topic with relatively short notice if the need arises. Such men are true friends of the program chairman. They can be relied upon for a good performance, and they are extremely careful to exclude any hint of commercialism from their remarks. These troupers are doing a wonderful job, and they deserve the thanks and the appreciation of all those who attend turf conferences.

Fine-leaved Bermudagrass

In that part of the Southwest where bermudagrass is used for putting greens,

interest in the fine-leaved bermudas continues to grow. Most superintendents recognize that these grasses require management techniques that differ from the requirements of common bermuda, but they also recognize the fact that these grasses are capable of providing superior turf when their management needs are met. The day is approaching when bermudagrass greens will compare favorably with bent in putting quality.

Several courses in the St. Louis area will have fairways planted to bermudagrass during the coming year. Bermudagrass is unexcelled in its ability to produce an excellent fairway turf. Furthermore it grows during the season when most of the golf is played and when weeds compete seriously. Bermudagrass grows rapidly enough in hot weather to overcome weed competition.

The U-3 strain of bermudagrass is very attractive to St. Louis growers because it is cold hardy and fine leaved. It offers the disadvantage of vegetative propagation. Improved planting techniques have helped this situation, however, and vegetative planting can now be accomplished rapidly and relatively cheaply. Golfing conditions in St. Louis will improve remarkably as bermuda is established on more fairways.

FROM THE EASTERN OFFICE

By ALEXANDER M. RADKO

NORTHEASTERN DIRECTOR, USGA GREEN SECTION

Many golf courses in our northern states are faced yearly with a labor problem that is difficult to compromise. During the cold winter months, many northern golf courses shut down operations, and superintendents are forced to lay off all or most of their crews. In recent years the many attractions and advantages offered by industry were difficult to bypass in favor of seasonal employment on the golf course. It was, and still is, difficult for superintendents to compete with agencies offering employment the year around; competent, conscientious workers seek nothing less than full-time employment. Superintendents are faced

each year with the problem of training several new employees during their busiest season, and at many clubs this cycle is an endless one. About the time that a good worker gets to the point where he is an asset to the operation of a course, he is laid off.

Some superintendents are fortunate in that their budgets allow them to keep a nucleus of regular employees the year round. During the busy seasons, with a few part-time employees added to the regular crew, the superintendents can reasonably cope with the many problems encountered in the maintenance and management of golf-course turfgrasses. The