

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

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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

UNIFORM COVERAGE: HERE'S HOW IT'S DONE



Spray rig at Hercules Country Club, Wilmington, Del., where Superintendent Frank Tull delivers one pound of sodium arsenite to the acre with no skips or overlaps. The trailing marker delivers a slow stream of red dye through tubing from container in center of spray boom.



The red dye mark is calibrated so that on the next round the tractor driver puts the left wheels directly on the mark. Weed control with this outfit is done quickly and efficiently.

demands of the golfers are on the upgrade, the requirements are becoming more and more exacting and it follows that the golf course employee is required to be more skilled. Superintendents cannot hope to meet the challenge unless they are given the opportunity to train their men to meet these requirements.

There are several off-season jobs that can keep a nucleus of full-time workers busy during the winter. They are:

(1) Overhauling, repairing and painting equipment,

(2) Preparing and sterilizing topsoil,

(3) Pruning or trimming trees and shrubbery,

(4) Removing old or diseased trees or planting new ones,

(5) Painting benches, markers, flag poles, etc.,

(6) Improving drainage or other construction jobs that cannot be completed without interference with play or neglect to maintenance during the regular golfing season.