



Better Turf for Better Golf

TURF MANAGEMENT

from the USGA Green Section

USGA TURF SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE IN ALL AREAS

By JOSEPH C. DEY, Jr.

USGA Executive Director

THE Regional Turf Service of the USGA Green Section is now available to all member clubs of the Association. This is made possible by increase in our staff of expert agronomists and the opening next month of a new office in Chicago.

The Service can now be provided to clubs in 13 states not heretofore reached, almost all of them in the Middle West. They include Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Service will be provided also in Montana and Wyoming if there is enough interest.

Eight agronomists will comprise the Green Section's technical staff as of March 1.

The Mid-Western States are now part of a new Mid-Continent Region, of which Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson is Regional Director. Assisting him will be James L. Holmes in the Mid-West, based in Chicago, and James B. Moncrief in the Southwest, based at College Station, Texas. Holmes majored in agricultural chemistry in obtaining his B.S. degree from the University of Rhode Island. Moncrief is a graduate of Texas A & M College, has done turf research with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and has been Agronomist and

Supervisor with the City of Dallas Park Department.

Dr. Ferguson and Holmes will introduce the Regional Turf Service to green committee chairmen and golf course superintendents at a series of meetings in the Mid-West next month.

The Chicago District Golf Association has very kindly agreed to provide quarters for the new Green Section office.

James M. Latham, Jr., has rejoined the Green Section staff and will serve in the Southeast. He replaces B. P. Robinson, who resigned at the end of last year to enter private business. Latham served for two years as Assistant Turf Specialist of the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Ga. He was a member of the Green Section staff for a considerable part of 1956.

Latham will work out of the Green Section office at Beltsville, Md. Shifting the Southeastern office from Tifton to Beltsville is just an administrative move which will have no practical effect on the Regional Turf Service. The Service will continue as before. The office location was changed because the USGA regards it as generally preferable to have a staff of several agronomists based at one office (as at Beltsville) rather than individuals in one-

nian offices. The new arrangement should enable the Green Section to cope better with emergencies and illness or resignation of an individual. This should assure the subscribing clubs of a strong program of service.

The USGA is continuing to support turfgrass research at Tifton and to co-sponsor the turfgrass conference there in the spring.

Another new member of the staff is T. T. (Tate) Taylor, who will assist Alexander M. Radko in the Northeast. He has had long and broad experience in golf course research and management. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland.

Other members of the staff are Charles K. Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Director, based at Beltsville, and William Benguefield, Western Director, based at Los Angeles.

Through the Regional Turf Service, the USGA Green Section provides information

about scientific golf course management, mainly through periodic visits of agronomists to individual courses and in meetings with golf course superintendents. Each individual visit is supplemented by a written report from the scientist to the club.

Regional Turfletters are issued six times a year to the subscribing clubs. This year there will be four Regional Turfletters—Eastern, Southern, Mid-Continent and Western.

The Regional Turf Service is subscribed to by USGA member clubs and courses at annual fees, which cover all work and expenses and are actually below cost. The annual fee for an 18-hole course is \$110; for nine holes, \$85. There are no extra charges for travel.

Last year the number of subscribers to the Service increased by 126 to a new high total of 539 golf courses. The Green Section agronomists made more than 1,000 visits to courses during the year.

SELECTIVE CONTROL OF DALLISGRASS IN BERMUDAGRASS TURF*

By EUGENE B. BOCKHOLT

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DALLISGRASS is a major problem in Bermudagrass turf areas throughout the Southeast. Spot treating with oil is the most widely used chemical method of combating Dallisgrass in these turf areas at present. The use of oil, however, results in killing back of the Bermudagrass in the treated areas. Also, several applications may be necessary to kill the Dallisgrass. The following is a report of one year's study of materials for selective control of Dallisgrass.

Materials and Methods

The tests were conducted on fairways of the Texas A. & M. College golf course, on which there were mixed stands of Dallisgrass and Bermudagrass. A preliminary test included the following chemicals: disodium methyl arsonate, borax, cyanamid, ammonium nitrate, Varsol, "Karmex W" (80% "CMU" or 3-(parachlorophenyl)

-1, 1 dimethyl urea), "Crabgrass and Chickweed Preventer" (1-n-butyl-3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1-methyl urea). All chemicals except cyanamid were applied in spray form. Cyanamid was spread uniformly on a plot and watered until it was dissolved. Observation on the preliminary test indicated that the two species were showing differential responses to disodium methyl arsonate. There was no indication of selective action by any of the other chemicals. Further tests to determine the value of disodium methyl arsonate as a selective herbicide were then conducted.

The test reported in Table 1 was laid out in a randomized block with three replications. Individual plots were 4 feet by 5 feet. An area 3 feet by 4 feet (to exclude border effects) was used in making Dallisgrass coverage readings. A 3 x 4 foot frame with crosshatched wires at 6 inch intervals provided a quick method for dividing the plot into 48 squares of equal size. Readings were based upon the Dallisgrass coverage in each of these individual

*Presented for publication in the *Proceedings of the Southern Weed Conference*, January 23, 24, 25, 1957.