

# Turf Lost in Upper South

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The year of 1962-63 will long be remembered in the Upper South. There has been more bermuda lost in this area during the last year than at any one time during the past 50 years, according to the old-timers.

The Upper South is an area where many courses have bent and bermuda. Trouble may often be expected with either one on the greens. You can have trouble in the summer with bent and a miserable transition period with bermuda in the spring. The area surrounds and lies north of Birmingham, Ala., Atlanta, Ga., Greenville, S.C., and Charlotte, N.C.

Most bermuda greens were handled in the same order, that is by aerating, vertical mowing, and overseeding. In many cases, the bermuda made a partial recovery from the severe removal of thatch before the early deep freeze of -3°F in Atlanta.

The ryegrass in most cases was lost at this time, but those courses that had good stands of *Poa trivialis*, Penn-lawn fescue and bent rye came through the overseeding very well. In exceptional cases, ryegrass survived.

In March, there was a suspicion of the loss of bermuda by many superintendents. In April, there was no doubt. The black, limp rhizomes and stems and soft nodes were the key symptoms of dead bermuda.

Greens that slope to the south and southeast in most cases made faster recovery than greens sloped north. In some cases, regardless of the slope, the bermuda was lost. One of the most noticeable effects on greens is the traffic pattern. The areas where the pin settings have been used most often are invariably the areas where bermuda was lost. Also, where trees partially shade the greens, bermuda was lost or

was very slow in making re-growth. If there was appreciable traffic on the shady areas, the bermuda was dead. This was one winter where large greens with plenty of cupping space paid off. The scattering of the traffic and good drainage were key factors.

Aerators and disk spikers have been valuable equipment. The aerators aided the deeper rhizomes and underground stems to come through faster while the disk spiker helped the shallow rhizomes and stems.

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## TURF MANAGEMENT COURSE

A cooperative agreement has recently been worked out between the Southern California Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Public Links Golf Association of Southern California, The Southern California Golf Association, and Mt. San Antonio College to train course superintendents.

This will be a two-year program. Students who qualify will be placed on various golf courses during the summer as trainees. Summer employment will be primarily for experience but will be paid work.

At the successful conclusion of the program students who qualify will be placed on courses as assistant superintendent trainees until such time as they find regular employment or are terminated for some reason.

The program will go into effect in the fall of 1964 but students may start taking courses in preparation for the program.

Interested students should contact: G.A. Sherman, Dean of Agriculture, Mt. San Antonio College, 1100 North Grand Avenue, Walnut, California.