

# AN EVICTION NOTICE for *Poa Annua* on Fairways

by LEON V. ST. PIERRE, Superintendent, Longmeadow Country Club, Longmeadow, Mass.

(Editor's note: This article deals with the control of *Poa annua* on fairways—the archenemy of northern golf course grasses. Several new pre-emergence materials are now being manufactured for *Poa annua* control, such as bensulide, and tri-calcium arsenate. Experiment station results have been variable for the most part, and so golf course superintendents have been hesitant to do much on their courses. More recently it seems that changes in application techniques worked out by practical superintendents are proving successful with one of these pre-emergence materials, tri-calcium arsenate. Tri-calcium arsenate is now being successfully applied at light rates more frequently, rather than one full application of toxicant at one time. Such a success story is being reported here. However, we caution that if you are interested,

you first test this material on a small scale because your conditions will not be the same as Longmeadow's.)

**N**ursing *Poa annua* during the summer months of each year is the least gratifying job that comes my way. After years of worry and heart-breaking experience with *Poa*, we decided to give the pre-emergence herbicides a try on our fairways. We chose 48 per cent tri-calcium arsenate and made the first application on May 11, 1967, at the rate of two pounds per 1,000 square feet. A second treatment was applied June 8, 1967, at one pound per 1,000 square feet. This provided approximately 1.5 pounds actual toxicant per 1,000 square feet. We noticed no thinning of the *Poa annua* until July 18, when it started to weaken.

*A close look at No. 1 fairway. Note the solid rows of bentgrass coming through with virtually no competition from Poa annua, an excellent catch.*



During the first week of August, all fairways were sprayed for broadleaf weeds, including knotweed, with a combination of 16 pounds Dicamba and eight ounces of a MCPP formulation per acre. Control of weeds was estimated at 90 per cent to 95 per cent.

Two weeks later (August 16) we aerated fairways six times over and followed with a thatching operation at ½ inch depth. Fairways were then overseeded with a mixture of 28 pounds Astoria, eight pounds Seaside and four pounds Penncross per acre. This seed mixture was purchased in early spring when the price of Penncross was down. However, our second lot of seed was ordered when the price of Penncross was prohibitive for us and we altered the mixture to 70 per cent Astoria and 30 per cent Seaside. We therefore used these two mixtures on fairways.

Two weeks after seeding, all fairways were fertilized with ½ pound actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet using 20-0-10. This analysis was chosen because we wanted no phosphorus applied since phosphorus negates the effectiveness of an arsenical.

Our results have astounded me! I have never seen such good control of *Poa annua* with any material and our seeded grasses came through the fall with no real competition from *Poa annua*. Fairways now contain a considerable amount of bentgrass, that which was seeded as well as that which survived the arsenic treatment. In my 12 years here, I have never seen so much permanent grass on our fairways at any time. The balance now favors the bentgrass as once it



Sign placed on the No. 1 Tee at Longmeadow Country Club by Superintendent Leon St. Pierre advising of fairway renovation program.

favored the *Poa annua*. My estimate is that we had 80 per cent control of *Poa annua* this year.

I have every confidence that our fairways will be a lot easier to manage now and at long last we have a fighting chance to prevent re-infesting. We are still experimenting, but based on these results we plan a three- to five-year period of arsenic treatment at these light rates.

## COMING EVENTS

### NEW JERSEY TURF COURSES— RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Winter Turf Course—20 weeks January 3-  
March 8, 1968 & January 6-March 14, 1969  
Three-day Turf Course—January 15-17, 1968  
(Lawn, Athletic Field and Utility Turf)  
Golf and Fine Turf—January 17-19, 1968

### VIRGINIA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

January 23-24, 1968  
Golden Triangle Motel, Norfolk, Virginia  
Chairman—Dr. R. E. Schmidt

### GCSAA INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE & SHOW

February 18-23, 1968  
San Francisco, California  
Host—GCSAA, 3158 Des Plaines Ave.,  
Des Plaines, Illinois

### NEW YORK TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

February 26-29, 1968  
New York State College of Agriculture,  
Ithaca, New York  
Chairman—Dr. J. F. Cornman

### MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF CONFERENCE

March 4-6, 1968  
Purdue University  
Lafayette, Ind.  
Chairman—Dr. William H. Daniel