

New Soil Testing Service Offered By Mississippi State and Green Section

We are pleased to announce that the Green Section of the USGA has entered into an agreement with Mississippi State University whereby the latter will test soils and make recommendations for putting green soil mixes based on the Green Section Specifications. Dr. Coleman Y. Ward will be in charge of the laboratory work. The opening of the laboratory again makes it possible for golf courses and golf architects throughout the country to utilize the latest information in putting green soils research.

The new laboratory is equipped to carry out a complete physical analysis within a week to ten days after receipt of the material. This includes a study of the sands, soils and organic materials received; the synthesis and testing of trial mixtures; and recommendations for a suitable mixture for putting green construction. For this complete study and recommendation, a charge of \$100 is made and payable to Mississippi State University.

Some clubs may wish to have additional services. After materials are mixed on the site, it may be desirable to have samples of the mixture checked to determine uniformity of mix. Such samples may be checked at a cost of \$25 each. Sieve analysis and other tests may also be obtained through the laboratory.

After the laboratory services are completed, the Green Section staff agronomist in the region concerned will be notified of the results.

WHAT IS NEEDED

A laboratory analysis will require a minimum of one gallon each of sand, soil and organic matter available to your club. If there is a choice of sands, soils, and organic materials, send samples of each together with a note indicating your preference based on cost, easy accessibility, etc. The laboratory will attempt to use your preferred materials in the recommended mixture.

All materials should be packaged separately and securely. Strong plastic bags inside cardboard cartons or metal cans are most satisfactory. Do not put moist soil or sand in a paper bag — it rarely arrives intact. When materials arrive broken and mixed, the laboratory simply must request more material. This sort of delay can be inconvenient, aggravating and time consuming.

Paper labels packaged with moist materials deteriorate very rapidly. It is a good idea to use plastic labels inside the package and also to mark the outside of the packages. The more information you can send, the better.

WHERE TO SEND

Soil materials should be addressed to:

Attention — Dr. Coleman Y. Ward
Box 5248
State College,
Mississippi 39762

At the Mississippi State University Soils Laboratory, a technician demonstrates the impact-type compactor.

