

Research S-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-s

the Budget Dollar

by ALEXANDER M. RADKO, Eastern Director and National Research Director, USGA Green Section

The turfgrass industry has grown steadily, and it is natural that research also would experience growth. The number of workers in industry, universities, and experiment stations is swelling. Now groups of specialists accent the team approach to special problems. We have come a long way since 1920 when the Green Section was established to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to research turf problems. From 1920 through 1953 the Green Section was directly involved in research, and limited work was done by others. Since 1953 the universities and experiment stations have greatly expanded their facilities and personnel in turfgrass research, education and extension.

Research has played a major role in making the most of the budget dollar. Decentralization was a giant step forward in stretching the budget dollar. Turfgrass research now is being conducted in all parts of the nation, and researchers are better able to answer specific questions arising in localized areas. It is now possible to pinpoint limitations and strong points of grasses and management practices, thus saving the golf course superintendent who formerly depended on results from distant areas many a costly error.

Industry, too, has a large stake in the turfgrass field, and it has always been strongly research minded. Industry developed machinery, chemicals, and numerous products designed to do specific jobs for the expert user. Some of the more recent industrial developments that stretched the budget dollar were the triplex mowers, the mechanical trap rake, the rotary fertilizer spreaders, the systemic fungicides and insecticides, the pre-emerge herbicides, to mention a few. These are labor-savers—this is research in action.

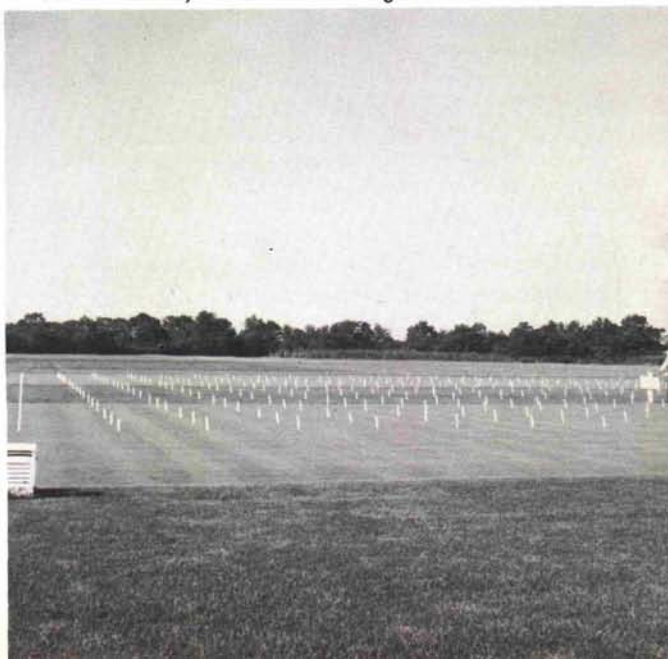
Research also is people, people interested in solving problems. There is frequent contact among workers engaged in research as well as other phases of the turfgrass industry. Meetings, conferences, and field days tend to bring everyone together to discuss problems of mutual interest. When the researcher learns of your problems firsthand, he is better equipped to produce a satisfactory solution. When the researcher is golf-oriented, so much the better;

he realizes then that the requirement is not only a beautiful turf cover, but also one that meets the specifications of the game. It is important that golf turfgrass research meet this requirement for obviously a fairway turf that is expertly grown at two inches does absolutely nothing for the game, the golfer, or his temperament.

There also is a lot of practical research that goes on in the superintendent's field, born of necessity. The superintendent must make the most of his labor if he is to survive: he seldom is overstaffed. As a result, he has come through with some combination chemical spray that controls diseases, kills weeds, feeds the grasses, kills insects, and colors the grass, all in one spray. Saving labor on one job allows more time for grooming and manicuring operations that mean so much to golf and golfers. Time is money, and time saved stretches the budget dollar. The wise superintendent carefully tests his combinations before using them on a large scale. This is practical research in action.

Stretching the budget dollar goes one step further. You can have the best recommendation in the world, but if you don't have reliable help, it doesn't do much good. If the mower operator is careless, doesn't observe mal-

Universities and experiment stations, such as Rhode Island, are active in turfgrass research.





Research prevents costly mistakes. This shows injury to putting green turf from misapplied heavy rates of sulphur.

functions, doesn't take care not to overlap, drives too fast or too slow, isn't careful to shut off the equipment when making his turns—even the safest research recommendation could result in a risk beyond repair. There have been recommendations that country clubs re-examine their hiring policy; hire fewer people at higher wages to assure a staff of reliable and competent workers.

Intensive management of turfgrasses, where perfection is the goal, means that you must keep diseases under control, insects from foraging the beautiful carpet of green, and weeds suppressed. Great strides have been taken in these areas. Dollar spot, brown patch, cutworm, sod webworm, chinch bugs, dandelion, plantain, knotweed, clover, Japanese beetles and other grubs are no longer major problems.

More recently we've made gains on problems that appeared insurmountable just a few years ago. *Poa annua*, silver crabgrass, *Pythium Fusarium*, and the *Hyperodes* weevil now can be controlled.

We are making headway on problems of thatch, Fairy Ring, spring dead spot, winter hardiness and problems related to winterkill, in improved grasses, and especially with an eye towards grasses that enhance golf. Research is working to produce grasses that do not die of winterkill, dwarf types that can be mowed closely, disease- and insect-resistant grasses, drought-tolerant species, shade-tolerant grasses, in fact, grasses that will be made to your specification. There is more golf-oriented research going on today than ever before, and this can only result in handsome dividends for golfers. Research, indeed, is stretching the budget dollar in the direction of better turf for better golf.

Department of Labor Workplace Standards

by FRANK B. MERCURIO Regional Administrator for Workplace Standards

We have always found in the United States Department of Labor that the basic instrument in the enforcement of laws is the goodwill of the employers affected by those laws. The Fair Labor Standards Act, better known as the Federal Wage and Hour Law, is among the laws administered by the Labor Department, and recent amendments to this law affect the Member Clubs of the United States Golf Association.

The Fair Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938, and it has undergone many revisions.

In applying the Act to any situation, the first consideration is coverage. Before 1961 the Act's coverage extended only to employees who, on an individual basis, were engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, or in the production of goods for such commerce, in-

cluding any closely related process or occupation directly essential to such production.

Thus, private clubs engaged in the operation or maintenance of golf courses might have had employees, such as telephone operators handling interstate calls, office employees producing, sending or receiving interstate mail, and employees transmitting, ordering or receiving materials, supplies or equipment from outside the state, who were individually covered. They continue to be covered under the Act as amended. Maintenance and custodial employees performing work closely related to the interstate operations of their employer are also covered on this basis.

The Act applies on an enterprise basis to the golfing and other facilities of private mem-