

Books on Golf Course Turf Management

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"Books," Bacon once wrote, "are the shrine where the Saint is, or is believed to be."

There is always a direct proportion: as man's knowledge on any subject increases, the number of authors and published volumes on the subject also invariably increases. Within the last year and a half, for example, at least four new books on turfgrass management have appeared, and more are on the way. As a professional turfgrass manager, you will be interested in these volumes as well as the major published contributions of the past. They are reviewed here with some candor. But please remember, placing something in print does not necessarily make it infallible. That applies to the books we review and this article itself.

Turf For Golf Courses by C. V. Piper and R. A. Oakley has become, for all practical purposes, a collector's item today. Published in 1917 by the MacMillan Company and written by two staff members of the United States Department of Agriculture, it is truly an original; the first of its kind. Although 54 years old, many of its passages are timeless.

The book is no longer available through normal channels. Probably a used bookstore and a lot of luck offers the best chance for obtaining a copy. Perhaps rare book dealers could be of assistance.

Turf Management by H. Burton Musser first appeared in 1950 and was revised in 1962. Many consider it the "Bible" of all turf management books. It is well illustrated, authoritative, and a practical guide to the subject. In addition to an editorial board of Messrs. O. J. Noer, Fred Grau, Herb Graffis and others, Professor Musser also called upon the knowledge and experience of golf course superintendents Marshall E. Farnham, T. M. Baumgartner, Ray Gerber, W. H. Glover and E. W. Van Gorder in preparing his text.

The book is a publication of the USGA Green Section and printed by McGraw-Hill. Available from Golf House, 40 East 38th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016 or your local book store. Price is \$10.95.

Building Golf Holes For Good Turf Management was edited by Dr. M. H. Ferguson and developed by the USGA Green Section staff in 1968. It is a particularly valuable publication for anyone considering building a new golf course or renovating and revamping an old one. Practical information on golf course site

selection to construction of greens, tees, fairways, bunkers, roughs, lakes, trees and irrigation is included within its 55 pages. References for further reading on each subject are also listed.

Copies are available from Golf House, 40 East 38th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016, and a charge of \$1 is made per copy.

Proceedings Of The First International Turfgrass Research Conference - 1969 is indeed a future "collector's item." Research papers from throughout the world are reproduced in English and cover a wonderfully broad spectrum of turfgrass science. Over 100 scientists attended the Conference and each paper is reproduced in the 610 pages. The range is wide.

There is only a limited (200 copies) supply of this publication in the United States. Write to Dr. R.R. Davis, O.A.R.D.C., Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio. The price is \$8.50.

Turfgrass Science, edited by A. A. Hanson and F. V. Juska, was published in the fall of 1969. Some 38 authors, mostly university and research oriented, have contributed to the 28 chapters. Necessarily technical in some areas and only moderately illustrated, it serves as an excellent reference source for the serious-minded turfgrass manager.

It is a publication of The American Society of Agronomy and may be purchased from the Society, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711. The price is \$12.50.

Principles of Turfgrass Culture and Practical Turfgrass Management by John Madison are two new books that have been published simultaneously and some may consider them as one. The author has obviously devoted tremendous time and energy to their preparation. The volumes are well illustrated and contain profuse references. He has combined history, restated facts and principles, interpreted old and new research, and added some personal philosophy and theory as well. Practical considerations are not always allowed to get in the way of theory. The author says in the preface, "Many readers will disagree with my viewpoint" — and he is right. But one must admire and respect him for not equivocating.

These books have been published by Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 450 West 33 Street, New York, N.Y. 10001. The first sells for \$19.95 (420 pages) and the second for \$18.50 (466 pages).