

Research Needs Your Support

Through National Golf Day

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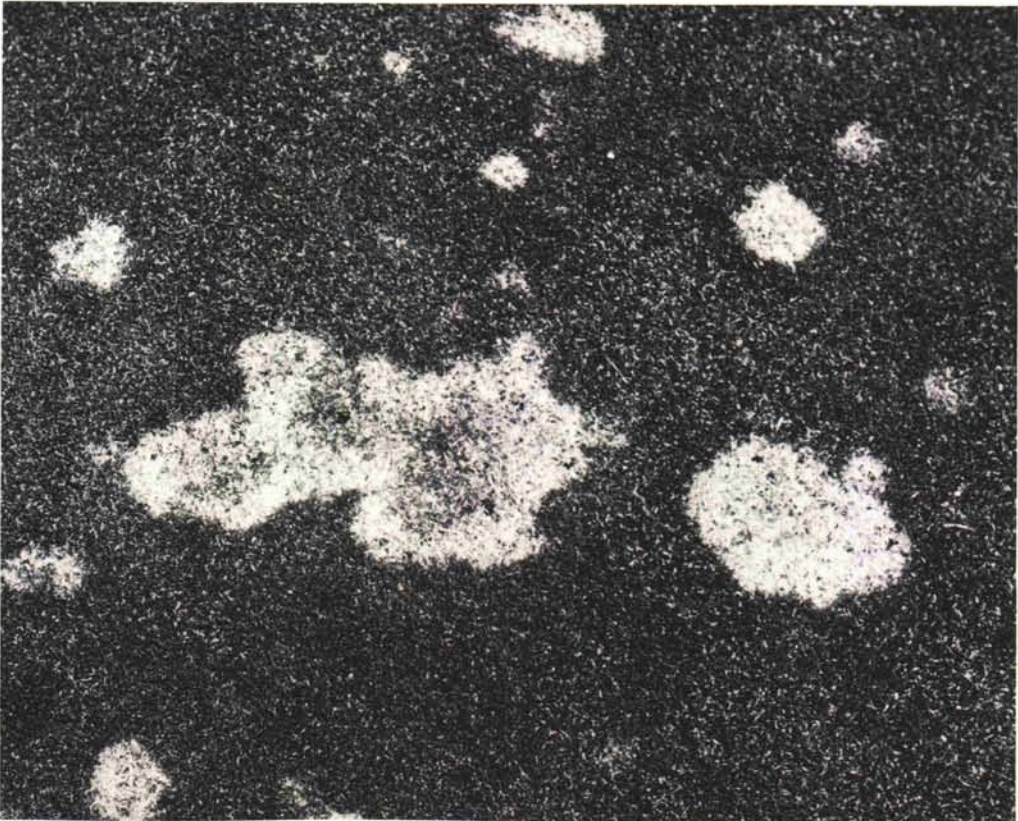
During telecast of the PGA sponsored Hawaiian Open at Wajalae C.C., announcer Chris Schenkel observed that "players were putting these greens better this year than they were last year." Co-announcer Dave Marr, offered the information that "the Waialae greens were indeed putting far better this year due to the fact that they were converted to an improved dwarf strain of bermudagrass."

This is but one example of the great strides that research has made in bringing better grasses for better golf throughout the nation, but most dramatically to courses where bermudagrasses are grown. Not too many years ago southern greens were established to common, coarse types of bermudagrass that caused one foreign competitor, a professional golfer also, to say that "putting on bermudagrass was like putting over a mass of wire cables." Everybody accus-

tomed to putting on bentgrass certainly agreed. Golf has come a long way since then, and so has the research that makes it possible to enjoy better golf. Turfgrass research as it is related to golf is unglamorous, and seldom heard of, but it has brought to golf the excellent grasses that all golfers, amateur or professional now enjoy so much throughout the world.

One of the principal investors in the research that has made all this possible is the professional golfer himself. How? Through National Golf Day! National Golf Day is sponsored by the PGA. It is the competition in which the golfer pays an entry fee to compete against the scores of Champions. When it first began, only the Open Champion set the target score. Later, the PGA Champion competed against the Open Champion, and the lower score of the two was the target score. In 1971 lady golfers had a

Fungicides to control major diseases have greatly improved conditions for pleasurable golf.



separate competition of their own. Their target score was set as a result of a contest involving the United States Women's Open Champion and Ladies Professional Golf Association Champion.

Receipts of National Golf Day are disbursed through the National Golf Fund, and a healthy percentage is channelled to turfgrass research. The agency through which this is done is the U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc.

The Green Section of the United States Golf Association is no stranger to golf turfgrass research. It is the agency which the USGA established in 1920 for the purpose of collecting and distributing information of value respecting the proper maintenance and upkeep of golf courses. Thus, the PGA and the USGA have teamed up quietly in an effort to bring you better grasses for better golf.

Unheralded? Yes!

Unproductive? No!

Funds provided by the PGA as a result of National Golf Day have helped bring improved conditions that golfers enjoy today. How? Through a network of universities and experiment stations that are deeply involved in turfgrass work. Presently, nearly every state enjoys a solid turfgrass program of research, extension and/or education. Problems are worked out at state level and this insures better coverage and pertinent solution. The National Golf Fund contributes to the U.S.G.A.'s Research and Education Fund, which in turn selects golf related turfgrass projects that require attention. The USGA's Green Section Staff is comprised of trained scientists who determine the most pressing golf course turfgrass needs and recommend support of selective projects designed to answer these problems.

Do you remember when:

Japanese beetle grubs completely destroyed the turf on a number of courses?

Crabgrass and dandelion comprised most of the green vegetation on golf courses?

Worm casts made greens so bumpy they had to be poled often to smooth them for play?

Kentucky bluegrass mowed at 1½ inches was considered fairway turf?

Southern greens were established to common coarse types of bermudagrass . . . and were unputtable?

Knotweed ran rampant?

Clover infested all turf areas including greens?

Greens were so full of crabgrass that the ball never rolled, it bumped into the cup?

If you remember any of these serious conditions, you know that golfers didn't always enjoy the superb playing conditions that now exist. Research has indeed paved the way, and



Johnny Farrell on the Arlington Farms testing a new putting green selection in 1932.

research takes money. That's why everyone in golf is indebted to the PGA for their great support of research. Without National Golf Day funds it would not be possible for us to support as many worthwhile projects that are now in effect at 16 research institutions throughout the nation. Golf related projects are now being supported with combined PGA National Golf Fund and U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. money in the amount of slightly over \$50,000 this year at the following institutions:

Rutgers University
Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station
University of California, Riverside
Mississippi State University
University of Georgia
Oklahoma State University
Kansas State University
Pennsylvania State University
University of California, Davis
University of Arizona
Virginia Polytechnic Institute



Deep-rooted, tough grasses for golfing excellence is the aim of research.

Clemson University
 North Carolina State University
 Texas A&M University
 Michigan State University
 Washington State University

The research program is national in scope, it is golf related, and it is designed to bring you

better turfgrasses for better golf courses. National Golf Day is important to the future of golf and deserves the support of every golfer whether or not he is able to participate in the National Golf Day tournament. Solid support is vital to the continuity of a solid research program of golf related turfgrass problems. **SUPPORT NATIONAL GOLF DAY!**

Typical of local interest in National Golf Day is exhibited by officials at the Greenacres C.C. in Lawrenceville, N.J. To quote Professional Mike Franko, "The PGA makes it easy for us . . . they send a packet that contains all the necessary posters . . . which we put up in the locker rooms . . . then we send every member a personal invitation to participate." Green Committee Chairman Bob Albert adds that "it's an easy tournament to run and an easy accounting job . . . we have a tournament fund . . . we simply count the number of entries and the front office sends the check to the PGA." Supt. Vic Perrone offers that "it isn't a difficult tournament to prepare for . . . we get an advance list of tournaments and we try to provide the best playing conditions possible . . . as we do for all tournaments." Greenacres President Leon Levy says, "I say amen to the prior statement that courses have improved over the years . . . we now enjoy far better courses than when I first took up this game . . . we are happy to have the opportunity to work together to do as good a job as we possibly could for National Golf Day!"

Green Committee Chairman Bob Albert, Superintendent Vic Perrone, Board Chairman Leon Levy, and Professional Mike Franko make advance plans for National Golf Day.

