

Support National Golf Day

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

When one contributes to a cause he has every right to ask, "What has been accomplished with contributed money to date?" In reply, let's examine just one phase of the USGA's research funding, the fellowship support program which helps provide a stipend for worthy students who wish to follow a career in teaching, research, extension or some other phase of the turfgrass industry. This serves a two-fold purpose. The graduate selected receives financial aid, but equally as important, he works on a specific turfgrass project to fulfill the requirements for his degree. A partial list of turfgrass workers who received financial support in graduate study through the U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. is as follows:

James B. Beard
James E. Bogart
Cecil Brooks
Lloyd Callahan
Scott Cameron
William H. Daniel
R.R. Davis
Elwyn Deal
Albert Dudeck
Joseph M. Duich
James R. Fulwider

Raymond Kunze
W.C. LeCroy
David P. Martin
Wallace Menn
Miles S. Nelson
George A. Niles
Tom Perkins
Sim A. Reeves
Terrance Riordan
B.P. Robinson
Robert C. Shearman

Fred V. Grau
Jack Harper III
Thomas K. Hodges
Leon Howard
Edward Jordan

Robert Spartnicht
Charles Rumberg
Richard E. Schmidt
James R. Watson
Gary Wilson

In the early days, this program was given impetus through Green Section subscriptions promoted by Dr. Fred V. Grau, who at the time was director of the Green Section. Later, money was obtained from several sources, but mainly the National Golf Fund, the USGA, the Augusta (Ga.) National Golf Club, the New England Golf Association, the Georgia Golf Course Superintendent's Association, the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association, and individuals. Funds expended have already been returned many-fold. There is no way to place a value on the accomplishments of those mentioned above. Much has been done, but real progress isn't made by "resting on your laurels!" What can you do? SUPPORT NATIONAL GOLF DAY!!!

National Golf Day makes National Golf Fund possible. It is an enjoyable way for every golfer to contribute, merely by competing in National Golf Day. Watch for the announcements at your club. The cost is nominal. The rewards for you? BETTER TURF FOR BETTER GOLF!

formance of the green with respect to water. It is best, initially, to aerify or cultivate the old interface. Once 2" or 3" of thatch free sand is built-up, the grass appears to perform well in spite of buried layers.

Summary

The above program provides a workable alternative management program for golf greens, and is being successfully used. The program continually buries weed seeds, disease inoculum, thatch, and blow dust. We think it is worth investigation by the superintendent. However, a critical test should be continued at least two years. It should use a sand that passes a #18 screen and light top-dressing should be accomplished every 3-4 weeks during the season of rapid growth. After the initial top-dressing, coring should be stopped, verticutting questioned, and grass seed added in the top-dressing.

We envision initial difficulties in mixing. Once several courses in an area adopt the program however, mixing can be done by a commercial supplier. The Program, if properly carried out, can reduce or eliminate continual labor consuming practices such as spraying, fungicides, insecticides, herbicides, aeration, vertical mowing, spiking, seeding, etc. The superintendent's main agronomic role can then be reduced to mowing, irrigating and top-dressing with more time left for personnel, budget, planning, etc.

The quality green which results may play slightly faster than the original green.

If you ask, "can the program do something for me?" look at your grass near the sand bunkers where golfers provide frequent light applications of sand as they blast out of the bunker.