



News Notes for Spring 1983

New Alignments for Some Green Section Regional Offices

In order to maintain and preserve the quality of Turf Advisory Service visits in Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Wyoming, and Montana, it has become necessary to realign Green Section Regional Office coverage for these areas.

The step has not been taken lightly. We are very much aware of the importance of continuity in our relationships with long-standing subscribing clubs. Nevertheless, the realignment will provide TAS subscribers with a more equitable share of the time and attention of the Green Section agronomists in these particular states. There will also be a better balance or ratio of TAS clubs to Green Section agronomists within all regions. Time, we are certain, will prove the change to be most beneficial for all.

Ohio and Kentucky will now be served by **William G. Buchanan**, Director, and **Patrick M. O'Brien**, Agronomist, of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Their address is Suite B4, 9017 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23235. Telephone (804) 272-5553.

Missouri, Montana, and Wyoming will now be visited by **Dr. Douglas T. Hawes**, Director of the Mid-Continent Region. His address is 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX 75252. Telephone (214) 783-7125.

We are confident the realignment will strengthen the Turf Advisory Service nationwide. With this exceptional Green Section team, new friends, new ideas, and new perspectives have proven to be as beneficial to subscribers as continuing exchanges between the more familiar faces of the past.

How to Take Samples for the Soil Testing Service

Sand and soil materials are by nature quite variable. It is therefore extremely important that the sand, soil, and organic matter samples that you send to the laboratory be truly representative.

Instead of scooping up the entire sample from one place in the stockpile of material, take numerous small samples from different locations in the pile. A soil probe inserted into the pile to a depth of about 10 inches is a good method of sampling. About 30 of these small samples will make up a volume of about one gallon of material. Probe at random from all sides of the pile and at various elevations.

Remember that sampling is the most frequent and the most serious source of error in the analytical process and in the mixing process. The laboratory results can show only the values found in your sample. If the sample is not representative, then the results of analyses may be worthless, and possibly even dangerous!

Soil Testing Service Fees Increase

In 1982, Agri-Systems of Texas, Inc., was designated to perform physical

analyses for materials to be used in the construction of putting greens. Response to this service has been very good. Clubs have kept up a steady flow of samples for use in construction and in top-dressing.

Agri-Systems observed its 20th anniversary on March 1. In its 20 years, this laboratory has served more than 2,000 clients. Marvin Ferguson, President of Agri-Systems, reports that the analytical services are becoming a consulting service as well. Many of the clients call to discuss their reports and the projects for which they need materials analyzed.

Agri-Systems has announced that prices for the service are being increased by 25%, effective April 1. Sand sieve analyses will be performed for \$25 per sample. Mechanical analyses will be \$50, and the complete analysis of particle size, pore space, permeability, bulk density, and water retention will be \$250. This is the first increase in prices in more than 10 years.



USGA Green Section Regional Map