

Fresh from the Drawing Board

by WILLIAM H. BENGLEYFIELD
National Director, USGA Green Section

IN THE ART of growing grass for golf courses, we're on the threshold of a new era! Within the next decade, scientists in turfgrass research are going to provide us with new tools and new implements and send the science, art, and business of turfgrass management into the 21st century.

To be successful in business, any individual or organization must believe in something larger than itself. To the golf course superintendent, this means a belief in the worthiness of his work, the social value of his profession, the GCSAA as his organization, and in his direct contribution to the game itself. To those in the Green Section, it means great satisfaction in learning, teaching, consulting, and field research and thereby also contributing to golf. We have a common bond between us. Together, we are contributing to the game and to the people who play it.

This common bond between the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the USGA Green Section has grown in recent years, perhaps

much more than ever before! The stature and deserved recognition of the Golf Course Superintendent is now established. As a true professional (many now hold Bachelor of Science or advanced university degrees), the golf superintendent directs the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly, and he is responsible for his golf club's major asset — the golf course itself. As a professional, the superintendent recognizes the need and value of an experienced and unbiased information source such as the USGA Green Section's representative in his area. In this highly diverse and ever-changing field, sound consultation is as important to his professional success as it is to engineers, lawyers, doctors, and other technical businessmen.

The Green Section has been a leader in turfgrass advances since 1921. From the beginning it has pioneered new eras in disease and weed controls (2,4-D is an example), early new grasses (Merion bluegrass, U-3 bermudagrass, and Meyer zoysiagrass are examples), the Turf

Advisory Service (the only one of its kind in the world), the Green Section Specifications, the Stimpmeter, and the golf shoe studies.

AND NOW another new era, the development of minimal maintenance turfgrasses for golf has arrived. Through the guidance and experience of the Green Section's Turfgrass Research Committee, a long-range research plan has evolved. Beginning this year, plans have been drawn for development of a computer base Turfgrass Research and Information Library; the breeding of improved and lower-maintenance zoysiagrasses, native grasses, bentgrasses, bermudagrasses, and even *Poa annua*, and cultural studies in lower-cost management practices. The research will be done at universities throughout the country. To begin the program, \$332,000 has been allocated by the USGA Executive Committee for 1984 alone. Overall, at least a 10-year commitment is anticipated for the study. Soon you will learn how you, the golf course superintendent,

The Turfgrass Research Committee: Dr. Paul Rieke, James Prusa, George M. Bard, Dr. James Watson, James Moncrief, Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, William H. Bengleyfield and Charles Smith.





(Top) Row planting of zoysiagrass — to improve the state of the art.

(Above) The flowering seeds of Buffalograss.

may contribute and be a part of this essential undertaking. (See "Golf Keeps America Beautiful," by Bob Russell, in this issue.)

The intent of this program and the Green Section is to support research that will substantially reduce water use and maintenance costs on golf courses. It is our intent to encourage young turf scientists and superintendents to become leaders in their field. Historically, golf has maintained a leadership role in the development of improved turfgrasses and turf management practices. Many of these advances have been pioneered by the Green Section and have had a far-reaching impact on golf as well as on all other turfgrass uses — home lawns, parks, school grounds, highway shoulders, and many more. The entire industry has been advanced.

While other organizations in golf and in the turfgrass world will have their own interests to serve, representatives of those organizations and institutions are asked to embrace the spirit of cooperation that the USGA Green Section and the GCSAA are attempting to promote, and that, together, we will work cooperatively and understandingly.