

Golf Course Management — It's Not All Agronomics

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William H. Bengeyfield

THE 1986 GREEN SECTION EDUCATION CONFERENCE was again held in conjunction with the annual Golf Course Superintendents Association of America International Turfgrass Conference and Show. This is the fifth consecutive year for this arrangement, and we are pleased to be a part of the GCSAA international event. The San Francisco meeting was a huge success, with over 1,100 attending the Green Section's program. This issue of the GREEN SECTION RECORD carries the proceedings of that program.

BEST TURF TIPS OF 1985 — PART I

Nine Green Section Agronomists have consulted with 1,100 USGA golf courses and their superintendents in 1985. They have been hunting for the best turf tips throughout the year. Here is Part I. Parts II and III will be found later in this issue.

How to Move Half a Fairway — Quickly and Easily

by **JAMES M. LATHAM**
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THE LOGISTICS involved in golf course renovation become quite important when the work is to be done principally by the maintenance staff. The project faced by Wayne Otto, CGCS, at Ozaukee Country Club, in Mequon, Wisconsin, involved realigning a fairway, among other improvements planned for the third hole. Naturally, speed was important, and the work had to be done during the period of maximum turf growth and heavy golf play, in April and May. Bentgrass sod was to be moved from the right side of the existing fairway to the former left rough to achieve the new fairway alignment.

First, new mounds were created, bunker hollows cut, and sand put in

James M. Latham



place. Irrigation lines had been relocated so a water supply for the new turf area was ready. When the rough was cleared and the soil prepared, the special equipment was brought in. Rolls of sod 6' x 1½' grown on mineral soil are heavy. To alleviate worker stress, Otto contracted a local sod producer to move the turf to the new location, just half a fairway away.

A commercial sod harvester was used to cut, roll, and place the sod on pallets. The pallets were then moved to the work area with a lightweight forklift. The pallets were placed so that there was a minimum carrying distance for the workers laying the sod, contributing to individual productivity as well as to the capability of the staff to perform their



(Above) In May a sod harvester, operating in right background, cuts and palletizes square yard rolls of bentgrass sod to be moved to new location half a fairway away. Stripped area will be new rough.

(Right) Pallets of sod are placed to minimize carrying distance. Note new irrigation head location, soon to be center of fairway.

(Lower right) CGCS Wayne Otto marks the limit of bentgrass fairway. Note sand already placed in new bunkers.



normal course maintenance operations. The efficiency and speed of the sodding operations virtually eliminated transplant shock and wilt so that new roots developed almost immediately. Nursery-grown improved bluegrass sod was used in the new roughs to frame the fairway beautifully.

A footnote to this well-planned operation is Otto's use of plant growth regulators on other fairways. The reduced mowing requirements of that acreage gave more man-hours to the major project.

With some restrictions on golf car operations, play of the newly aligned hole began in June.

