

## RESEARCH

# A World of Information Awaits Your Call

by WILLIAM H. BENGEYFIELD

National Director and Research Committee Chairman, USGA Green Section

**I**F YOU'RE in research or extension teaching, or are a graduate student or a golf course superintendent and you're looking for specific turfgrass information references, try dialing (517) 353-7209. A world of information is awaiting your call.

Over 8,000 references are now in the computer at the USGA Green Section's Turfgrass Research Information Library, at Michigan State University. Funding of the research library by the Green Section was initiated early in 1983. Michigan State was the ideal site, since the O. J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Library has been housed there for many years.

Dr. Richard E. Chapin, Director of Libraries at MSU, and Peter Cookingham, his associate at the Turfgrass Information Library (W-212 Library, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824), are preparing a descriptive brochure

that will explain the project and the available services. The brochure will also explain how to acquire and use software to access the file with an IBM-compatible personal computer.

The Research Library is one of many present USGA/GCSAA research projects devoted to the development of minimal-maintenance turfgrasses for the future of golf. The ultimate goal is a 50 percent reduction in water use requirements and a 50 percent reduction in overall course maintenance costs by 1992. By the end of this year, the USGA Turfgrass Research Advisory Committee will have spent \$1,250,000. Members of the Committee now include Dr. V. Gibeault, University of California; Dr. P. Rieke, Michigan State University; Dr. J. Watson, The Toro Company; W. Bengueyfield, National Director, USGA Green Section; Marion Farmer, USGA Executive Committee; J. Faubel,

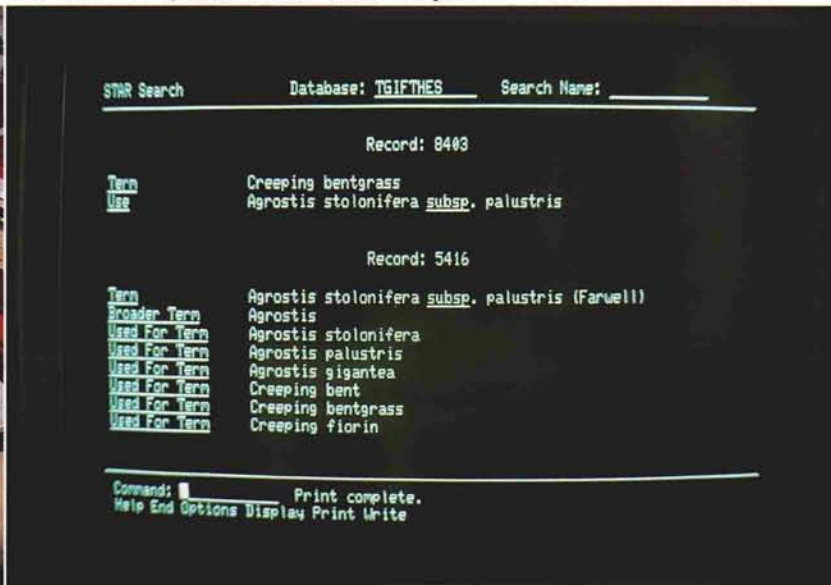
GCSAA Executive Committee; Frank Hannigan, Senior Executive Director, USGA; James Moncrief, Green Section (retired); J. Prusa, Associate Executive Director, GCSAA; and C. W. Smith, USGA Administration.

**T**HE USGA/GCSAA research projects for 1986 include, in addition to the Library at MSU, breeding in zoysiagrasses, native grasses, *Poa annua*, colonial bentgrasses, creeping bentgrasses, bermudagrasses, and ten cultural practice studies. George M. Bard, a former member of the USGA Executive Committee and Chairman of the Green Section Committee, has said, "The key to the future of this research program rests in results, progress and fund raising. Those donating and raising funds must have a sense of security about spending this kind of money (now about \$400,000 annually)."

The Turfgrass Research Information computer.



Key words call up search results in the computer.







The Turfgrass Research Information Library is at Michigan State University.

A Research Report Summary for 1985 was published by the Committee last December. Copies have been made available to those who donate to the research fund and to other interested parties. Anyone who reads the report will find substantive assurances regarding the direction of the program and individual research progress. The earliest tangible evidence of forward movement in the entire undertaking can be found in the Turfgrass Research Information Library at Michigan State. In just three years, this information source is open for business. New references are added to the computer data bank almost daily. For the present, there is no charge for any of the library services, including subject matter reference printouts. The library can save anyone tens or even hundreds of hours of search on any subject relating to turfgrasses.

As is already taking place in medicine, the day will come when superintendents with a particular turfgrass problem will be able to enter with specific information into their computer, such as the type of grass, temperature, weather, and soil conditions, symptoms they observed, and wait briefly for a diagnosis. The computer will sift through thousands of symptoms and notes in its data base and print out a list of possible causes and control recommendations. The computer may even request more specific information or pertinent facts. This type

of quality library computer service is more than a dream; it's becoming a reality.

**A**TURFGRASS Information Bulletin Board may someday offer timely, general, practical guidelines for seasonal maintenance operations, including aeration, topdressing, irrigation, and overseeding. Of course, the latest research and field information on any given subject can be made immediately available. Through this USGA/GCSAA project and the golf course superintendent's office computer, the possibilities for growing better turf seem endless. The Turfgrass Information Center will also strengthen and enhance the on-site consultations of the USGA Green Section Field Agronomists. There will never be a substitute for experienced superintendents and consultants actually on the scene observing conditions as they actually exist. Technical communications, however, will improve with the nationwide, quality resources of the Turfgrass Information Library.

What does the future hold? The accomplishments of turfgrass research in the next decade certainly will directly influence the play, beauty, and enjoyment of everyone in outdoor recreation for the next half a century. The USGA/GCSAA projects are contributing to the quality of our lives and in helping **Golf Keep America Beautiful.**

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