

News Notes for Autumn

Update on Turfgrass Research Committee

Moving into its fifth year, the Green Section's Turfgrass Research Advisory Committee, working cooperatively and in conjunction with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is staking out new ground, creating a new era for the advancement of all turfgrass interests. By the end of 1986, \$1.25 million will have been placed by this committee in support of research efforts at 19 leading universities. The effort will lead directly to the development of minimal maintenance turfgrasses for golf. Never before have such sums or such a major commitment been made to turfgrass research.

Spending money is easy. Getting something for it is another matter. To insure that each research project is moving ahead and on target, committee members actually visit each supported university project annually. They see the actual work underway, discuss the needs and plans of the researcher and his staff and, in a way, become accountable for the future support level of the project.

As this 10-year effort moves to its half-way point, 32 direct visits by committee members have been made to research stations in the past year. The Turfgrass Research Library at Michigan State is now open and ready to respond to telephone information inquiries. The number is (517) 353-7209. The zoysiagrass, bentgrass, bermudagrass, *Poa annua*, and native grass breeding projects are moving into critical stages, and some even have newly developed varieties under greenhouse study. The plant stress mechanism research is entering its fifth year, and some early cultural practice studies (management factors relating to *Poa annua* — bentgrass competitiveness, for example, at Michigan State) are yielding important data. The Annual Progress Report covering all USGA/GCSAA Research Projects will be published in December, and a new series of 35mm slides depicting last year's research progress will be available.

Members of the Research Committee include Marion B. Farmer, USGA Executive Committee; Wm. H. Bengeyfield, USGA Green Section; Gerald F. Fauble, GCSAA Executive Committee; Dr. Victor A. Gibeault, University of California, Riverside; Frank Hannigan, Senior Executive Director, USGA; James B. Moncrief, retired USGA Green Section agronomist; James G. Prusa, GCSAA Assistant Executive Director; Dr. Paul E. Rieke, Michigan State University; Charles W. Smith, USGA Business Administrator; and Dr. James R. Watson, The Toro Company.

Karl Olson Announces Resignation from Green Section Staff

Karl Ed Olson announced his resignation from the Green Section Staff effective September 1, 1986. Karl was the USGA Agronomist for championships the past two years and traveled extensively in helping prepare the courses used in the U.S. Open, the Amateur, and other major USGA championships. He also served as the turf advisory agronomist for the New England area in his earlier years with the Green Section. He became a member of the staff in 1983. Olson has accepted the golf course superintendent's position at National Golf Links of America, Southampton, New York.

A Salute from GCSA of New England

In the June, 1986, issue of The Newsletter, a publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Ron Kirkman, the editor, wrote:

"We would like to take this opportunity to send a message from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England to the Green Section of the United States Golf Association. We salute you, for over the years, through your educational sessions, research, and experimental work you have brought us, the golf course superintendent, a wealth of knowledge that is of lasting benefit to our clubs."

We thank you — all of us in the Green Section!

Turf Advisory Service Fees for 1987

The USGA Executive Committee has approved an increase of \$50 in the Turf Advisory Service fee structure for subscribing clubs in 1987. This is the first increase in two years and is necessary to keep up with travel expenses. Even so, the Green Section Service is still the biggest bargain in golf course maintenance today, especially when it is compared with commercial agronomic consulting firms. As with all USGA activities, the Green Section Turf Advisory Service is offered for service — not for profit.

The new fee structure for 1987 is:

½-day visit
\$550 if paid by April 15
\$600 if paid after April 15
full day visit
\$850 if paid by April 15
\$900 if paid after April 15

Your continued support of the Green Section is appreciated and needed.

The Research Committee at Texas A&M, Dallas, in mid-July, visiting the zoysiagrass and bentgrass breeding projects under D. M. Engelke.

