



Better Turf for Better Golf

TURF MANAGEMENT

from the USGA Green Section

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TURF OVER THESE UNITED STATES

During the course of a year, the technical members of the USGA Green Section staff cover many important turf centers of the country. Heretofore, these travels and observations have not been reported at large. We feel that many of our readers would like to share our experiences with us. In fact, they have told us so. Accordingly, we are starting this column which we hope we can maintain in every issue of the USGA JOURNAL.

At times we will appear to be critical of current practices which to us would be difficult to justify. We hope that our readers will be charitable and remember that we do not intend anything personal; our sole aim is to report facts as we find them for the purpose of helping our readers to have better turf with less effort and at lower cost.

Omaha, Neb.

This was a brief stop en route to turf conferences in Los Angeles and Berkeley, Cal., and Portland, Ore.

Henry Glissmann showed Arlington (C-1) bent putting turf at Indian Hills in near-perfect condition which had had **no fungicide** in three years. The combination of Arlington and Congressional (C-19) bents seems to be a natural for this area. Glissmann is growing a

nursery of Green Section grasses near Ashland, Neb. He is an advocate of soil aeration.

Harold Glissmann, Superintendent at Boystown, Neb., is having excellent success with lawns seeded to a mixture of Alta fescue, Kentucky bluegrass and Highland bent. The Alta stays green during drought; the bluegrass and bent keep the Alta from looking so coarse. The results are pleasing. Arlington bent will be tried on the **baseball infield**. U-3 Bermuda will be added as soon as nursery stock is available.

Frank Keegan, Superintendent of Catholic Cemeteries, plans to seed a large new section to Alta, bluegrass and Highland bent. Most lawn grasses in Omaha have to be rugged in order to withstand the extremes of summer heat and drought and the cold of winter. Testing is needed on mixtures of warm-season and cool-season grasses *Zoysia* offers promise.

Walter Clarke, U. S. Army Engineers, Missouri River Division, is warm in his praise of Alta fescue on levees, dams and slope work.

Los Angeles, Cal.

Charles K. Hallowell, on sabbatical leave, is doing a great job showing California folks how turf extension works,

financed by the Southern California Golf Association. Always a great believer in **phosphorus** for growing quality turf, he finds that phosphorus is just as essential in the seed bed in Southern California as in Pennsylvania, but seldom is it used. No one quite knows why. Nitrogen alone with lots of seed produces turf slowly and poorly at high cost.

Dr. V. T. Stoutemyer, Head, Ornamental Horticultural Department, University of California at Los Angeles, is a great booster for the Green Section's U-3 strain of Bermudagrass, which very nearly stays green all winter, throws few seed heads and produces high-quality turf. U-3 Bermuda will be widely tested on tees and on athletic fields in Southern California. Nursery stock is needed. Trials of U-3 with Green Section's improved creeping bents will be coordinated with similar trials in progress at Beltsville, Md., St. Louis, Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Merion (B-27) bluegrass is superior to commercial bluegrass except when both are starved. Merion survives close mowing, has better winter color and produces denser turf which heals better.

Two projects ready for support are: (1) evaluation of various materials for improving physical structure of heavy soil and (2) evaluation of various fertilizing materials on bent putting turf.

Observation of species and strain trials on Veteran Avenue shows meadow fescue more disease susceptible than Alta. Red fescues deserve more attention for the high quality turf they produce when managed properly.

The improved creeping bent grasses which do so well east of the Mississippi perform well in Southern California, too. Cohansey (C-7) shows promise for desert areas which are hot and relatively free of dollarspot. Arlington (C-1), Congressional (C-19) and Collins (C-27) mixture is excellent. Old Orchard (C-52) is vigorous and uniform. Green Section's new C-115 (no name yet) is established in nursery for testing alone and in combination.

Zoysia grasses rate second to Bermuda

until improved strains are produced. Growth is slow because of cool nights. Good seed production is reported on Z-52; more work is needed.

Los Angeles is a great place for most of the turf grasses grown in the United States. In one block in Pacific Palisades we saw lawns of Bermuda, Kikuyu, St. Augustine, bentgrass, bluegrass, fescue, *zoysia*, ryegrass, meadow fescue and also dichondra, clover, geranium and ivy. Talk about "the people's choice"—it is hard for people to decide **which grass to grow**.

John Gallagher, Field Superintendent at UCLA's turf plots, is doing a whale of a job keeping things in shape. He did very well on demonstration of planting bent stolons, which has not been done much on the West Coast.

William Johnson, of Los Angeles' municipal courses and one of the National Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association's West Coast stalwarts, did a great job on Rancho, a very popular public course. Greens got excellent surface drainage in two to three directions. The nine-hole, par-27 short course is particularly popular. High concentration of play demands better grasses, more fertilizer and less water on greens and tees, the heavy-wear areas.

C. C. Simpson, spark plug of the Southern California Golf Association, Chairman of the Los Angeles Country Club Committee and of ULCA's Turf Research Advisory Committee, is genuinely enthusiastic over progress of the turf program; he is never too busy to speak at a conference to boost morale, and he is one of the greatest fund raisers for turf in the business.

Harold Dawson, brother of John and Executive Secretary of the SCGA, is an excellent golfer and keen on turf research for improvement of turf quality and turf quality standards. (Mrs. Dawson recently presented him a daughter).

William Beresford, Superintendent at the Los Angeles Country Club, President of the Southern California greenkeepers and member of the Research Advisory Committee, says he wants Merion blue-

Southern California Turf Research Advisory Committee



Back row, left to right: V. T. Stoutemyer, University of California, Los Angeles Division of Ornamental Horticulture; William Johnson, Los Angeles Municipal Courses; Gene Marzolf, Northrop-King & Company; Harold Dawson, Executive Secretary, Southern California Golf Association; William Beresford, President, Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association of Southern California. Front row: Vern Wickham, Los Angeles County Park Department and Manager, Santa Anita Golf Club; William P. Bell, Golf Course Architect; William Stewart, Superintendent, Hillcrest Country Club; C. C. Simpson, Chairman, Advisory Committee, Chairman, Green Committee of Los Angeles Country Club, Chairman, Green Section of Southern California Golf Association. Charles K. Hallowell and the Director of the USGA Green Section also are members of the Advisory Committee.

grass fairways as soon as seed is available; Merion turf in his nursery is beautiful to behold. Bill reduces crabgrass in fairways with arsenate of lead, ten pounds to 1,000 square feet sprayed on. He is trying fertilizer and potassium cyanate this summer. Bill did a great job in rebuilding No. 13 green. Bill and Mr. Simpson now are firm believers in **tile drainage** under putting greens. They form one of the great greenkeeper-chairman teams in the United States.

Harold Scott, Chairman of the Green Committee at Bel-Air Country Club,

attended all turf-conference sessions. He is tops in chairman-interest in greenkeeping and has started gypsum and aeration program.

Joe Novak, President of the Professional Golfers' Association and pro at Bel-Air, is deeply interested in the turf program and may attend the National Turf Field Days in Washington, D. C., Oct. 15-16-17, sponsored by the USGA Green Section and the Middle Atlantic Greenkeepers' Association.

Officials at Riviera Country Club are concerned over spread of Kikuyu grass

in No. 10 fairway, now in spots all over the course. *Poa annua* crowded out by vigorous creeping bents on putting greens.

Bob Greenfield, Superintendent at the Wilshire Country Club, has an excellent nursery for testing and development. Merion blue looks good to him; some areas of bluegrass on his course resemble Merion. Bob controls crabgrass in Bermuda-bluegrass fairways with fertilizer. *Zoysia japonica* has survived 27 years under 1/2-inch cut with virtually no attention and little water; it is far from perfect turf but shows great promise.

Del Griggs, President of the Wilshire Country Club, is not so active as formerly but still one of the great boosters for the turf program in Southern California.

William P. Bell is now Bell & Son. Both are busy building golf courses.

Newkirk and **Martín** building turf nursery of bents and U-3 Bermuda.

Leonard Feliciano, Superintendent at Pebble Beach, is a great believer in raking brushing greens. His favorite turf is on No. 18 fairway, nearly solid red fescue. It is the golfers' choice, too. He showed us some great bluegrass-fescue turf "where the water didn't quite reach." Bents and velvetgrass predominates where water collects in excessive amounts. Evidence of underfed turf is strong.

Peter Hay, at Pebble Beach, works closely with Leonard. Pete is as interested in the course as Leonard is.

Frederick (Tony) Layton, Superintendent at Cypress Point, like Leonard, plays the game well and understands the course from the player's standpoint. The Seaside greens are close-cut, fast and delightful to play. He and Leonard share equipment; the motorized rake is a favorite. Best fairway turf is bluegrass and red fescue where "the sprinklers don't quite reach" and on mounds where excess water runs off. Program of increased feeding and decreased irrigation was suggested.

Bay Area—San Francisco

Ted DeTatta, Superintendent at

Green Hills Country Club, is starting on fairway improvement, aided by **James Wilson**, Green Committee Chairman. Greens have a sand layer where roots stop. Ted says rented Aerifier paid dividends on water saved on sloping fairways and in deeper roots on greens. He expects to use 12-4-4 on fairways, with a good shot of 16-20-0 ammophos in the fall. More fertilizer and less water will produce higher quality turf; the weed problem is largely one of starved turf.

J. J. McElroy, University of California Extension, arranged the first Northern California Turf Conference at Berkeley, and there is a unanimous request for a second in 1951. A wide-awake, energetic extension agronomist, trained in turf and assigned to turf work is most urgently needed in California, as in many other states. A request for such a man is before the U. of C. authorities.

William Sousa, President of the Northern California Greenkeepers' Association, arranged for the Director of the USGA Green Section to visit courses in the Bay Area. Each course visited contributed \$25 to Green Section travel expenses, which is gratefully acknowledged.

Ed de Silva, of the Del Rio Country Club in Modesto, has a great set of Seaside greens, three years old. He really believes in brushing and close mowing. Fairways are seeded to Bermuda, bluegrass and Seaside bent, now mostly Seaside. Extra fertilizer and less frequent watering would result in Bermuda-bluegrass combination which makes the best fairway turf we saw in California.

Dewey Longworth and **Luigi Galletti** at Claremont Country Club, in Oakland, are a great pro-greenkeeper combination. They have some of the best records in existence. Luigi has top-dressed greens seven inches deep in 42 years without layering, something of a record. Worst weed problems on fairways are where runoff water collects (excess water). There are no weeds in Bermuda-blue turf where "sprinklers don't quite reach."

Aubrey Babson, San Jose Country Club, in San Jose, did a great job of seeding a steep lawn near the clubhouse with Alta fescue. This grass seems to have a future for turf on West Coast, too. Merion blue on a home lawn looks great. Aubrey appreciates sub-drainage under greens and wishes he had more. Aerifying is doing a lot of good on greens. Best fairway turf is Bermuda-blue on fairway edges "where traveling sprinklers don't quite reach."

Ellis Van Gorder at Stanford University Golf Course, Palo Alto, showed some excellent Seaside bent putting greens, with deep, healthy root systems and no evidence of overwatering. Question arose as to why localized dry spots occur. Non-uniform soil conditions is best answer so far.

Portland, Ore.

Jack King, Secretary, The Oregon-Washington Greenkeepers' Association, arranged for golf-course visits and discussions on turf management.

Donald Junor, Portland Golf Club, like many others, wants to get rid of *Poa annua*. The process will be complicated by deep felt mat under greens which holds water and will not allow fertilizer to penetrate. Fertilizer seems inadequate, water appears excessive, velvet grass is prominent.

Henry Lucks, Lloyd's Golf Course, had good greens, watered seldom, and deep roots. He checks *Poa* by using three ounces sodium arsenite to a green, mixed in bucket of sand.

Fred Federspeil, Royal Oaks Club, Vancouver, Wash., has a three-year old course. Greens are good but No. 7 is deteriorating on account of solid clay base and waterlogged soil. Fairways of bent, bluegrass and Chewings fescue were excellent.

Other visits included Columbia-Edge-water where **Jack King** is Superintendent, Riverside Golf and Country Club, where **Walt Mackie** is Manager, and **Dave Geanoli** is Superintendent. Both courses are recovering from flood of 1948.

Arthur H. Craig, Manager, and **Bill Sanders**, Superintendent, at Alderwood, are a good team. The course is recovering from the flood. Red fescue is doing well in fairways. Alta fescue is seemingly well-adapted. Alderwood was host to the group at dinner and a long, profitable discussion followed. Greenkeepers' association helped to cover USGA travel expenses and their aid is appreciated.

La Grande, Ore.

Don Wagner and Dwight Hopkins, of H. L. Wagner & Sons, guided a tour over hundreds of acres of grass grown for seed. Merion bluegrass is looking good and some seed will be available this fall. Penn State Chewings fescue acreage is increasing. Other grasses look good.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Minneapolis Golf Club, scene of the 1950 USGA Amateur Championship, was inspected. The course is well designed. Fairways are mixed bluegrass and bent. Town and Country Club, in St. Paul, is preparing for USGA Women's Amateur Championship in 1951.

Evansville Country Club, Ind.

The really good, playable fairway turf is Bermudagrass. Two fairways were completely covered with water that overflows every year from the river. The water recedes about the time the Bermuda breaks its winter dormancy, leaving perfect summer fairways. This Club has outlined a program for future fairways of Bermuda combined with cool-season grasses.

Seaford Country Club, Del.

Reginald "Reg" Giddings has one of the finest grass nurseries. He has combination tees of U-3 Bermuda and *Poa bulbosa* that are nearly perfect. The grass was developed in his own nursery from small samples received from the Green Section many years ago.

Green Hill Yacht and Country Club, Md.

New putting greens of Arlington (C-1) bent are having a tough fight because of insufficient nitrogen. New pro-greenkeeper Elmer Lowe and Mr. Schiller,

Green Committee Chairman, are looking forward to continued improvement through added fertilizer and other good management practices.

U. S. Naval Academy, Md.

Captain Jones has outlined a program of planting U-3 Bermudagrass into the new athletic field and the varsity football field. Calcium cyanamid will be used to sterilize the new field before planting. The varsity field will be planted by sprigging U-3 into Aerifier holes.

Plainfield Country Club, N. J.

This old course was not designed for ease of maintenance. Three greens have

no surface drainage and in many of the fairway areas deep pockets occur that present the same difficulty. Steep banks that prevent the use of power equipment are the rule rather than the exception. Course showed a remarkable recovery from the drought of last year.

Country Club of the Everglades, Fla.

Roy Bair, agronomist at the Everglades Experiment Station, is experimenting with mixtures, including bentgrass for winter greens. Roy is making good use of this course as an addition to his experimental plots. Bermuda selections at Belle Glade show great promise.

WILLIAMS HONORED FOR 28 YEARS IN USGA SERVICE

F. H. Williams, Executive Secretary of the USGA Green Section has been presented a wrist watch which bears the following inscription:

To F. H. Williams
In Recognition
Of Loyal Service
1922 - 1950

The United States Golf Association
Green Section

In a letter accompanying the wrist watch, Richard S. Tufts, Chairman of the Green Section Committee, wrote:

"The members of the Executive Committee were individually very happy to have the opportunity of showing in a small way their appreciation for your loyal interest in the Association's affairs and of recognizing the fact that you have served the Association for a considerably longer period than any other employee. They have asked me to extend their congratulations to you and I would like to express my personal good wishes and appreciation to you."

Williams began work for the Green Section in March, 1922. At that time Dr. C. V. Piper was directing the inauguration of turf investigations for the Green Section in cooperation with the Bureau of Plant Industry. Dr. R. A. Oakley of the Bureau of Plant Industry and Dr. W. S. Harban, Vice-President of the USGA, were also among the pioneers with whom Williams was associated.



Dept. of Agriculture

F. H. Williams

The Green Section has seen many changes since 1922. Dr. John Monteith, Jr., and Dr. Fanny-Fern Davis are among others under whose direction Williams has served. In a large measure, the continuity of aims and efforts that has characterized the progress of the Green Section has been due to Williams' continuous service.