



Better Turf for Better Golf

TURF MANAGEMENT

from the USGA Green Section

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REPORT OF 1951 NATIONAL TURF FIELD DAYS

PLANT INDUSTRY STATION, BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

The meeting of the turf workers got under way at the Plant Industry Station Auditorium at 6 o'clock, Sunday evening, October 7. Reports of research workers from co-operating stations across the United States held the audience of 75 until after 10 o'clock.

A. M. Radko, Green Section Agronomist, conducted the meeting after Dr. Fred V. Grau, USGA Green Section Director, opened the conference. Reports from those who could not attend were read. A wire recording was made by the West Point (Pa.) Products Co., who plan to distribute transcriptions to those in attendance. In addition to the projects listed in our 1951 Turf Research Review, it was brought out that *Poa annua* will get a great deal of attention from several experiment stations.

The grasses which received most favorable comment included Merion bluegrass, Meyer (Z-52) zoysia, Tifton 57 bermudagrass, the new red fescues, and the new polycross bent seed. Congressional (C-19) bent got honorable mention for snowmold resistance. Remarks from J. H. Boyce, Canada; Dr. Dudley Meredith, Africa; and Prof. Gunnar

Turf Management and Turf Research Review

These valuable publications are still available but we're running short on TURF RESEARCH REVIEW. The book, TURF MANAGEMENT (McGraw-Hill, \$6.00) and the Green Section's booklet (TURF RESEARCH REVIEW) should be on every turf superintendent's (and green chairman's) shelf for reading this winter when play is slow or non-existent. These publications are milestones on the road of progress. We want each of our readers to share the information which we have compiled.

Torstensson, Sweden; gave an international flavor.

On Monday morning, Dr. R. M. Salter, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, welcomed the group at the Turf Gardens. Remarks by Dr. Meredith and Prof. Torstensson prepared the way for the tour of the plots. The speakers were aided by a loudspeaker loaned to the Green Section by the University of Maryland. Mimeographed programs described the various features in the Turf Gardens, leaving more time for discussion and note-taking.

There were 225 registrations representing 24 states and Canada, Sweden and South Africa. Virtually every southern state was represented. Distant points in-

Z-52 Zoysia Proves its Golf Fitness



Under urging of Dr. Fred V. Grau, Ed Tabor, West Shore Country Club, Harrisburg, Pa., tries close-mowed, dense, tight turf of zoysia (from Z-52 seed), combined with Merion bluegrass. "Just about perfect," Ed commented.

cluded Texas, Florida, Missouri, Iowa, Oregon, Michigan, and Illinois.

Golf shots hit by Ed Tabor, West Shore Country Club, Harrisburg, Pa., showed the high quality fairway turf composed of zoysia from Z-52 seed and Merion bluegrass. The Z-52 seed was planted in August and the Merion seed was sown into the zoysia turf the following May. This was the wrong time to seed both grasses, according to popular beliefs; yet the turf was perfect for golf. Although never irrigated, it had a firm cushion and good color. The weed free condition was natural, unaided by chemicals.

Merion and Z-52 Praised

It was clearly evident that the best turf resulted from the use of superior grasses which are disease-resistant and drought-tolerant. Merion bluegrass and Z-52 zoysia, alone and in combination, brought forth exclamations of praise. Some were skeptical that these two grasses could live together. Seedsmen wonder when there will be enough seed of the better grasses to meet demand. Golf course superintendents want to know how they best can convert to the improved grasses where they are adapted.

The trip to the East Potomac Golf Course brought out the fact that U-3 bermuda and Merion bluegrass may have real promise for putting green turf on public courses (where these grasses are

adapted), where water is limited and traffic is severe. Combinations of U-3 bermuda and various bentgrasses are under trial, too. Zoysia grasses also are being tested for various uses.

Here are a few statements from the after-dinner program at the Prince Georges Golf and Country Club:

RESEARCH, by Dr. Fred V. Grau: "The ultimate goal in research never is reached. Research is essential to progress so that recommendations can be based upon fact, not opinion."

RESIDENT TEACHING, by H. B. Musser (Col. USAFR): "What not to teach may be the more important. A teaching program needs a strong body of facts. *Theory* must be tied to the *Art* of Turf Management."

EXTENSION SERVICE, by C. K. Hallowell: "The important thing in extension is to give people what they want and to develop the program at the local level. The people must be kept informed."

INDUSTRIAL SERVICE, by W. E. Lafkin (for O. J. Noer): "Teamwork between all phases of turf work is essential. Industry has contributed many things, including better machinery, mowing and aerifying equipment, better service and repairs, new chemicals, and improved turf seeds in commercial quantities under a high code of ethics. Television has a great future in promoting better turf but education must be tempered with com-

mercialism because someone must pay the bill."

These responses followed the foregoing presentations:

FOR GOLF, by Richard S. Tufts, Chairman, USGA Green Section Committee, "Let us each one accept the future as a challenge and work together to provide golf for more people at less cost."

FOR THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS, by Willis H. Glover, for A. M. Brown: "Co-operative effort is the key to success. We, as golf course superintendents, need to use all available knowledge, decide what we need most, and provide the necessary leadership."

FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS, by M. E. Farnham: "People in charge of athletic field turf are in the same position that golf course superintendents were 30 years ago. They need extension type of service more than anything else but first they need to get together and decide what they want."

FOR LAWNS, by William Bonnell: "Research is far ahead of the ability of lawn owners to assimilate the available information. What we need is an improved system of Extension activity."

FOR CEMETERIES, by C. R. Runyan: "The improved grasses being developed by the USGA Green Section and others will go far in providing cemeteries with good turf which can be maintained economically."

FOR HIGHWAYS, by H. B. Musser (for Wesley Hottenstein): "Greater economy in establishing and maintaining better turf and ground cover along highways is the essence of the highway research program in Pennsylvania."

FOR THE ARMED SERVICES, by R. H. Morrish (Col. USAFR): "Unification among the armed services at the working level in things agronomic is a matter of record. We depend upon established research agencies such as the USGA Green Section and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and State Experiment Stations for information on turf."

FOR CANADA AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN GOLF ASSOCIATION, by C. E. Robin-

son and J. H. Boyce: "Compaction of the subsoil is of real importance in some countries and may require extensive readjustment of our future thinking in soils problems. We appreciate the help we get from the USGA Green Section."

FOR SOUTH AFRICA, by Dr. Dudley Meredith: "I am impressed by the fine National Turf Program which you have. I am also impressed by the fact that at the great halls of learning in things agronomic they have lawns of practically nothing but crabgrass."

More Publicity Needed

On Tuesday, October 9, some 40 turf enthusiasts took advantage of the tour to the Fairfax Country Club, sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Many in attendance had made the tour last year, which leads us to believe that insufficient publicity is being given to one of the most important features of our National Turf Field Days. Comments at Fairfax indicated a desire to include this same tour at all National Turf Field Days.

Willis H. Glover, Golf Course Superintendent, Fairfax Country Club, showed the crowd some of the most beautiful putting greens in the country. Outstanding were the combinations of Arlington (C-1), Congressional (C-19), and Collins (C-27) bentgrasses. Bill believes that proper basic construction is all important under conditions of heavy play and emphasized this point repeatedly. Other general observations by the group indicated that (1) Flexicombs were doing a marvelous job of controlling crabgrass on the fairways, (2) plantings of Z-52 zoysia and U-3 bermuda show considerable promise in providing better playing conditions, and (3) John Connolley and Bill Glover, owner and superintendent, respectively, have provided one of the finest public golf courses in America as a result of close supervision with the architect and contractor during the establishment period, and close attention to high maintenance standards throughout the ensuing years.