

FROM THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

The Golf Course Budget

Before the end of the year, in many, many cases, the golf course superintendent will present his 1952 operating budget, covering the expenses to do the job with which he is charged. With some clubs his duties may cover only maintenance of the course and equipment; with others, it may include the care of all property within the club grounds such as swimming pool, tennis court, skeet and trap shooting grounds, toboggan slides, *ad infinitum*.

The first item that should appear is the salary paid the superintendent. Directors would do well to protect their club's interests by assuring their golf course superintendent that his services were appreciated and he was being increasingly compensated during these days of rising living costs. There have come to our attention this season instances of "Pirating" where, other things being equal, the increase in salary was the only inducement for a superintendent moving to another club. A properly paid superintendent knows that his efforts are appreciated and will endeavor to do more than his share.

The second item should be a sum to cover the expense of the superintendents' dues of his professional associations and societies, expenses to attend local, state, sectional and national meetings of his profession and subscriptions to such trade journals and books as he needs. One valuable item learned or acquired through such meetings or in a report when applied to the golf course grounds might well pay for such expenses many times over. Superintendents from many sections of the country can support this statement.

Both full-time and part-time labor for the golf course is becoming increasingly

more difficult to attract and hold. Superintendents feel that 1952 will see these labor costs rise from 10% to 15%. The year 'round labor crew, which should include the key men, should, of course, be paid a premium rate. Some clubs do this by establishing a monthly wage and include time off for holidays, verified sickness and vacation with pay. Part time labor is often not available during the busy spring and fall months. The budget should indicate this percentage increase necessary for a good crew.

Costs Are Up

One bright spot in a budget is the small rise in electrical power costs used for water pumping. However, almost all other services, materials and equipment used on a golf course today have increased in price.

In addition to the specific pieces of equipment known to be needed, provision should be made for a contingency or equipment replacement up to \$1,000. Some superintendents have not had this in their budget and maintenance has been hindered during the playing season because something broke down.

Fertilizers, fungicides and insecticides should all be considered in their proper place, as well as anticipated replacement or repairs to water systems, tile lines, roadways, bridges, etc.

Judicious expense to maintain a well groomed course is the aim of today's golf course superintendent. By knowing he has the full confidence and support of his green chairman, directors and the club membership, he will do his level best to abide by his budget.

There will be many new green chairmen elected who must acquaint themselves with the complexities of the golf course operation and maintenance. Often the superintendent would like to see this appointment or election come less often. It would afford him a better

Turf Workers at National Field Days



Some of those in attendance at Beltsville Turf Gardens. Left to right: Ian Forbes, Jr., USDA; B. P. Robinson, Georgia; Jack Harper and Prof. H. B. Musser, Penn State; A. M. Radko and Dr. Fred V. Grau, USGA Green Section; J. M. Boyce, Ottawa, Canada; H. L. Lantz, Iowa; James Tyson, Michigan; Dr. J. A. DeFrance, Rhode Island; Ed Merkel, Penn State; K. T. Payne, Purdue.

chance to present his picture to the green chairman and in turn would offer the green chairman a more stable footing from which to address the directors. Continued close harmony between these two men proves beneficial.

The operating budget is the guide for practical, economical maintenance. It

can be set up on a yearly or a monthly basis carrying cumulative totals for a year or season. A small budget does not mean that the course will be in poor shape nor will an extremely large budget indicate the course will be the best in the area.

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COMING EVENTS

- October 22-23: Oklahoma Turf Conference. Oklahoma Turf Association and Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, Okla. H. F. Murphy.
- October 24-26: Turf Conference. Central Plains Turf Foundation and Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kans. L. E. Lambert and Ray A. Keen.
- November 6-7: Turf Conference. Northwest Turf Association and Washington State College, Pullman, Wash. Ivan W. Lee, 705 Fourth Ave., Seattle 4, Wash.
- November 8-9: Northern California Turf Conference. University of California at Berkeley, Calif. J. J. McElroy.
- November 14: Fall Turf Meeting. Southern California Turf Conference. University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. V. T. Stoutemyer.
- December 12-14: Turf Conference. Texas Turf Association. Texas A. & M. College, College Station, Texas. J. R. Watson, Jr., College Station, Texas.

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January 2-4: Northeastern Weed Control Con-

ference. Hotel New Yorker, New York City. Walter C. Jacob, Long Island Vegetable Research Farm, Riverhead, N. Y.

January 8-9: Turf Conference. Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Md. E. N. Cory, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

January 21-25: One-week course in Turf Management. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. Ralph E. Engel.

February 4-8: Twenty-third National Turf Conference and Show of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. The Neil House, Columbus, Ohio. A. M. Brown, Box 105, St. Charles, Ill.

February 18-21: Turf Conference. The Pennsylvania State College and Turf Advisory Committee. State College, Pa. H. B. Musser.

March 3-6: Turf Conference. Midwest Regional Turf Foundation and Purdue University. West Lafayette, Ind. W. H. Daniel.

March 13-14: Twenty-first Annual Turf Conference. Michigan State College, East Lansing, Mich. James W. Tyson.