



Correspondence pertaining to Green Section matters should be addressed to:
USGA Green Section, Room 331, Administration Building, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

USGA Green Section's First Regional Office

By RICHARD S. TUFTS

CHAIRMAN, USGA GREEN SECTION COMMITTEE

The first regional office of the USGA Green Section is being opened this month at Davis, Cal. Charles G. Wilson, the Green Section's Extension Agronomist, is in charge.

In a desire to improve the assistance rendered to USGA member clubs in their greenkeeping problems, the USGA Executive Committee assigned Mr. Wilson to make a first-hand survey of West Coast conditions during the recent spring. Mr. Wilson spent a month in direct contact with green committee chairmen and golf course superintendents of more than 50 clubs from Los Angeles to Seattle, most of them being USGA member clubs. People interested in other phases of turf culture—athletic fields, cemeteries, nurseries—also were consulted.

The survey showed a strong desire for a Green Section office on the West Coast, and the USGA Executive Committee acted accordingly to establish it.

It is expected that turf affairs will be studied primarily in California, Oregon and Washington. Only about one-third of the golf clubs in these states are USGA members and thereby support the

Green Section's work and receive its benefits.

Establishment of the West Coast office is a natural culmination of a decentralized national turf program which the Green Section started in 1945. Cooperative research was then stressed as the first step in providing better information and better service to USGA member clubs.

At that time fewer than 10 men at four or five experiment stations were working on turf management problems. In 1951 the Green Section's Turf Research Review listed nearly 100 workers, at more than a score of stations.

It is clear that the research phases of the National Coordinated Turf Program are firmly established. Although continued support and coordination of activities must be supplied, the crying need now is for an expansion of extension activities or field service so that the results of research can be applied in the field.

The West Coast Regional Office is the first step in a proposed plan to establish five or six regional offices which would cover the principal areas of turf activity in the United States. It is the Green Sec-

tion's plan to coordinate from its main office at Beltsville, Md., turf management in all its phases (research, extension and teaching) in cooperation with state and local organizations.

It is not physically possible for the Green Section personnel at Beltsville to maintain intimate contact with turf problems all over the country. This can be accomplished best by having a number of regional directors who would work closely with established local, state and regional organizations and help organize groups to help themselves.

Mr. Wilson, as Regional Director on the West Coast, will develop an advisory committee to assist in forming sound policies and procedures. Close-working harmony with established programs will be a main aim of the regional office. The Regional Director will keep in close contact with research in order to be able to make sound recommendations. He will attend major turf conferences and field days, since this is a vital form of education.

It is believed that there exists a real need for this type of regional service to USGA member clubs and turf management in general.

Regional Director



Charles G. Wilson, who will head the first regional office of the USGA Green Section, at Davis, Cal., has been with the Green Section since 1947. He received a B.Sc. degree at the University of Maryland in 1950 and has since served as Extension Agronomist.

OPERATION ZOYSIA

By ALEXANDER M. RADKO and FRED V. GRAU
USGA GREEN SECTION AGRONOMIST AND DIRECTOR

Zero hour on Z-day came at 9 A.M. on April 22, 1952, on the third fairway at Fairfax Country Club, Fairfax, Va. Battle plans had been drawn in January at a meeting of the Education and Policy Committee of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, held jointly with the USGA Green Section in the Green Section offices at Beltsville, Md. Responsibility was divided between the superintendents' association, the Green Section and the Fairfax Country Club. Planting material, detailed plans and supervision were furnished by the Green Section. Labor was furnished by the superintendents. The fairway under play

was furnished by the Fairfax Country Club.

Greenhouse space was cleared at Beltsville and on February 12, thirty flats (1 inch by 2 inches) were prepared with a special mixture of soil, sand and vermiculite and seeded to Z-73, a new strain of *zoysia japonica* selected in 1949 by Dr. F. V. Grau, Director of the USGA Green Section, out of Meyer (Z-52) *zoysia* seedling plants. Each flat of two square feet received one gram of seed, or about 3,000 seeds. Thus, in each flat we produced from 2,000 to 2,300 sturdy seedling plants. A total of 30,000 seedling plants, as shown in the illustration, were grown