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THE GREEN SECTION RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Now that the USGA Green Section is embarked upon a new program of direct turf service to member clubs through regional offices, what is the place of research in the plan of things? How much interest, and what kind of interest, will the Green Section take in scientific investigations?

One answer is that the Green Section's participation in research is being expanded. Secondly, the main research emphasis will be on stimulating and financing turf studies in various parts of the country by colleges and state agricultural experiment stations. Cooperative work with the United States Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Md., will be continued. In this way, a broad range of problems can be studied immediately within the regions where the problems exist.

More funds are becoming available for support of scientific investigations than has been the case for many years. This is due in part to a strong response by USGA member clubs to the new Regional Turf Service.

Under this regionalized plan, 20 per cent of the subscription fees paid by the subscribing member clubs will be devoted

exclusively to research dealing directly with turf maintenance problems.

Further, the Green Section staff will keep abreast of developments in other fields where research findings might have application to turf. For example, early tests of 2, 4-D had to do with its growth effects on fruit trees; however, Mrs. Fanny-Fern Davis, who was then Director of the Green Section, realized the possibilities for application of this growth regulator to turf, and it has been invaluable as an herbicide to golf courses ever since.

Thus, the Green Section will interpret the results of many forms of research, will correlate those results, and then take them directly to the golf courses of the USGA clubs which subscribe for the Regional Turf Service.

Research Fellowships and Grants

An agreement has just been made with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., for a research fellowship in the control of thatch or mat in putting greens. This will be a joint National Golf

Fund—USGA Green Section fellowship, at \$2,000 per year for three years. Money for the first half has been provided by the National Golf Fund, whose resources come from National Golf Day—a day in the spring when golfers over the country pay entry fees for tournaments at their home courses and try to better the score of the current Open Champion. Last year the test was provided by Ben Hogan; this year, by Julius Boros.

The work at Rutgers on control of thatch or mat in putting greens should benefit courses all over the country.

A new \$2,000-per-year research assistantship has been arranged with Texas A. and M. College at College Station. Consideration is being given to the possibility of studies in the physical properties of putting green soils—another matter of broad national concern.

Since the inception of the Green Section in the fall of 1920, it has had a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture. From this partnership have come many of the superior grasses which are now standard for golf, many of the best methods now used in golf course maintenance, many excellent controls for weeds, insects and diseases. The Green Section not only has agronomists who work with USDA scientists at Beltsville, Md., but this year the Green Section will support Federal turf investigation there by a \$2,000 allotment (this is in addition to the Green Section's share of costs for maintaining an office at Beltsville).

Pennsylvania State College has long cooperated with the Green Section, and an \$1,800-per-year research fellowship is currently in effect there. The fellow is engaged in a study concerning the effectiveness of cultivation machinery and soil conditioners.

This year \$1,450 has been transmitted by the USGA to the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station at Tifton, Ga., for Bermudagrass breeding and improvement. Of this, \$1,000 was presented to the USGA by the Augusta, Ga., National Golf Club for any golf purpose selected by the USGA. The Georgia State Golf Association and the Southern Seedsmen's Asso-

COMING EVENTS

August 3: Field Day, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. W. H. Daniel.

August 10: Field Day, Texas Turf Association, City Auditorium, Wichita Falls, Texas. A. B. La Gasse, Director of Parks and Recreation, Wichita Falls, Texas, in charge.

August 11: Field Day, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. Ralph E. Engel.

August 19-20: 22nd Annual Greenkeepers Turf Field Days, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I. J. A. DeFrance.

September 9-10: Turf Field Day, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa. H. B. Musser. (Field day starts at noon September 9 and ends at noon September 10.)

October 21-23: 4th Annual Central Plains Turf Foundation Turf Conference, Manhattan, Kans. William F. Pickett.

November 16-20: American Society of Agronomy Meetings, Dallas, Texas. L. G. Monthey.

ciation made other contributions through the USGA.

Irrigation studies by the University of California at Davis are supported in part by a Green Section grant. Proper water management is a subject of prime importance all over the country.

Other grants still in effect, some of which are subject to renewal this year, have been made to University of California at Los Angeles, Kansas State College at Manhattan, Michigan State College at East Lansing, Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station at Kingston, and Cornell University at Ithaca, N. Y.

The Green Section's funds for research come not only from a percentage of Regional Turf Service fees but also from contributions and from Green Section Service subscribers, who are commercial firms or other organizations not eligible for USGA membership and who wish to participate in the Green Section's educational and research activities.