

FROM THE BELTSVILLE OFFICE

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The weather has been the big topic of conversation among Eastern golf course superintendents for the past month. On the whole, the East Coast experienced little rain during the month of June. This extended period of drought, which followed on the heels of an exceptionally wet spring, is taking its toll of turf grasses at this time. The exceptionally wet spring has limited grass root development and as a result during this drought the permanent cool-season grasses are suffering more so than normally expected. The *Poa annua* population, which was very heavy in the spring of this year, virtually had left fairway sites by the first week of July in the Mid-Atlantic area.

At Pine Valley, Eb Steiniger has just completed a part of his fairway improvement program. Eb is plugging the U-3 strain of bermudagrass into some of his fairways. U-3 bermudagrass is performing very well on the sandy Pine Valley soils. The value of a good turf nursery is brought to the foreground once again. Eb has quite an extensive nursery of many improved grasses from which he

can sod, plug, or stolonize, as time and labor allow. A good nursery is a good money-saver, to say nothing of the factor of timeliness—it is there to use as needed.

At the Fairfax Country Club, Fairfax, Virginia, the April 1953 zoysia planting project sponsored jointly by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the USGA Green Section is progressing most satisfactorily. Superintendent Bill Glover reports that many of the zoysia seedling plants have spread a distance of 12 to 18 inches through the existing turf. Other seedling plants have not spread so well. However, they are plainly visible and it is expected that this summer's growth will result in a marked increase in zoysia coverage on this fairway. It appears that next year Fairfax golfers will have the opportunity to voice an opinion with regard to the playing quality of zoysia turf. This project is a prime example of the value of cooperation between the research and the practical phases of turf in the search for answers to the better turf question for better golf.

GREEN COMMITTEE EXPENSES NEAR CHICAGO

Chicago District Golf Association, in its 1953 Directory of Information, sets forth a summary tabulation of the expenses incurred in 1952 by grounds and green

committees of groups of its member clubs.

The group of clubs represented in the following example would seem to represent neither the high nor the low extreme in this type of expenditure:

	No. of Clubs	High	Low	Average
Salary (superintendent)	9	\$ 7,200.00	\$4,500.00	\$ 5,510.32
Salary (labor)	9	26,839.39	7,800.00	17,123.60
Sprinkling	4	2,400.00	1,220.00	1,707.35
Chemicals and Fertilizer	9	6,506.22	1,725.93	3,760.01
Seed	8	1,950.91	145.00	775.88
Gasoline and Oil	12	1,575.00	400.00	1,105.22
Machinery and Equipment (new)	11	4,174.00	0	1,278.47
Machinery and Equipment (repairs)	12	5,699.86	632.00	2,217.89
New Greens and Rebuilding Projects	12	5,829.00	0	944.54
All Other	11	10,320.00	512.56	2,887.17
Total	13	51,909.19	15,912.31	37,613.38