

mer as it has not in the past, was a striking contrast to many other golf courses in this area which have predominantly, or have had predominantly, cool-season grasses. Bob Williams, pro-superintendent, is doing a wonderful job of vegeta-

tive planting of the winter-hardy bermuda strains on his fairways. Some golf-course superintendents in this region attribute the fast spread of bermudagrass selections in their fairways to the use of aeration and dragging equipment.

FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN OFFICE

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The USGA Green Section's regional turf service program is meeting with the approval of many golf clubs in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The program was introduced at a series of meetings in these states shortly after the Southwestern Office was opened on July 1. At last count there were thirty-six applications for direct service. Many more club representatives have expressed a need and a desire for the service.

Water in the Southwest

Water continues to be the great need of the Southwest. Drouth has caused a number of cities to restrict the use of water for turf irrigation again this year.

Despite water shortages, a surprising number of superintendents continue to apply more water than is good for their turf. There is need for more widespread application of the proven principles underlying the correct use of water.

In recognition of the fact that economical and correct use of water is of paramount importance in the Southwest, the Texas Turf Association has voted to make the subject of water the central theme for its annual turf conference in January. No other phase of golf-course maintenance is so important nor so poorly understood.

Experimental Bermudagrass Greens

Joe Smith, who formerly was associated with Texas A. and M. College, has begun a cooperative effort with a number of East Texas golf courses whereby these courses will establish experimental put-

ting greens. The experimental greens will be made up of pie-shaped segments of a number of the selected strains of bermudagrass being grown at Texas A. and M. College. The College will provide planting material and Mr. Smith will assist the clubs in planning their experiments. These putting greens will provide an opportunity for players to evaluate the various strains under a given set of conditions. It is felt that this is one way to determine which of the improved grasses will be best to plant on the putting greens at any particular golf course.

This type of testing work, which might be called "extended research", is almost necessary because conditions vary so much from one golf club to another. Not only are there differences in climate, soil and fertility, but also in management practices. These differences often will determine whether or not a grass will be successful. The cooperators in such a project should be congratulated for their willingness to do some research on their own to determine which of these grasses will do better for them should they decide to plant all their greens to an improved strain.

It is expected that players will be given score cards whereby they may mark their choices. The results can be tabulated and the players' preferences can be determined readily. The superintendent will have an opportunity to score the grasses and to indicate whether or not he has any particular trouble, such as disease or insect attacks on any of these improved strains.