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TURFGRASS RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT—A NEED?

Turfgrasses are not a community of plants in their natural environment but are under the influence of man and have to be manipulated to be used and survive under the conditions we subject them to. When a turfgrass species is maintained at a more sophisticated level and greater demand is placed upon it, it becomes increasingly difficult to manage. We will at times alter the ecological factors that support and determine the response of a plant species in its environment, often times creating unforeseen problems.

With increased emphasis on recreation, of which golf is a large part, more pressure is placed on our turf areas and on the men who maintain them. One of the golf course superintendents' responsibilities is to gather new information and assimilate it so he can relate and apply it in his turf management program. This is one reason he attends turf conferences and field days along with keeping up with his turfgrass journals. Along with the old perennial problem on turf that we are faced with, there are also new problems which demand a solution. Therefore, we should continue to develop scientific knowledge about turfgrasses, established and substantiated by acceptable research methods, so we will be supplied with new information to meet the challenges of our profession in the future.

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BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF THATCH IN TURF

The accumulation of stems, roots and leaf residues under the living mat of grass is called thatch. It normally rots away and causes no concern. The more intensive the management, the more the thatch tends to accumulate. Biological control is presently too slow. On most golf courses thatch has to be mechanically removed.

From a microbiological point of view, it should be possible to alter the ecological balances within the thatch layer so that degradation will proceed faster and problems will be averted.

Little data is available on the ecological balances among thatch microflora. Dr. Jay S. Koths from the Plant Science Department, University of Connecticut is attempting to describe these balances and is looking at treatments that may alter the ecological balances.

For instance, injecting humic acid, obtained from thatch, in a mist, may stimulate a population of microbes that like to eat humic acid. When the treatment is terminated, it is hoped that they will turn their appetites to the thatch. Another approach is the introduction of microbes isolated from other thatch which, under appropriate conditions, may establish themselves in the test thatch and contribute to thatch degradation. This research, sponsored by the United States Golf Association Green Section, was ini-

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THE GRASS CATCHER

by Charles G. Baskin

On September 1 our association will hold its Press Day. All Connecticut sports writers are cordially invited to attend this meeting. Golf will start at 11:00 a.m. with dinner scheduled for 7:00 p.m. We are hoping for a good turn-out of writers for this event. The meeting will be held at one of the finest golf courses in Connecticut, the Hartford Golf Club, where Al Hawkins supervises the golf course operations.

Also mark down September 15 for the Superintendent - Pro - Chairman - President tournament—which will be held at the Mill River Country Club. Along with the 4 man team championship there will be individual Supt.-Pro, Supt.-Chairman and Supt.-Pres. flights.

The rapidly increasing size of the Annual GCSAA Turfgrass Conference and Show has made it necessary for the Executive Committee to select Conference site cities farther in advance than has been the case in recent years. Thus, the following cities have been officially named as Conference site cities for the following years:

1971	Denver, Colorado
1972	Cincinnati, Ohio
1973	Boston, Massachusetts
1974	Anaheim, California
1975	New Orleans, Louisiana

Noise pollution is a term we are becoming more aware of today. The super-

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