

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION EASTERN REGION

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
PLANT INDUSTRY STATION
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND



EASTERN TURFLETTER

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"Every quotation contributes something to the stability or enlargement of the field". Anon.

NOTES AND QUOTES

From the Rutgers Conference

Dr. Russell B. Alderfer, Chairman, Soils Department, Rutgers University. -- An adequate supply of plant nutrients cannot always be obtained simply by adding lots of fertilizer, often to the soil ... there is such a thing as balance ... too much may be as bad or even worse than not enough of the many things in the soil ... too much of one element may affect uptake of the other elements in plants ... this fact must be understood if one expects to get the most from the soil.

Dr. Alderfer cited the example of soil pH ... in extremely acid soils we have lots of soluble aluminum, and other minor elements, which ties up the phosphorus in the soil ... if we overlime we can create the same effect in tying up the phosphorus availability ... and we may also tie up the minor elements ... therefore if any doubt exists as to the effects on the soil ... do things in moderation so as not to create a temporary but harmful fixation of the soil ... which evidences itself through vegetation grown upon it.

Dr. Harold E. Clark, Plant Physiology Department, Rutgers University -- "A period of cloudy weather reduces photosynthesis and the relative supply of carbohydrates within the plant. An increase in temperature increases the rate of plant respiration and this consumes carbohydrates synthesized during the daylight. High night temperatures tend also to shift the plant toward the side of carbohydrate deficiency."

We have all noted the lacklustre growth of grasses after several cloudy days and/or hot summer nights ... and this may be tied up in the carbohydrate story above ... it is a natural reaction ... so don't be quick to push the "panic button" if other things are right ... give the plant the chance to rebuild the carbohydrate reserve and grow its way back to good health.

Dr. Leland G. Merrill, Entomology Department, Rutgers University --
"Since arrival of the newer chemicals outstanding results in insect control has been a reality ... unfortunately however tolerance or resistance to insecticides is noticeable within a few insect species ... and this apparently came about in this manner ... among the wild population of certain insects, there exist some that are naturally tolerant to the insecticides ... when controls are applied more than 99% are killed, however the resistant ones breed and produce a population which after a few years is highly tolerant to insecticides."

"To add to the problem, the unusual phenomenon of cross resistance has appeared ... this means that an insect in becoming resistant to one insecticide also acquires resistance to a chemical to which it never has been exposed ... this is known as cross resistance and is becoming increasingly important to us ... currently many studies are being carried on to combat this new problem."

We have noted this phenomenon in the control of chinch bug ... which were easy to control in the early days with the newer insecticides ... and many of them gave good control ... it appears that the chinch bug now has become immune to these insecticides ... and Diazinon, a new chemical, is now reported as giving good control of this insect Pest.

Sherwood A. Moore, Superintendent, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N.Y.
-- "In my experience, I've found that before you do any work in installing irrigation lines in fairways ... it is advisable to correct drainage problems first ... otherwise soils will dictate use of the system ... not the Superintendent."

Dr. W. R. Jenkins, Entomology Department, Rutgers University --
"The Golden Nematode ... a problem of the Long Island area ... does not attack the turf plant ... it has only five known hosts ... and these are the potato, tomato, eggplant, and two other weeds of the eggplant family."

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A helping hand -- In the East there are presently two Turf Management Schools conducting short course programs for students interested in the Golf Course Superintendents Field ... these are the University of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania State University ... part of the program consists of placement training ... whereby students gain valuable on the job experience ... if you have need of a hand to help -- lend a helping hand and hire a student ... write to Dr. Joseph Duich, Penn State University, University Park, Pa. ... students will be available from April 1 through late October ... there will be no students available from the University of Massachusetts this year as they are all assigned to clubs at this writing ... normally they too are available yearly from April 1 through October ... if interested for 1962 however, get your bid in early with Mr. Joseph Troll, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.

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Green Section Visiting Service (GSVS) -- Does your club avail itself of the visiting service offered by the Green Section of the U.S.G.A. ... the Green Section employs eight Agronomists nationally whose sole purpose is to serve U.S.G.A. Member Clubs ... behind the Green Section's direct service to courses stands Experience and Research ... From Research knowledge flows unendingly ... in your interest golf turf research projects are sponsored directly through the U.S.G.A. Green Section Research and Education Fund, Inc. grants to Stations engaged in Turfgrass Research.

Presently we have two staff members servicing 214 courses in the Northeastern District and one staff member servicing 115 courses in the Mid-Atlantic District. The Green Section agronomists are not super-superintendents or wonder workers ... they are specialists who represent the subscribing clubs and do a specialized job for their superintendents and chairmen.

Part of the Visiting Service includes a half-day on the course consultation, followed by a written report to the course Superintendent and the Green Committee Chairman. A second visit is made on request. Because of the popularity of this aspect of GSVS, we have often had requests for extra visits which are made usually at no additional cost to the club ... this year, however, the Executive Committee of the U.S.G.A. adopted the policy that for more than two GSVS visits the club will be charged \$50.00 additional fee, plus travel expenses ... in order that Green Section Staff members may uniformly and fairly service all subscribing clubs. Should you desire more information on GSVS ... please contact either of the Green Section officers listed on the first page of this letter ... our job is to serve you.

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A reminder for knotweed -- Since the dry year of 1957, knotweed has made serious inroads into golf turf areas ... this weed normally makes its appearance in early April ... and as is the case with most of our tough, tenacious annual weeds, weather permitting, it is best to control them by treatment in the seedling stages ... before the plant matures and goes to seed ... this has been done effectively with the old standby sodium arsenite ... normally at rates about one pound per acre ... rates can be adjusted according to climatic conditions ... if cool and moist slightly higher rates could be used ... up to 1½ lbs. could be applied safely ... if April is dry and warm, about ¾'s lb. should be sufficient for one treatment ... be sure there is adequate moisture in the soil before sodium arsenite treatment.

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From the G.C.S.A. Conference

"Know your soils -- it's your future" -- Dr. M. E. Bloodworth, Soils Physics Department, Texas A. & M. College.

Eastern Turfletter

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