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TURFGRASS CONFERENCES
PAY DIVIDENDS

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND TURFGRASS CONFERENCES

Why Attend Turfgrass Conferences?

This question may be asked by Club Officials, Superintendents, etc., who have not had an opportunity to attend one of the educational schools. Certainly, those who have attended immediately recognize their value.

Authorities tell us that the rapid advances in all fields has made it necessary for all of us to keep up-to-date with progress. Certainly, the Turfgrass Field with the tremendous increase in research, new grasses, materials, equipment, and etc., since World War II presents a challenge to any one associated with this branch of agriculture.

Almost all of the Conferences are designed to

1. report significant phases in research on a local and national scale
2. present data or recommendations on the use of new materials, grasses, equipment, and etc., and
3. to help evaluate practical applications of turfgrass management in the field.

Nearly all phases of industry and fields of agriculture in some way have adult educational programs. Certainly the field of turfgrass management is coming into its own and must, therefore, keep abreast of all developments. Other fields of agriculture throughout the United States have government supported research and extension programs. The field of turfgrass management, however, must for the present maintain its own research and extension developments. The attending of turfgrass conferences is a big step in accomplishing this task.

Tips From the Florida Turfgrass Conference

Many discussions and several articles have appeared concerning the mat formation in turf. Dr. J. R. Watson, Jr. made a significant statement when he said that, "Some mat is needed on most turf". Exactly how much is not known. J.M. Latham, Jr. reported findings from California that, at least, 2% nitrogen in all plants is required for decomposition. This indicates a need for the addition of nitrogen materials along with other elements to establish the equilibrium which Watson pointed out was needed. Ward Wood indicated that the use of brushes helped maintain a desirable equilibrium. It was reported that sod-bound conditions on small areas had been restored to normal growth by the use of nitrogen.

Due to the high amount of rainfall which normally exists in the Southeastern United States, this section of the country is considered to have abundant rainfall for the production of turfgrass or other crops. Noted exceptions, however, have been the droughts experienced during the past three years. Even during normal periods many sections of the Southeast go through droughts which are damaging to grasses. D. E. McCloud with his "evapotranspiration" work in various sections of Florida finds that enough rainfall is obtained for good plant growth without irrigation only for short periods of the year. Thus, irrigation should pay dividends for many Clubs in the Southeast which once thought they had ample rainfall. The amount of water required to wet different soils to a depth of 10 inches is striking. For instance, it takes 1" of water to wet sand to a depth of 10", 1 3/4" is required for loam, and 2 1/2" for clay. The amount of water required depends upon the season of the year, type of plant, depth of roots, type of soil, penetration of water, and etc. Col. Ward, like many superintendents, wondered why dry spots occurred on putting greens shortly after irrigation and, if he was getting good distribution from the type of sprinklers used. Thorough checking of the sprinklers indicated that some threw the majority of water within six feet of the sprinklers, while others had a different pattern. Correcting this condition has helped to overcome one of the irrigation problems for Col. Ward. Irrigation and water requirements of plants is a complicated subject.

All turf producers are interested in the economical production of satisfactory turfgrass. A practical requirement for plant growth in the Southeast is fertilization. Turfgrass cannot be maintained without the application of plant nutrients. The storehouse for these nutrients is the soil and soil tests point the way to increase the build-up of nutrients in the soil. Your Regional Director pointed out the results of soil analyses from several golf clubs indicating that 95% of the putting greens sampled had a sufficient to excess amounts of phosphorus, while 65% of the same greens were deficient in potash, 25% of these greens sampled had soil pH's below 6.0 and could use additional lime. Dr. Gene Nutter indicated the following as important in determining the fertility requirement of grasses: the type of grass, variety management, season of the year, and variety growth differences.

In discussing some of the turfgrass problems Dr. Fred H. Hull reminded us all that sometimes the turf owner is the biggest problem. This is true because the turf owner or producer fails to meet the minimum requirements for growth.

Many tips on the identification and control of turfgrass pests were given. One which fits into the coming season was that diseases cannot always be identified by symptoms. Brown patch or dollar spot symptoms may be caused by organisms not generally associated with these diseases. The article, "Important Diseases of Rye Grass Greens", appearing in the turf management section of the September 1954 issue of the USGA JOURNAL should be good reading for most turf producers for the coming season.

There is much interest in the use of pre-emergent herbicides for the control of weeds in existing turf and in newly planted areas. During the field day at the Florida Conference plots sprayed with 5 to 10 pounds per acre of maleic hydrazide prevented seed head production in bahia grass (grass resembling Dallis grass).

There is No Monopoly on Knowledge

Many new developments and problems are discussed or demonstrated at turfgrass conferences. A small sample from a Conference is given herein to remind all that plans should be made to participate in a local or The 27th National Turfgrass Conference and Show to be held February 7-10, 1956, at Long Beach, California. The Southern Turfgrass Conference, Memphis, Tenn., is held in early spring; the Southeastern Turfgrass Conference, Tifton, Georgia, is held each April; and, the Florida Turfgrass Conference, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, is held in August.

Regional Turf Service is For Your Club

Beginning April 1, 1954, the United States Golf Association Green Section, in cooperation with the Southern Golf Association and the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, opened the Southeastern Green Section Office at Tifton, Georgia. It is the purpose of the Southeastern and other Regional Offices established throughout the country to insure that new developments and standard information are promptly available to golf courses and to promote turf research. Establishment of the Southeastern Green Section Office has greatly strengthened the Southeastern Turf Program. Approximately 100 courses now are members of the Southeastern Regional Turf Service and more applications are being received. You have an opportunity to see the layout at Tifton and become familiar with turfgrass work for the Southeast during the 10th Southeastern Turfgrass Conference to be held at Tifton, Georgia, April 11-12, 1956. Any suggestions that you may offer which will add to the effectiveness of the program will be gratefully accepted. Mark these dates on your calendar today and make your plans to attend a Turfgrass Conference.

Southeastern Turfletter

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