

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION
GREEN SECTION
WESTERN OFFICE



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WM. H. BENGLEYFIELD
Western Director

• Western Turfletter •

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T H E V I S I T I N G S E R V I C E

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* North, South, East, West: USGA Green Section Agronomists made over
* 1,240 golf course visits (and reports) last year throughout the USA and neigh-
* boring areas. The Green Section Visiting Services' sole purpose is to be of
* direct aid to USGA Member Clubs in the efficient production of better golfing
* turf. Is your club making this unique service and unbiased information avail-
* able to your course superintendent?
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* The benefits are many! In addition to the annual visit to each course,
* emergency consultation is available when needed. Direct assistance by corres-
* pondence and telephone, as well as discussions at local and regional turf con-
* ferences have frequently proven helpful to subscribers. Subscriptions to the
* Western Turfletter and USGA Journal and Turf Management are also included.
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* And the total annual cost is reasonable enough:
* Less than 18 holes \$100.
* 18 to 27 holes 125.
* More than 27 holes:
* 36 holes 150.
* Per additional 18 holes 40.
* * * * *

* Additional information is available from this office or the USGA, 40 East 38th
* St., New York 16, New York. "Efficient Management starts with efficient
* planning."
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"F O R D I S T I N G U I S H E D S E R V I C E
T O G O L F - - - "

As it is with all pioneers, John Monteith, Jr. was alone in the field of turfgrass pathology in the late 1920's and 1930's. He explored the future. And his discoveries of that time have become the commonplace disease controls of today. His work remains as a world-wide standard in control of brown patch and dollar spot on putting green turf.

In 1926 Dr. Monteith first published his accounts of mercury containing fungicides -- bichloride of mercury in a mixture with calomel. He served as Director of the Green Section from 1928 through 1942. It was during this time that selection and testing programs were carried out on a number of bentgrasses including Arlington (C-1), Cohansey (C-7), Toronto (C-15), Congressional (C-19), Collins (C-27), Norbeck (C-36) and old Orchard (C-52). Merion bluegrass (B-27) and U-3 bermudagrass were also among the tests. ----- As early as 1932 Dr. Monteith pointed out that "soils often become deficient in iron, resulting in a general yellowing or bleaching of the grass." ----- He was an early advocate of soil sterilization on the golf course. Sodium arsenite became a basic material for weed control in turf under his direction.

Dr. Monteith was a pioneer in every sense of the word. The techniques and research data he developed over 30 years ago continue to influence turf management practices today! Indeed, much of the present turf excellence may be attributed to him.

For these reasons, Dr. John Monteith, Jr. was the outstanding choice to receive the first "Green Section Award of The United States Golf Association ---- For Distinguished Service to Golf through Work with Turfgrass." Dr. Monteith traveled from his post as Agronomist, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado to accept the Award in New York on January 27, 1961.

ON GUARD FOR FRIT FLY:

Is the Frit Fly (Oscinella frit) a new turfgrass insect pest? Evidence seems to be accumulating that it is. Serious damage occurred on many greens in California and Arizona last spring and summer that could be attributed to this insect. The following letter from Arthur A. Snyder, Superintendent of the Paradise Valley Country Club, Scottsdale, Arizona is an example:

"Do you remember the injury that occurred each spring to my greens as well as others in this area? How, two years ago some clubs were forced to use temporary greens on every hole for a great part of the summer due to this injury? How we were puzzled as to cause and control?

"Grass samples were taken to the University where both curvularia and pythium disease organisms were found. I tried several fungicides and some seemed to help at times, but damage would continue at intervals. You may remember our doubts that any fungus was responsible, for its appearance did not resemble any fungus injury we had ever seen.

"Early last spring one of the workmen on Superintendent Jay Woodward's course (Arizona Country Club) suggested that a small gnat-like insect might be the culprit. We were skeptical since it was so small and didn't seem to be in sufficient numbers to create so much havoc. But we switched to insecticides. No improvement from Dieldrin but I got miraculous results from 1 qt. Malithion-5 in 75 gals. water per 12,000 sq. feet. Jay Woodward was very happy with results after dusting with 1/2 lb. 15% Toxaphene and 5% D.D.T. dust to each 1000 sq. feet." ---- Thanks, Art Snyder.

Insect activity is usually greater on golf courses during dry years --- and 1961 is shaping up as a very dry one for much of the West. Insects will lay their eggs where there is ample moisture and a food supply.

Frit fly damage is usually noticed first around the collars of greens and then works gradually inward after several days. The grass (bluegrass and bentgrass) turns brown, thins out and takes on an unhealthy appearance. It is believed that the larvae of the insect does the damage and there may be several broods of larvae through the year. Their activity usually starts in the late spring or early summer. The adults are small black flies, about 1 to 2 cm. long and frequently found in large numbers. They seem to be attracted by the color white -- will land on golf balls, white shoes, shirts, hair, etc.

Research accomplished last year indicates that Diazinon, Malithion and D.D.T. will give control. A full discription of the Frit Fly may be found in the July-1958 issue of The USGA Journal and Turf Management. The article "A New Turfgrass Insect Pest?" is by Schread and Radko. Look out for Frit Fly this year!

NEW USGA BOOKLET AVAILABLE:

"A Guide For Green Committee Members of Golf Clubs" is a new USGA booklet recently released. The publication is "designed to help guide you past the dangers of this job, show you the opportunities, and assist in making your committee work an asset to your club."

MEETINGS OF NOTE:

Northern California Turfgrass Institute
University of California, Davis, California
March 29 (8:30 A.M.), March 30, 1961.

Mr. Wm. Davis, Chairman,
University of California, Davis, California

Annual Golf Course Equipment Show - Southern California
Indian Wells Country Club, Palm Springs, California
March 27, 28, 29, 1961.

Mr. Bud Turner, Chairman,
Hi-Lo Desert Superintendents' Association
Box 2616
Palm Springs, California

Northwest Turfgrass Association; Golf Club Presidents-Superintendents
Annual Meeting
May 19, 1961

Mr. Don Hogan, Chairman,
1910 Minor Ave.,
Seattle 1, Washington

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"You must act in your friend's interest
whether it pleases him or not; the object
of love is to serve, not to win."

Woodrow Wilson

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