



UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

Southern Turfletter

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ALABAMA'S FIRST TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

The first turfgrass short course to be sponsored by Auburn University and the Alabama Turfgrass Association was conducted on September 12-13. It was estimated that 90 people attended. The turf plots at Auburn were in excellent condition. Dr. Sturkie, of the Agronomy Department who is in charge of the turf work, said that the oldest plot was Zoysia matrella which was planted in 1927. It is still looking good.

Many selections of Zoysia and bermudas were observed along with fertilizer studies, herbicide trials, and height of mowing tests. Zytron and Dacthal looked promising in pre-emergence applications for crabgrass control.

The Alabama Turfgrass Association has been formed for the betterment of turf. The organization is growing and it deserves the support of all persons interested in turf. If you wish to join, applications are available by contacting Jim Moore, Vestavia Country Club, Birmingham, Alabama.

FLORIDA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

An all-time attendance record was set for the Florida Turfgrass Management Conference in 1960 according to Dr. G. C. Horn, Associate Turf Technologist. The attendance record was established despite hurricane Donna and the opening of school biting into the number. Final registration was approximately 300 as compared to last year's record of about 220.

Bits of information from the conference:

Turf Industry in Florida - An estimated \$135 million is spent on turf maintenance annually while an estimated \$300 million is spent on turf and shrubs in general.

Chinch Bug Control - According to Dr. S. H. Kerr, of the University of Florida, insecticides giving best results in plot work on chinch bug control are Diazinon and Parathion. During the 1958 and 1959 seasons annual estimated expenditures for chinch bug control were \$23 million; \$17 million was for insecticides and various spraying operations.

Gray Leaf Spot on St. Augustine - Dr. T. E. Freeman of the University said gray leaf spot looks much like drouth effects and that it will retard young plantings. The use of nitrogen increases the gray leaf spot. The fungicides Dr. Freeman has been using on turf areas with good results are Cal-spray 408, Elcide 73, Emmie, Dyrene, Acti-dione-Thiram, and Cal-spray 373.

Weed Control Work at Gainesville - Two materials giving good results for pre-emergence crabgrass control in the Gainesville plots are Dacthal and Zytron. Dacthal at 15 pounds per acre had not harmed the bermuda and Zytron had been used at 15 to 20 pounds per acre with good results.

Atrazine was superior to Simazine on nutgrass. Eptam has been most promising on nutgrass but as yet there is no positive control.

Hurricane Donna - Donna caused reduction in number of golf course superintendents attending the turf conference. The courses in the path of Donna sustained much damage. Trees were blown over and buildings were damaged to the extent that major repairs were necessary. Some fairways were too wet to mow three weeks after the storm and lakes were still unusually high.

Turf Plots at Gainesville Moved - The entire turf plot work has been moved to a new location about 9 miles from the campus. Since the area is new much work is to be laid out to get the plot work back in full force.

Putting Green - A putting green is to be built by using the best mixture as determined by the soil amendment study. The best growth at this time has been in the plot area with a mixture of

55% sand
10% German peat
10% Turface
5% colloidal phosphate
20% vermiculite (lawn grade)

No comparison of sand, soil and organic mixture had been used in the plot work.

There are three kinds of people in the world; those who make things happen; those who watch things happen; and those who have no idea of what has happened.

OVERDOING THE DESIRABLE

The story of "a little will do good so I'll use a lot" may be trite but still is true. Too often improvement upon a good condition is attempted too vigorously resulting in a net loss. Examples for illustration are applications of excessive amounts of fertilizer, resulting in burning; applications of overdosages of herbicides, which kill or retard the desired turf plants; and hand weeding greens and removing more sod than necessary, leaving severe scars which must be repaired. These are just some of the many similar conditions to which we have been exposed.

How to overcome them? Probably the best advise would be to encourage a conservative approach to changes. Try major management changes or new practices on a small area first, then after you are satisfied that you have the correct timing, rate and method of application adapted for your conditions, use them on the manicured turf areas.

CONSIDER THE SERVICES OF THE GREEN SECTION

The Green Section Visiting Service is available to all USGA member clubs. As a subscriber your club will receive several benefits. Scheduled half-day visits by the agronomist serving your area, a second visit if requested, subscription to the USGA Journal and Turf Management and two subscriptions to the USGA Regional Turfletter are some of the services provided by the Green Section. Assistance by telephone and correspondence is also available.

What does it cost? Less than 18 holes - \$100; 18 to 27 holes - \$125; 36 holes - \$150; per regulation course in addition to 36 holes - \$40. These annual fees cover all services and expenses with no charge for travel. Think about it then you will likely want to subscribe. As of January 30, 1960 there were 749 subscribing clubs.

TURFGRASS MEETINGS OF INTEREST

December 5-9.....American Society of Agronomy Meetings
Morrison Hotel
Chicago, Ill.

December 12-14.....Texas Turfgrass Conference
A. & M. College
College Station, Texas

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