



# UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION

## GREEN SECTION

### WESTERN OFFICE

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## • Western Turfletter •

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T H I N K      B I G

B U T

R E M E M B E R    T H E    L I T T L E    T H I N G S

To look at a dew covered green on an early morning, it would be hard to believe that 10-inches of precipitation might annually come from this source. Yet Department of Agriculture figures prove it is possible. Dew, in fact, furnishes up to 20% of the total moisture for some crops. ----- Now there's not much to a drop of dew! But we find, more and more, that it's the little things in life (and golf course maintenance) that really add up.

Each fall, for the past several years, the Western Turfletter has presented short notes and quotes from the Western Turf Conferences. Little things - perhaps - yet they could add up to a better turf management for you; next year and in the future.

### Something New (and blue) in Grasses:

A skeptic might just smile. But the day may not be far off when we will have a perennial bluegrass that will constantly withstand a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cut! Arden Jacklin, seed producer from Dishman, Washington, reported that seeded trial plots of this bluegrass variety have already been established in the west. Known now as "0217 Bluegrass", it seems capable of producing a good, typical bluegrass sod even when mowed frequently at  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. And it's perennial too! ----- One can't help but be impressed by the grass seed producers of Washington and Oregon. Their desire to provide quality and improved seeded forms of grasses must not go unnoticed.

And rye grass too, has something new. Dr. Norm Goetze of Oregon State University has found that S-23 rye grass is a very good performer in his trial plots. Quick to establish, this improved rye is very tough, resists wear and may someday find a place in winter overseeding of bermuda golf cart trails, on tees, collars, approach or other wear areas.

Is irrigation water in southern California becoming more saline? Could be, for Charlie Wilson, Milwaukee Sewerage Commission reports that many of this year's soil tests from this area have been unusually high in soluble salts. It might pay superintendents to check frequently with their local water companies as to water quality and how much Colorado River water is being used with local water -- especially during the late summer and fall season. It has already been a problem for some courses.

"Automatic or semi-automatic sprinkler systems?" - that's the question. The trend today is toward fully automatic. Mr. Don Hogan, Irrigation Engineer, Seattle, Washington suggests "shorter range sprinklers are the best way to irrigate. Better pattern, better water particle size and less range distortion from wind. There's less overspray too into non-use areas.

"Proper design is an essential ingredient in any new irrigation system. And don't constantly rely on part circle sprinklers to pick up the 'fringe areas'. A part circle sprinkler can throw just about as much water as a full sprinkler -- and it only covers a fraction of the area."

Something Needed in Soils:

"It was in 1920 that the first hollow tine fork was used on greens in the USA. The British greenkeepers used them much earlier than this. So the principle of soil aeration is not a new one. Even though there are different methods of accomplishing the feat, aerification or cultivation means better water movement. And better water movement means better air movement in soils as well". So reported Bob Wiley of the Aero-Thatch Corporation.

Something About a Golf Course:

"A golf course", said Mr. A. V. Macan, noted architect of Victoria, British Columbia, "must always have two qualities that can never be compromised. It must be entertaining and it must offer a challenge or test of golf for all players. A long course is not always entertaining nor always challenging".

In the same vein, John Zoller (Eugene, Oregon Country Club) and Dick Haskell (Seattle Municipal Courses) concluded that perhaps the greatest goal a superintendent should set before him is uniformity of turf quality from one green to the next, from tee to tee and from fairway to fairway.

Something For Soil Erosion:

Erosion of newly seeded slopes and bank areas has always been a problem. In recent years a polyvinyl material has been developed for surface spraying of banks to stabilize the soil without effecting seed germination or plants. Known as Elvanol, the material is available in different formulations. When applied according to manufacturer's directions, it has substantially reduced bank and sprinkler riser erosion. The material is applied after planting and should not be disturbed once treatment has been made.



Elvanol coats the soil surface particles with a thin film of adhesive. This holds the particles firmly together while leaving many spaces for the entry of air and water. Elvanol will absorb cold water up to 40 per cent of its weight without redissolving and offers little resistance to normal growth of plant roots.

Something For Your Bookshelf:

"After A Hundred Years" is the title of the 1962 U. S. Department of Agriculture Yearbook. This is a valuable, annual publication of great importance to agricultural workers. It should be on your book shelf. A copy may be available through your Congressman or write Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C. The Superintendent of Documents charge is \$3.00 a copy.

MARK FEBRUARY 10 to 15, 1963

FOR

SAN DIEGO

Early next year an exceptional opportunity exists for western golf clubs and superintendents. The 34th International Turfgrass Conference and Show will be held at the El Cortez Hotel, San Diego, California. Sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, the week-long educational program and equipment show will be open to Association members and interested non-members. Full details and Conference Program may be obtained by writing to Dr. Gene C. Nutter, Executive Director, GCSA, P. O. Box 1385, Jacksonville Beach, Florida.

The Association's Annual Golf Tournament will be held in Palm Springs, California on February 7th and 8th, 1963. The Tournament is open to GCSA Members. Further details are available from Mr. George Lanphear, Superintendent, Thunderbird Country Club, Box Y, Palm Springs, California.

It is hoped that every golf course superintendent in the west will find it possible to attend this important and informative educational meeting. It will be several years before the Conference will again return to the west coast.

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"You have a shilling. I have a shilling.  
We swap. You have my shilling and I  
have yours. We are no better off. But  
suppose you have an idea and I have an  
idea. We swap. Now you have two ideas  
and I have two ideas. We have increased  
our stock of ideas 100 per cent."

A. S. Gregg

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