



# UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

## Mid-Continent Turfletter

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### TURFGRASS MEETINGS

#### New Mexico

A well planned program was filled with enlightening information. The group represented a wide range of interest in turf. Participation was good. Emphasis is on Bermudagrass adaptation studies. Some of these plots are being established at the higher elevations in the state. Expansion of turf research at the Los Lunas branch experiment station is planned.

#### Central Plains Turfgrass Conference

Grass plant identification sessions held by Drs. Kling Anderson and Ray A. Keen were very popular. By use of corn, grown in the greenhouse, parts of a grass plant were identified. Crabgrass control and turfgrass plots were the centers of considerable interest. Many of those present made a second round for observation. Disodium methyl arsonate was showing good results in crabgrass control studies.

#### Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference

On a trip to turfgrass plots conferees were shown pre-emergence studies of weed control materials, selections of grasses including bentgrasses selected from Seaside greens in Oklahoma, and dormant Bermudagrass plots on which various dyes had been sprayed. The program covered a wide range of turfgrass interests. Parks, schools, colleges, nurseries, golf clubs, and highway agencies were represented.

#### Texas Turfgrass Association

Registration for the twelfth annual Texas Turfgrass Conference proved to be the largest on record. Outstanding disease identification and control sessions were conducted by Dr. F. L. Howard, of the University of Rhode Island. Fundamental factors underlying turfgrass growth was emphasized in several of the papers presented. Reports of research being conducted by the state experiment station were well received.

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 \* HOLIDAY GREETINGS \*  
 \* The staff members of the Mid-Continent Region of the USGA \*  
 \* Green Section take this opportunity to express to all our \*  
 \* readers our good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. \*  
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## PLASTIC PIPE FOR IRRIGATION

Robert L. Frazer, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of San Antonio, has conducted a study of the use of plastic pipe in irrigation systems. Results of the study were presented at the Texas Turfgrass Conference. Mr. Frazer lists the following advantages and disadvantages for the pipe chosen for use in San Antonio:

### Advantages:

- (1) Low cost - (in our custom size).
- (2) Chemically inert - solutions carried will remain chemically pure.
- (3) Age, weather resistant - will not deteriorate, age, rust or rot due to weather or moisture. Will not become brittle if stored in sunlight.
- (4) Corrosion resistant - P.V.C. pipe is unaffected by most acids and alkalies, as well as oil, water, alcohol, and salt solutions.
- (5) Self-insulating - poor conductor of heat.
- (6) Smooth bore - same flow factor, as copper pipe. Flow rates are as much as 25% greater than are possible with steel pipe of the same size. It is almost impossible for materials to stick to the glossy walls. Because there is little, if any, build-up of deposits, P.V.C. plastic maintains its original efficiency and capacity in use.
- (7) Light weight - makes for ease of handling and rapid installation in the field.
- (8) Larger I.D. (1.720) - permits a greater volume of water to flow through pipe than galvanized pipe of the same size.

### Disadvantages:

- (1) Should not be used in irrigation systems where surge will increase the static pressure beyond 80 lbs.
- (2) Unless it is deeply buried it is unwise to use it in areas immediately close to buildings where follow-up construction work will be done at a later date.
- (3) Difficult to reclaim since it is subject to damage by digging equipment such as a pick or mechanical digger.
- (4) Requires responsible people to install plastic pipe. Can not afford careless installation procedures.



### BERKSHIRES GRASS

There has been considerable promotion of Berkshires Grass in some sections of the United States.

The University of Rhode Island has had Berkshires Grass under test for three months and has released some statements worthy of noting. The following statements are taken from a release from that institution.

"Berkshires Grass appears to be a form of creeping bent of fairly fine texture. It was quick to spread and grow laterally in our lawn plot planted with stolons. It is propagated vegetatively by stolons rather than by seed.

"It should be pointed out that we do not recommend any type of creeping bentgrass that we have observed, over an extended period, for lawn-grass purposes unless the owner is prepared to make a special hobby of his lawn and give it considerable extra care and attention.

"We do not feel that we have had Berkshires Grass under our observation for a sufficient time to evaluate it with respect to weed, disease and other pest resistance. On only three months' observation we are not ready to recommend it nor do we wish to condemn it."

### MEETINGS COMING UP

The United States Golf Association Green Section will present an educational meeting at the Drake Hotel in Chicago on January 24, 1958. This educational feature will be in conjunction with the USGA annual meeting.

The National Golf Course Superintendents Association 29th Annual Turfgrass Conference and Show is being planned for February 2-7, 1958 in Washington, D. C. All superintendents should note - "word is going around that this will be the best yet."

USEFUL PUBLICATION: U. S. Department of Interior Paint Manual.

Available from Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. at a cost of \$1.75. This manual discusses paints for various uses and includes an appendix listing specifications for paints and accessory materials. The manual discusses other coating materials even though they may not technically come under the heading of "paint." Chapter headings are: I. Paint and Paint Materials; II. Painting Woodwork; III. Painting Metalwork; IV. Painting Concrete, Plaster and Miscellaneous Surfaces; V. Inspection and Sampling; VI. Safety and Care of Materials.

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