

Compacted soils hold moisture at the surface. Shallow rooted plants such as Poa annua thrive on surface moisture. Did you ever notice that the area of the green on which the cup is most frequently placed is the area most seriously infested with Poa annua?

The growth of algae is another consequence of a wet soil surface.

Increasing traffic will make us increasingly aware of the pounds per square inch exerted by wheel traffic as well as by foot traffic.

Apparently, our worries about the effects of traffic are shared by turf growers in other parts of the world. The following paragraphs are quoted from the Sports Turf Bulletin, No. 45 April, May, June, 1959, published at Bingley, Yorkshire, England:

"Surface compaction on green fronts has also increased with the advent of the trolley. Participants of four ball matches regularly park their trolleys side by side on the front of a green, hole out and then all return to the same spot to collect their trolleys. This is all additional wear on the green front. The concentration of this 'to and from' the pin wear, which in pre-trolley days was fairly well spread, has probably been doubled since their introduction.

"The spreading of traffic is the obvious answer to reduce the patch effect on the turf. It is to be hoped this can be done without the construction of metal road surfaces and the erection of traffic signs which would not add to the beauty of any course! Many Greenkeepers, however, may be of the opinion that the introduction of parking meters within a certain distance of the greens might be a good idea!

"Where this additional wear is taking place efforts should be made to produce a harder wearing turf. This is probably best done by removing the worms from the areas and top dressing with a sharp lime free sand, coke breeze or charcoal to improve the porosity of the soil. Mowing should not be done too closely and plenty of aeration is required. 'Feeding' is also necessary during the season to increase the vigour of the sward.

"Once damage has been done re-turfing or renovation by seeding is necessary. The success of these operations depends on the removal of the cause of the damage. Renovated areas must be protected and the trolley traffic diverted until re-establishment is completed."

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Willie Smith of Red Run Honored

Superintendent Willie Smith of Red Run Golf Club, Royal Oak, Michigan was honored with a "day" recently. He was presented a life membership in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and a microscope. Mr. Smith has been at Red Run since 1920.

Observations by Al Radko

The 1958 season was an unusual one in the Northeast. Al Radko, Eastern Director of the USGA Green Section, offered a summation of lessons learned during such a year in a speech delivered at the University of Massachusetts during the annual turfgrass conference. Because of the fact that these observations are equally applicable to much of the Mid-Continent Region, Mr. Radko's summary statements are listed here:

- "1. Permanent grasses are slow to respond in early season when temperatures are low and soils are cool. During such seasons, it is safer to keep grasses on hungry side. Try iron sulphate treatments to help provide color, and consider leaf feeding (liquid fertilizer) when soils are cool. Each must be light treatments.
2. Water is not the entire answer to color, nor good turfgrass production.
3. Good drainage is the foundation on which good permanent turf is produced.
4. In wet, cool seasons, normal fertilizer programs must be altered.
5. In wet, humid seasons, normal fungicide programs must be altered.
6. Micro-organisms do not operate efficiently in wet, cool soils.
7. Problems of fairway irrigation caught up with many courses -- unwatered fairways showed to advantage.
8. Observation and judgement on the part of the superintendent is most important to a sound program of maintenance and management."

FIELD DAY DATES

July 22 - Texas Turf Association Field Day - Texas A&M College
College Station, Texas

September 14-15 - Midwest Regional Turf Foundation Field Day
Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana

September 29 - St. Louis District Field Day
Sponsored by St. Louis District Golf Association and
Mississippi Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association

Mid-Continent Turfletter

USGA GREEN SECTION

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