



# UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

## Mid-Continent Turfletter

MID-WESTERN DISTRICT  
ROOM 241, LASALLE HOTEL  
CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS  
TELEPHONE: STATE 2-7485

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT  
TEXAS A & M COLLEGE  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS  
TELEPHONE: VICTOR 5-5210

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DR. MARVIN H. FERGUSON  
MID-CONTINENT DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COORDINATOR

JAMES L. HOLMES  
MID-WESTERN AGRONOMIST

W. WAYNE ALLEN  
SOUTHWESTERN AGRONOMIST

### WINTER KILL PROBLEMS WITH BERMUDAGRASS

Bermudagrass in the transition zone, or that area within 100 miles north and south of the Ohio River, has undergone severe damage during the past three winter seasons. In a number of areas complete kill has resulted. From observing this phenomenon for the past season, we have the following comments:

1. U-3 bermudagrass "winters" in a superior fashion if a mulch is used.
2. U-3 will not withstand winter traffic.
3. After U-3 has been in place for two or three seasons it appears to become less vigorous thus more subject to winter damage, and competition from weeds such as Poa annua is more of a problem. (It is entirely possible that diseases incite this condition).
4. U-3 (and other bermudas) is not satisfactory for use in shade and on northern slopes.
5. Regardless of the noticed disadvantages, bermudagrass remains as one of the most useful grasses as an alternate tee and fairway turf.

Meyer Zoysia, on the other hand, is completely winter hardy for all practical purposes. It is finding increased favor as an alternate tee cover for "wood shot" holes. Its extreme slow growth characteristic makes it only dubiously favorable as an "iron shot" alternate tee cover. We believe that the use of Meyer Zoysia will increase. A number of clubs in the transition area are presently establishing fairways in this turf. All eyes in the Cincinnati area are on Marion Mendenhall, the superintendent at Kenwood Country Club. Marion stripped Meyer into two fairways last summer as well as establishing a two acre nursery for use as a supply of this sod.

Pete Dye, greens chairman, and Bob Mueller, superintendent, at The Country Club of Indianapolis, have stripped or plugged Meyer into two fairways and plan to seed No. 5 fairway with Zoysia japonica seed this summer. Obviously many interested parties will be checking with Pete and Bob.

Of course, the master experimenter, John McCoy, superintendent at Cincinnati Country Club, has had his eye on both Meyer and common Zoysia for a number of years. The common Zoysia around his No. 8 green has presented a tough resilient turf for some time and John says the golfers like it. He thinks it will make a fairway turf which is superior to Meyer. Naturally, John plans to seed other areas on the course to this turf.

#### DEEP-DRILLING FOR GREENS

Bob Ervine, the capable superintendent of Phoenix Country Club, is a man who can devise the tools he needs to do a specific job. Several years ago, when Bob was maintaining golf courses in Oklahoma, he saw a need for a machine that would make deeper holes than those made by the cultivating machines available on the market.

Bob built a machine (he modestly does not take complete credit for it) which consists of a gang of power-driven wood bits, mounted on a long frame and balanced over a single pair of wheels. The bits may be any diameter of the user's choice. It is possible to make holes from 1/4" to 1-1/4" in diameter and as deep as 12 inches. Thus deep layers of compact soil may be perforated and the soil brought to the surface.

This drilling operation is a rather slow one but it achieves results possible in no other way except by use of the old hand fork. "Old timers" may shudder at the thought of the labor involved in the hand forking of greens.

#### GNATS DAMAGE GREENS IN PHOENIX

Art Snyder, Jay Woodward, and others in the Phoenix area, have reported damage on putting greens resulting from the presence of a small gnat-like insect. The insect may be present in large numbers at some periods of the year. Turf shows damage by appearing dry or discolored.

The exact nature of the insect's activity in injuring bentgrass plants has not been discovered. It is reported that they may be readily controlled by the use of malathion or by a mixture of toxaphene and DDT. Chlordane, however, appears to be relatively ineffective.

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DON'T FORGET -

National Golf Day will be on Saturday, June 11, this year. Play your round of golf and add your dollar to a worthy cause. Regardless of how your round compares with the "Round of The Champion," you win. You may not win a medal, but you'll be a winner because indirectly you support research for better turf. Everyone profits from research.

CENTRAL PLAINS TURFGRASS FOUNDATION FIELD DAY

On June 6, 1960, the 10th annual field day of the Central Plains Turfgrass Foundation will be held at Wichita, Kansas. The meeting starts at 9 a.m.

ILLINOIS TURF FOUNDATION FIELD DAY

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation is progressing rapidly with plans for furthering turfgrass research in Illinois. The Foundation's purpose is to support turfgrass research and educational programs at the University of Illinois. The work will be conducted at the campus in Urbana and at the Drug and Horticultural Experiment Station in Downers Grove.

There are definite plans for a field day on July 27. This meeting will be at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois. Plots showing grass varieties, weed control studies, and the effects of management practices will be visited.

The Illinois Turfgrass Foundation is being developed under the capable leadership of Ben Warren, President; Bertram Rost, Vice-President; Paul Burdett, Treasurer; and Harleigh Kemmerer, Secretary.

OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST

July 14-15.....Lawn and Turf Conference  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, Mo.

July 20 .....Texas Turfgrass Association Field Day  
Texas A. and M. College  
College Station, Texas

September 15-16.....Midwest Turf Field Days  
Purdue University  
Lafayette, Indiana

September 20-21.....Chio Lawn Clinic  
Chio Agricultural Experiment Station  
Wooster, Ohio

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