



DALLAS GOLF COURSES KEEP RECORDS

Some of our readers may be interested in a letter written by Mr. Grover Keeton in which he describes the value of records in the Dallas municipal golf course operations. His letter is reproduced here:

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City of Dallas  
Texas

April 24, 1962

Dear Dr. Ferguson:

I read with interest your article in the USGA Journal, April 1962 issue, on golf course maintenance as result of the recent study you conducted. Reading this article, reminded me of the continued value as a result of participating in this study.

In this connection, you might be interested in glancing at the attached copy of labor distribution the City of Dallas Park Department experienced on its four golf courses during the past fiscal year - October 1, 1960 to October 1, 1961. The results are quite interesting in our particular situation due to having the privilege of comparing labor distribution on the individual courses. You might realize, it causes interesting discussion at golf course meetings. In addition, it causes all of us to be conscious of number of hours required to do a certain job. For example, you will notice it required 780 hours to change cups at the Cedar Crest course, etc.

For your information, the attached form is used by each golf course in submitting its monthly labor distribution report. Briefly, total labor distribution report on the four courses was as follows:

- 35% of time devoted to greens
- 14% of time devoted to service buildings
- 12% fairways
- 10% vacation and illness
- 9% woodland
- 5% tees
- 5% rough
- 3% equipment
- 7% miscellaneous, bunkers, service road, etc.

Very truly yours,

s/ Grover C. Keeton  
Superintendent of Special Activities

#### AFTER EFFECTS OF WINTER

Prolonged cold weather and ice cover on greens was responsible for a great deal of damage throughout the Midwest. Winterkill (or perhaps "spring kill") was prevalent. After such a season, it is rather difficult to think that there was anything good about it. Superintendents may gain some small amount of comfort, however, from the fact that such trials often teach some lessons. This year, the severity of the difficulties appeared to be associated to some extent with a lack of drainage and aeration. Well drained greens apparently suffered less damage. Good drainage naturally implies good aeration, but more than this, there appeared to be some value in breaking the ice cover to permit air to get into the turf and the soil.

The Bull Sheet, published by the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, carried a very fine discussion of these matters in the May 1962 issue. This article also noted that some strains of grass were more susceptible than others to ice sheet damage.

#### NEW BERMUDAGRASS PESTS

A recent article in California Turfgrass Culture describes two pests that have damaged bermudagrass turf in the Southwest. They are the bermudagrass mite, Aceria neocynodonis Keifer, and the frit fly, Oscinella frit (Linn.). The frit fly was described in the USGA Journal, July 1958.

The following paragraphs are reprinted from California Turfgrass Culture:

The bermudagrass mite is in the family Eriophyidae and is related to the bud mites and the rust mites. These mites are microscopic in size and have only two pairs of legs instead of the usual four pairs. The bermudagrass mite lives in the terminal leaf sheaths and its feeding causes stunting, a witches-broom effect (many shoots from the same node), general decline, and eventual death of the stolon. It was first observed and recorded from Phoenix, Arizona, in 1959, and subsequently in Yuma and several locations in Southern California in 1960. ...

The frit fly is a very small, black, fly. The tiny maggots, or larvae, tunnel in the stems near the surface of the soil causing the upper portion of the plant to turn brown and die. Symptoms of damage on golf greens are quite characteristic. Damage appears first on the collars and moves in toward the center of the green. The high or upper sections are usually the first to show injury, and observations indicate that greens with a high organic matter content may be more susceptible.

# **Mid-Continent Turfletter**

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