

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

SOUTHEASTERN OFFICE
Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station
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SOUTHEASTERN TURFLETTER



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THE BUDGET

All of us realize that good turf is not an accident. It takes a well planned program of labor, materials, maintenance, and an extra helping of patience and common sense. This suggests to us a word, budget, which perennially harrasses the greens committee and golf course superintendent. During the 1951 Southeastern Turf Conference, Mr. Crawford Rainwater of the Pensacola Country Club, Pensacola, Florida, and former secretary of the Southern Golf Association, gave a few pointers on planning and budgeting maintenance operations of a golf course. These are presented as suggestions which may be of benefit in your clubs' budgeting and maintenance operations.

First, lay the foundation for management

The greens committee and the superintendent are the cornerstones. From a golfing point of view, the greens committee is the most important committee of a golf club. What are some of the qualifications of a good greens committee?

1. The committee should be composed of not less than three members-- appointed or elected in such a manner that only one new member will be added to the committee each year. It takes time for new committee members to become acquainted with the various details and to become sufficiently informed to make intelligent decisions.
2. The golfing membership of the club, both high and low handicap players, should be represented. Interest should be centered on pleasing all types of members....and don't overlook the ladies, bless 'em!
3. Each committee member should:
 - a. If possible, have previous knowledge and experience in turf culture.
 - b. Have demonstrated a genuine interest and ability in growing better turf.

- c. Be open-minded.
- d. Be willing to devote sufficient time to the study of problems affecting the course.

Now that we have a greens committee, let's turn the table and look at some of the qualifications of a superintendent through the eyes of a golfer or the committee.

1. He should be a golfer so that he can better understand the players' point-of-view.
2. He should have sufficient education to be able to keep records accurately and read up on the latest available information.
3. He must be receptive to new ideas which have been proven by those better qualified than himself.
4. He must be a good organizer and leader of men.
5. He should have initiative and work closely with the greens committee.

Second, the management group analyzes the condition of the course

They then itemize each condition and determine the order of accomplishment. The analysis should always be from the players' point-of-view. To obtain this point-of-view, many clubs use a "suggestion box" or a letter to the membership. Whenever a suggestion has been carried through, a selling job has been performed and the club member who made the suggestion becomes interested in the tasks of the superintendent and greens committee.

Third, lay out a well balanced program

In order to get the most value out of a specified budget, it may be necessary to make an annual estimate of materials and labor. The following method has been used at the Pensacola Country Club, Pensacola, Florida:

1. Determine the size of all areas to:
 - a. Estimate total fertilizer requirements.
 - b. Estimate topdressing requirements.
 - c. Estimate seeding requirements for ryegrass, etc.
 - d. Estimate requirements of fungicides and weed killers.
2. Prepare an outline of work to:
 - a. Insure that every job will be accomplished.
 - b. Evenly distribute the work load.
 - c. Obtain maximum use of labor.
 - d. Estimate labor requirements.

The following is an example of a work outline for one month:

Spend as much time as possible preparing topdressing for future use.

Monday-7. Begin spiking fairways and follow with 500 pounds per acre of 4-12-12.

Monday-21. Apply $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds nitrogen per 1000 square feet on greens.

Monday-28. Apply $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds nitrogen per 1000 square feet on tees.

Treat greens to prevent disease at 7 to 10 day intervals, if necessary.

WEATHER WATCHER MAKES USE OF MAXIMUM LABOR

Many times superintendents look at the local weather and wonder whether or not to send a work crew to the opposite side of the course. The apparent promise of a quick rain often delays operations and may during the year cause the loss of many man hours. Joe Wildman, Superintendent of Birmingham Country Club, Birmingham, Alabama, prevents the loss of such man hours by the use of a barometer. If it looks like rain, Joe checks his barometer before sending out a work crew. He also makes use of the instrument in picking up his crew. Joe states that during rainy weather and busy seasons of the year the barometer will pay for itself in a very few days.

TURF CONFERENCES

Throughout the growing season, several important Turf Conferences are held in various sections of the Nation. Several of these are held in the Southeast. Generally an important part of the over-all turf grass picture is presented at these meetings. The emphasis at each meeting is placed on practicability, usefulness, and application. Each person who attends feels that he has accomplished an objective, being a bit better off in some way than before.

Now is the time to make your plans to attend one or more of the Turf Conferences. We would like to particularly urge greens chairmen or members of the greens committees to attend. Some of these Conferences in which you will be interested are:

26th National Turfgrass Conference and Show, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, St. Louis, Mo., January 18-21, 1955.

Southern Turf Conference, Memphis, Tenn., February 21-22, 1955

Southeastern Turf Conference, Tifton, Georgia, April 5-6, 1955

Florida Turf Conference, Gainesville, Fla., August, 1955.

THE TURFLETTER IS DESIGNED FOR SUBSCRIBERS

The last issue of our Turfletter reminded golf clubs and other interests of turf that the letter is designed to keep them up-to-date in the field of turf management. It is unfortunate, however, that we cannot continue mailing the Turfletter to all of our present mailing list. Within the near future, it will be necessary to send the letter only to golf clubs who have subscribed to the Regional Turf Service and to subscribers of the Research and Education Fund of the USGA. Has your club subscribed?

Southeastern Turfletter

USGA GREEN SECTION

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