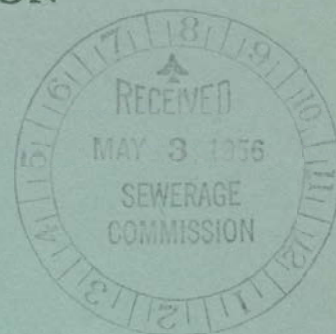


UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION
GREEN SECTION
Southeastern Office
Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station
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SOUTHEASTERN TURFLETTER

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TIPS FROM THE MEETINGS

The Superintendent and Golfer.

How to "keep 'em happy"! It has been our opinion that most golfers are a happy lot. During the 27th Annual Superintendents Conference, Long Beach, California, however, techniques were presented to help keep the best relations and understanding between the golf course superintendent and the golfer. It was pointed out that 76 percent of maintenance costs is labor. Thus, as costs go up the superintendent becomes important as a manager in securing good labor and displacing labor with equipment. Many colleges have a difficult task obtaining sufficient funds for turfgrass research. Be careful, therefore, in trying to conduct tests. Make sure that experiments are not a burden on the budget, do not interfere with the golfer, and ascertain whether or not it will yield information when once established. If the golf course remains in as good playing condition as possible, everyone is happy. Since the 90-shooter apparently pays the bills, make the course comfortable and human. As someone once stated, "A golf course should be fascinating but not frustrating." The superintendent should work closely with all committees which have responsibilities associated with the golf course. Do not overlook the handicapping committee and--play the course. Always keep the membership informed of new materials, equipment, construction, and other changes.

An old saying was quoted which might be worth remembering:

"There appears to be a soil-soul relation, whereas,

1. a person who works with his hands only, is a laborer--
2. a person who works with his hands and head, is a craftsman--but
3. a person who works with his hands, head, and heart is an artist".

Then a very apt quotation from the 19th Hole, "Any golfer 25 miles from home is an expert".

Golf Needs Room to Grow.

According to Rex McMorris, Vice President of National Golf Foundation, the pressure for playing golf greatly exceeds existing facilities, plus, new and planned construction. In 1930 there were 5,856 golf courses in the United States.

open for play. The number fell to 4,809 in 1945 due, in part, to the depression, real estate advancements, and the war. During 1956, however, the number will reach 5,180 courses--still short, however, of the 1930 high.

What is the potential in number of golfers and courses? Most private clubs have a waiting list and the majority of many courses have starting times. One hundred thousand (100,000) college students are learning to play and 120 colleges have their own golf course. Seventy others are on the way.

Two thousand high schools have golf teams and 38 states have State Tournaments.

Industry has 80 courses of its own.

Seven hundred thirty-one cities in the United States with over 5,000 population do not have facilities for golf. In Iowa, however, 84 cities out of 85 under 5,000 population have golf courses.

Junior golf has become of age. There were 230,500 junior golfers in 1953. In 1955 approximately 90,000 juniors entered such tournaments as the United States Golf Association Juniors, Junior Chamber of Commerce Juniors, Western, etc.

Senior Tournaments are lighting another spark.

As emphasized by our secretary, do not forget the women. Oftentimes they won't permit us to forget them. Of the 3,335,600 golfers reported in the United States in 1953, 641,400 were women. We must admit though, that where you find women golfers you find an active and aggressive Club and also you will find an active organization of young golfers.

By 1957 it is estimated that there will be thirty-five million more adults. Yes, the pressure for playing golf exceeds the nations facilities.

National Golf Foundation's Summary of Three Years
Golf Course Construction

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>Totals</u>
New Courses Opened	61	109	225	395
Courses Under Construction	106	198	359	662
Courses in the Planning Stage	127	285	516	928

The increasing number of golfers and course construction means that the demand for qualified superintendents is on the increase. Where are the new men going to be found? Superintendents have a responsibility in meeting this challenge. It appears that personnel may be obtained by training assistant superintendents, making use of agronomy majors with B. S. Degrees, and by special short course schools, such as, that proposed by the USGA during the National Conference.

Watch future issues of the Southeastern Turfletter for a summary of superintendents-salary survey made in parts of North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The survey was a cooperative project between this office and the Regional Superintendent Organizations. Its purpose was to obtain information which can be used by golf clubs and superintendents.

Water--Too Little, Too Often.

Even though irrigation is as old as recorded history, water is more often misused than used correctly. Dr. Hagen, University of California, pointed out that many fall into the water management classification of applying water "Too little, too often". Each golf course with an irrigation system should know:

the application rate of their system expressed in equivalent of rainfall (acre inches per hour);

the infiltration rate or rate at which the soil will take in water (acre inches per hour);

the peak moisture demand periods and the capacity of the system--can it meet the peak period;

the total depth of application (acre inches of water) per irrigation; and

the uniformity of water application.

The 1955 Yearbook of Agriculture, "Water"--containing 751 pages, is good reading for anyone. It gives valuable information on the use of water and drainage. Sixteen pages are devoted to an article by Dr. Hagen on "Watering Lawns and Turf". Copies may be obtained by writing your Congressman or the Supt. of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.

New Techniques and Materials Used in Arizona.

While visiting several golf courses during the Arizona Turfgrass Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson, it was observed that maleic hydrazide was used before overseeding Bermudagrass greens for winter play. The material was used to check the growth of Bermudagrass. During our visit the first large scale trial appeared to be working successfully. Joe Folkner of the University wanted to observe the recovery of Bermudagrass in the spring before making definite statements. Five gallons of 30% maleic hydrazide was applied to 18 greens, 10 days before overseeding and the greens were not watered until seeded. Another golf course used very low rates of a soil sterilant--CMU--for the control of crabgrass in Bermudagrass fairways.

The Southern Turfgrass Association (Ala., Ark., Ky., La., Miss, & Tenn.) held its largest Conference at the Ridgeway Country Club, Memphis, Tennessee. One hundred registered for the Conference. Reports from this Conference indicate that valuable information was given by their array of speakers.

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