

# UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT  
TEXAS A&M COLLEGE  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT  
PLANT INDUSTRY STATION  
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND



## SOUTHERN TURFLETTER

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### CARE OF EQUIPMENT

If you have not cleaned and properly taken care of your equipment used during the long maintenance months, don't delay -- do it now.

#### Fertilizer Distributor

It may be too late on the fertilizer distributor. If fertilizer was left in the distributor you may find the agitator frozen from lack of lubrication or the hopper in need of repair. Check and see if the wheels drag. If you cannot turn them, you may have to use a wrench on the agitator so it will turn.

After each application of fertilizer, make a practice of washing, drying, and applying a thin layer of oil to your fertilizer distributor.

#### Spraying Equipment

The sprayer should be cleaned after each operation. Many mistakes have been made by failing to thoroughly remove the last spraying material. If you borrow a sprayer it is a good practice to take precautionary steps to prevent damage.

A suggested method for cleaning sprayers after using 2,4-D is:

1. Flush system with a detergent water mix. (10 table-  
spoons of liquid detergent per 50 gallons of water).
2. Flush system 2 times with a water household ammonia  
mix. (1 cup of household ammonia per 50 gallons of  
water).

### Aerifiers

If you use an aerifier with replaceable spoons check the spoons often to be sure none is bent. You do not get good penetration with bent spoons. These spoons may be straightened back to a normal position with a pipe with an inside diameter just large enough to fit over the spoon. An 18-inch pipe has been very satisfactory for this operation. It has been observed that approximately one spoon out of four will break when being bent back into position. All broken spoons should be replaced as soon as possible. It is not advisable to use aerifiers with hollow spoons if you have an excessive amount of rocks on your course.

### Mowers

The usual procedure for care of mowing equipment is to replace all missing, broken, or worn parts during the winter months when maintenance on the golf course is stopped. This practice takes advantage of and utilizes hours when employees might otherwise be idle.

When this equipment has been properly overhauled and is ready for use, try it out to see if it functions correctly. If everything is in working order, give it a first-class paint job and lubricate well so that it will be ready to go when you are in need of it.

During the mowing period it is very important that mowers are kept well adjusted at all times. During the hot summer days that we experience in the South you may have to adjust your reel mowers during the heat of the day in order to get the best performance, as metal does expand when it gets hot.

### BERKSHIRES GRASS

This is a bentgrass of fairly fine texture, receiving considerable publicity in the northeastern section of the United States. It is not being recommended for the southern states until more is known about the adaptation of the grass.

### LOUISIANA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

The first annual Louisiana Turfgrass Association Conference was held at Southwestern Louisiana Institute on October 21 and 22. Approximately fifty turf enthusiasts representing a variety of interests were present. The association looks forward to a profitable year under the leadership of President Lou Vickers, superintendent of the Metairie Country Club in New Orleans, and Professor J. M. Peek, of S. L. I. Professor Peek is research director for the association.

## TURFGRASS RESEARCH IN THE SOUTH

During the American Society of Agronomy meetings in Atlanta, November 18 - 23, southern turfgrass agronomists set up an organization for interstate cooperation in research. Ethan C. Holt, of Texas A. & M., was named chairman.

With this type of organization, southern turfgrass problems will be discussed and the abilities of the group used in their solution. This will not hamper each state's independent program but will provide a greater source brainpower in specific research problems. This "work conference" group should be a step forward in promoting turfgrass research in our area.

## "SOIL"

The 1957 Yearbook of Agriculture is entitled, "Soil". It is a source of information on Soil Fertility, Management Practices, Moisture Control, and Special Uses. Sections of interest to golf courses are, for instance, on grasses, ornamental plants, drainage problems, how to control a gully, stabilizing sand dunes, soil insects and diseases, and many other items of interest.

This Yearbook can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., at a cost of \$2.25. It can usually be supplied by your U. S. Congressman or Senator at no charge.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

U.S.G.A. Green Section Educational Program, Drake Hotel,  
Chicago, Ill., Jan. 24, 1958.

Golf Course Superintendents Turfgrass Conference and Show,  
Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.  
Feb. 2 - 7, 1958.

Southern Turfgrass Conference, Chickasaw Country Club,  
Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 24 and 25, 1958.

Southeastern Turfgrass Conference, Coastal Plain Experiment  
Station, Tifton, Ga., April 7 and 8, 1958.

# Southern Turfletter

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