



UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

Southern Turfletter

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SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
ATHENS, GEORGIA
TELEPHONE: LIBERTY 8-2741

SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT
TEXAS A & M COLLEGE
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS
TELEPHONE: VICTOR 6-5210

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

JAMES B. MONCRIEF
SOUTHEASTERN AGRONOMIST

W. WAYNE ALLEN
SOUTHWESTERN AGRONOMIST

SEEDS

Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, states in the foreword to the 1961 Yearbook of Agriculture: "Seeds are ever a positive and creative force. Seeds are the germ of life, a beginning and an end, the fruit of yesterday's harvest and the promise of tomorrow's. Without an ample store of seeds there can be no national treasure, or no future for a Nation." The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations surely envisioned this fact when they designated 1961 to be World Seed Year in an international campaign against hunger.

Secretary Freeman goes on to say that the 1961 Yearbook of Agriculture can be regarded as a contribution of the United States and the Department of Agriculture to World Seed Year, and to the continuing search by the peoples of the world for freedom from hunger.

Within this year's Yearbook of Agriculture lies much of the current thinking on The Life Processes of Seeds, The Production of Seeds, The Processing of Seeds, The Certification of Seeds, The Testing of Seeds, and The Marketing of Seeds. Those of you whose daily life is vitally connected with any of the above subjects will want to obtain a copy of the 1961 Yearbook of Agriculture. One may be purchased for \$2.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

NUTGRASS IN SAND TRAPS

The problem of nutgrass in sand traps is very widespread on golf courses in the southern states. As yet there is no selective chemical control for this pest nor is there a satisfactory nonselective chemical for its control. Today the easiest, effective method to control nutgrass in sand traps is to thoroughly fumigate the traps with either methyl bromide or Vapam. Even these chemicals do not eradicate this weed completely. Wherever a tuber (or nut as it is often called) is left alive in the soil, there exists a number of potential shoots that may emerge. Nutgrass tubers are often times in the soil deeper than the fumigant will penetrate. And so the fumigants are at best only temporary controls. Their use will need to be repeated whenever the nutgrass shoot population warrants it. In many cases a treatment of methyl bromide or Vapam will keep a sand trap clean of weeds for a considerable number of weeks. One must keep in mind that great caution should be taken in the use of methyl bromide for it is deadly to all living things.

OVERSEEDING BERMUDAGRASS GREENS

R. E. Schmidt and Dr. R. E. Blaser, of the Agronomy Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, report findings in an overseeding test conducted at Newport News, Virginia. A preliminary report of such a test will appear in the September issue of the U.S.G.A. Journal. Schmidt and Blaser ran a two years test of several cool season grasses for winter turf on a bermuda putting green. Several ryegrasses, redtop and a number of bentgrasses, blue-grasses, and Pennlawn creeping red fescue were the different grasses tested. Rates and dates of seeding were also variables incorporated within the test. Density, color, texture, and transition in the fall and spring were qualities rated on each of the grasses.

The entire Bulletin of the Southern Turfgrass Association for August was devoted to the subject of overseeding. Articles by Jim Latham and Jim Hamner were featured. After years of doing this job in the same way year after year, it appears that organized research and practical experience have joined hands to provide some information which will make winter greens more satisfactory. The new methods are worthy of your study and consideration.

DSMA has made its mark on New Orleans fairways

Fairways on a number of courses in New Orleans recently have been cleaned very satisfactorily of dallisgrass by application of DSMA. Colonial Country Club had fairways last year that in parts were nearly solid with dallisgrass before DSMA was applied. This year its members are playing on fairways nearly devoid of dallisgrass. The New Orleans Country Club has experienced practically the same results from applications of a different formulation of the same chemical. Here carpetgrass as well as dallisgrass was successfully removed from fairways. DSMA on isolated areas of dallisgrass on fairways at Metairie Country Club also gave good results.

Lou Vickers, golf course superintendent at Timberlane Country Club in New Orleans, found that the use of a rotary hoe was the answer in aerifying the hard soils on his fairways. A rotary hoe worked better than an aerifier in this particular situation because the soil was such that the plugs would stick to the spoons of the aerifier and clog them up. This machine may not be what is needed under different circumstances, but it is the tool that does the job for Lou Vickers.

Reese Coltrane, golf course superintendent at Lakewood Country Club in New Orleans, uses a litter pick-up machine to remove the large amount of clippings he gets from his Tifton 328 fairways. Reese says this operation is very efficient and adds much to the appearance of the fairways and to the prevention of thatch in them.

Georgia-Florida Superintendents' Meeting

The Georgia-Florida Superintendents' Meeting was held July 10 at the Sea Island Golf Course. About 35 people attended and enjoyed very enlightening talks by Dr. Granville Horn and Max Brown of the University of Florida. Max Brown discussed the overseeding work being conducted at the University of Florida turf plots. Some of the best results were observed by the use of bent, fescues, ryegrass, and Poa trivialis. The seeding rates per 1000 square feet were: bluegrass, 10 pounds; bent, 4 pounds; fescue, 25 pounds; and ryegrass, 50 pounds. All of the overseeding was on lawn grasses, mainly St. Augustine and centipede grass. Dr. Horn showed slides on nutritional work that he conducted on St. Augustine grass. He stated that magnesium can be a problem in grasses and that the potash and magnesium deficiencies look very much alike in St. Augustine. Calcium did not affect growth as much as did magnesium.

North Carolina Meeting

Sapphire Valley Golf Course was host to 43 members of the North Carolina Golf Course Superintendents' Association on July 11. Those who played golf were impressed by the size of one green which contains 22,000 square feet of putting surface. The meeting was concerned with timely maintenance problems and with interest in turf research.

GRASS NURSERY

Many grass nurseries are still being built out of the local native soil. In some cases this may be desirable, but it would be advisable to build a portion of the nursery using soil just like that of which the greens are built. This is especially so if one plans to sod a green or even a portion of a green.

CCMING EVENTS

- September 5.....South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and Regional Texas Turfgrass Association Meeting
River Oaks Country Club
Houston, Texas

- September 7-8.....Alabama Turfgrass Conference
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

- September 12-13-14.....Florida Turfgrass Management Conference
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

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Dr. J. R. Watson
Chief Agronomist
Toro Mfg. Corp.
Minneapolis 6, Minn.