

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION
Green Section--Western Office

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Western Turfletter

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No. 2

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REGIONAL TURF SERVICE

As our second issue of the Western Turfletter goes to press, ninety-seven golf courses have been visited on the new USGA program of providing direct service to our member clubs. Seventy-three courses have mailed their application blanks to our New York office or the Southern California Golf Association. The remainder have been somewhat tardy in applying, or have misplaced the application blanks. We trust that the clubs that have not sent in applications will do so as soon as possible. Your Western Office also has been tardy in mailing written reports. For this we apologize, and offer as an excuse the delay in starting the program in 1953, and the intensive travel involved in making up for lost time.

In all fairness to USGA member clubs that have subscribed for the Regional Turf Service, we must limit the mailing of this Western Turfletter to only the active participators. Therefore, the August and September issues will be the last to go to all member clubs in the West. Subsequent mailings and visits can only be given to those clubs who have formally signed up for the service. The organization and benefits involved in our Regional Turf Service Program are as follows:

1. At least three direct conferences with the Regional Director each year, on the following schedule:
 - (a) One half-day visit to the course by the Regional Director, followed by a written report from him. The annual fee covers both the service and travel expenses.
 - (b) Two group conferences in which the Regional Director will meet with the golf course superintendents and green committee chairmen of the clubs in each group. The annual fee covers both the service and travel expenses.
2. Assistance by correspondence and telephone.
3. Two subscriptions to a periodic Turfletter from the Regional Director to the subscribing clubs, approximately six times a year.
4. One subscription to the USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT, published seven times a year.
5. A voice in the direction of broad-gauge turf research whose results would benefit golf courses.

The continued success of Regional Turf Service depends on enlarged research activities. Participating clubs realize that approximately twenty percent of the total fee for this service will be devoted to local research to provide better turf for better golf.

The annual subscription fee for the Regional Turf Service is as follows:

1. Less than 18 holes\$ 75.00
2. 18 to 27 holes\$ 100.00
3. More than 27 holes\$ 125.00
4. Public authority maintaining more than two courses:
 \$ 125 for two courses and \$ 25 for each additional course.

Application blanks can be obtained from this office, USGA Golf House, or for those clubs participating in the UCLA Experimental Program in Turf Culture from the Southern California Golf Association. For further information concerning the Regional Turf Service you are referred to the February, 1953 issue of the USGA JOURNAL AND TURF MANAGEMENT.

TURF MAINTENANCE TIPS FROM USGA MEMBER CLUBS

In visiting our member clubs we often run across ingenious inventions devised by our golf course superintendents in order to do a better job for their respective courses. We believe that many of these worthwhile "Tips from the Trade" can be utilized to good advantage by all courses in the West.

Eliminates Scalping from Overloaded Baskets and Prevents Clippings from Clogging Motors -- Salt Lake City

Len Williams, Superintendent, Fort Douglas G. C., found the standard size grass catchers often became overloaded and thus caused scalping when the clippings were wet and heavy. As with most courses, Len also found that educating his inexperienced help to empty the baskets when only half full was a thankless job. Therefore he constructed half-size catchers to eliminate the problem of overloading. He carried this one step further by boring four off-set rows of 1/4-inch holes on 1 1/2-inch centers at the top of the metal catchers. This simple procedure prevents wind movement created by the reel from blowing clippings back to clog the motor.

Grain and Thatch Prevention -- Spokane

Louie Schmidt, Superintendent, Indian Canyon G.C., has the answer to "grain-free" greens. He built and mounted Del Monte type rakes on his Toro Pony mowers. The rakes are mounted directly in front of the reel but behind the scalping roller. Louie feels that brushes used by many courses to keep grain and thatch in check have merit, but objects to their being mounted in front of the scalping roller. It is Louie's contention that the stolons that are brushed up are partially rolled down before cutting occurs, thus nullifying the results.

Economical Method of Mowing Green Collars -- Kennewick, Washington

Forrest Bishop, Superintendent, Tri-City C.C., has devised a simple yet ingenious device that enables him to mow green collars at an intermediate height-of-cut with his green mowers. Forrest extended the scalping roller on each side of the green mower to hold 3 1/2-inch pulleys which act as snap on wheels to rapidly convert the green mower to a collar mower. This saves back tracking to do the job, and of course saves the Tri-City C.C. a lot of money on the year's maintenance budget.

TURF IN THE FIELD

Lime Controls Pearlwort -- Northern California & Washington

While at Pasatiempo G.C. in April, we ran across a transplanted Mid-Westerner-superintendent Jim Babino-who was brought up to believe that lime brings about tremendous turf improvement on acid soils. Of interest to our Seattle and Portland friends is the fact that Jim attributes lime and extra nitrogen feeding to solving his pearlwort problem. Certainly lime, and preferably dolomite lime where magnesium is deficient, is worth a try where soils are acid along portions of the Northern California coastline and in Western Oregon and Washington.

Mr. Charles Vuest, Owner, Skagit G.C., Mt. Vernon, Washington, also reports that dolomite lime at 35 pounds per 1,000 square feet each year for five years has practically eliminated his pearlwort problem.

Chlordane Controls Moles While Killing Worms -- Portland

Mr. George E. Sullivan, Green Committee Chairman, Waverley G.C., reports that the mole population has been reduced by approximately ninety percent as a result of following Green Section recommendations to apply Chlordane at the rate of 10 pounds of the technical ingredient per acre. Waverley intends to treat the rough areas this year to pick up the 10 percent that are still active.

Chlordane, by controlling worms and insect larvae, removes the moles food supply and thus they hunt for greener pastures. Greener pastures in the case of Waverley has been the beautiful estates surrounding the club property. Homeowners are still trying to figure out where all the moles came from this year.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Turf research on the local Western scale is growing into a major field of investigation. Notable accomplishments for 1953 are as follows:

1. University of California at Los Angeles is now supporting investigations with tax funds to the extent of \$7,000 annually. Financial help continues unabated from the Southern California Golf Association, the Southern California Golf Course Superintendents Association, Other Turf Interests, and the USGA Green Section.
2. Turf plots at the Davis campus have been doubled in size, and the USGA Green Section is financially supporting a Merion bluegrass seed production study in addition to the vital work on water requirements being carried on by Dr. Bob Hagan.
3. Colorado A & M is cooperating with the Rocky Mountain Turf Foundation, The Denver City Park Department, and the USGA Green Section in establishing a large series of grass evaluation plots at the old city race track.
4. The Pacific Northwest Turf Association has granted \$500 to the Western Washington Experiment Station at Puyallup to study Pearlwort control, and \$450 to WSC to study disease control and improved grass selections.

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This Is Your

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