

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION GREEN SECTION

WESTERN OFFICE



1709 West Eighth Street

Los Angeles 17, California

Phone Dunkirk 2-6361

WM. H. BENGLEYFIELD
Western Director



• Western Turfletter •

Vol. 3 No. 4

November 1955

NOTES FROM THE 1955 WESTERN TURF CONFERENCES

Interest in Turf Conferences remains high here in the West. Every State excepting Nevada and Idaho now holds a yearly conference that is not only well attended, but ever increasing interest is being shown. Although each section has its own particular problems, a brief report on research work and an exchange of information is bound to benefit all.

Latest in Fairy Ring Control - Washington

Tests have been underway since 1953. Phenyl mercuric acetate (PMA) showed promising results in 1954-55 tests. Monthly applications were made over a twelve month period. Best results came from 1.5 oz. (active material) PMA per 1000 sq. ft. A wetting agent (Triton X-100) was found advantageous. In 15 test plots so treated, 39 mushrooms were counted between January 1, 1955 to September 16, 1955. Check plots produced 1288 mushrooms over this period. Most of the mushrooms that developed in the PMA treated plots occurred where infrequent watering was used during the summer.

Dr. Charles J. Gould, Pathologist, Puyallup Experiment Station, reports that this work will continue in 1956. A new material (Salicylanilide) shows promise in laboratory work and may be field tested next year. Methyl Bromide tests are also in progress. An unusual variety of Dollarspot (*Rhizoctonia*) has been active this year according to Dr. Gould. Pink patch infestations have also increased in the northwest.

Salt Grass Responds to Fertility - Utah

Utah Copper Club's salt grass (*Puccinellia distous*) fairways show continued improvement under increased nitrogen feeding. Mr. Jay Richardson and Matt Broderick, Club Officials, established demonstration plots for this year's Utah Turf Conference. The plots show that this sprawling, very salt tolerant perennial grass, can be made to form a dense, tight sod and excellent fairway turf.

Dr. Arivil Stark, Wasatch Chemical Company, assisted in setting up these plots. He pointed out that bermuda, rye and meadow fescue may also be classified as salt tolerant grasses. At Meadowbrook Club, Salt Lake City, Mick Riley, Supt.-Pro. is developing good fairways using meadow and alta fescue in soils that are over 9.5 pH and extremely high in soluble salts. Two species of trees that grow under these conditions are White Ash and Silver Poplar.

Turf Irrigation Studies - Colorado

Professor George Beach, Colorado A. & Am. reports that amounts and intervals of irrigation in studies at Fort Collins this summer indicated that under their conditions, 1.1 inch of water, per week, was optimum. Turf was mowed at 1½ inches. Two day intervals gave the best yields in these tests. Root depth was not included in this year's studies.

Snowmold in October - Washington

How many times have you heard Charlie Wilson say "disease producing organisms are always present in soils and whenever the environment is right - watch out." It happened in the Seattle area and the October environment was right! The attack was diagnosed as pink snowmold (a variety of *Fusarium nivale*) on three greens and a nursery. Two applications of PMA gave generally good control.

Other snowmold news came from Dr. Jim Watson's test plots of 1955 at Toro in Minneapolis. Mr. Jack Kolb reported, at the Pullman Conference, that 3 oz. of PMA per 1000 sq. ft. gave excellent control. The material was first sprayed on a carrier (milorganite) and application was made in November. A second application may be of value in mid-winter if the season has been open.

Three Fungicides Tested for Dollarspot - California

Comparative tests were made by Professor P. A. Miller, U.C.L.A., using Krominate, Kormad and Calo-Clor. The test period ran from June 29th to September 6th, at the U.C.L.A. Turf plots. All three fungicides were equally effective in these tests. Plots sprayed on July 29th, with Krominate, "were noted as showing very noticeable discoloration and those sprayed with Calo-Clor slight discoloration."

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL WESTERN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

The dates are February 5th thru 10th, 1956, at Long Beach, California, for the 27th National Turfgrass Conference and Show. Whether you are a member of the National Golf Course Superintendents Association (GCSA) or not, you are urged to attend these educational, informative and important Turfgrass Meetings, held this year in the West.

Concerning Registration: -- Agar M. Brown, the GCSA's Executive Secretary, sends the following news: Registration fee for the entire Conference is \$10.00 for non-members as well as regular members. (Regular members receive other compensations; banquets, etc. for their fee). The exhibits are open to all at no charge although exhibit registration is requested.

Green Chairmen and Club Officials should be encouraged to attend these meetings that are being held in the West for the first time in 5 years. Certainly all Western Clubs should make it possible for their Superintendent to be present. Time and money are never ill-spent when knowledge is gained.

THE BETTER BENTS ARE MOVING WEST

The struggle to hold *Poa annua* and Seaside bent in most sections of the West, last summer, caused many a gray hair. We hope that the tough growing weather of 1955 will hasten the trend to better bentgrasses in the West. If it does, 1955 may be a blessing in disguise. At this very moment the writer knows of only one putting green, west of Salt Lake City, that has an improved selection of bent on it.

Harold Stelling, Superintendent of Santa Ana C.C., California, tells us that 3 years ago No. 1 Green was stolonized to Arlington and Congressional. It has consistently produced better putting surfaces than the 17 other Seaside and Poa annua greens on his course.

One thousand miles from Santa Ana, at the Utah Copper Course in Magna, Utah, one will find the next greens stolonized in improved bents (Arlington-Congressional). These are 5 years old and continue to out-perform all Seaside greens.

But the trend has already started and each year more and more Western Superintendents are trying Arlington, Congressional, Cohansey, Toronto and Pennlu on their greens and in their nurseries. Ken Putnam, Seattle Country Club, rebuilt and stolonized a green this fall to Congressional. Karston Hansen, The Country Club, Salt Lake City, has a new Arlington-Congressional green that went in this year. The Highland Golf Club in Billings, Montana, reports that their Toronto nursery was excellent and conversion of greens to Toronto starts next year. Don Caulkins, Fox Hills Men's Golf Club, Los Angeles, has Pennlu that looks good. Ted DeTata, Green Hills C. C., Millbrae, Calif. has Toronto under test and is doing well. J. D. Kilpatrick, Thunderbird C. C., Palm Springs, Calif. gave Cohansey no special attention at all this year and it has produced well in the nursery. W. H. White, Green Valley C. C., Suisun, Calif. reports Cohansey going well. Jim Haines, Denver C. C., Denver, Colorado, has one of the original "Pie-shaped" greens established in the late 1930's. Toronto and Cohansey look the best. Bill Beresford, Los Angeles C. C., Los Angeles, made his own selection (Los Angeles Bent) and it looks good. Chuck Friday, Hillcrest C. C., Los Angeles, reports that Toronto is his favorite over many others tested ---- and so it goes. Apologies to those fellows we have not mentioned, but our congratulations too --- for giving these bents an opportunity to perform. We would appreciate hearing your comments and would like to pass them on to all.

If you haven't tried one or two of these grasses in your nursery, why not plan now for next year? Let's find out whether they are any better than Seaside --- under your conditions.

"The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year."

John Foster Dulles



Mr. O. J. Noer
Milwaukee Sewerage Commission
Jones Island
Milwaukee, Wis.