

UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION
GREEN SECTION
WESTERN OFFICE



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Western Director



• **Western Turfletter** •

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* EMERGENCY CONTACT FOR SUMMER ASSISTANCE *

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* Should an emergency develop this summer and you are unable to *
 * reach me at the above phone number, call the Southern California *
 * Golf Association, 1709 W. 8th St., Los Angeles, California. The *
 * Phone Number is DUnkirk 2-6361. Mr. Harold Dawson, Executive *
 * Secretary will have a complete itinerary of my travels and will *
 * be happy to pass this information along. *
 * * *

T W O T I P S For S U M M E R T U R F

When you sit down and plan this summer's maintenance program, don't overlook these two important items:

If disease was a factor in anyway last year, consider a fungicide application to greens this June. Yes, in June! Remember that many disease organisms have overwintered on your greens and, during periods of warm, moist weather, have probably fruited and set new spores many times over. Their build up continues on greens and if conditions are right, they may explode in July and August with resultant turf loss.

By applying a fungicide in June, you will materially reduce this spore population and may thereby avoid later trouble. This is no guarantee of a disease free summer, but it is a good precautionary step. ---- In areas where disease is highly possible, a continual preventative spray program is urged.

Consider also the advantages of a light but frequent feeding program for greens this summer. Several superintendents tried it last year and all report they were pleased with the results. For example, Chris Kortner, Santa Maria Country Club and Carl Bloomfield, Pasadena Municipal courses both feel that "light summer feeding, applied with common sense, produced our best greens last year". ----- If you are not convinced, try it this year on the practice or nursery green.

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED GIBBERELIC ACID?

The magazine articles, advertisements and general drum beating has started for 'Gibberellic Acid'. The time is here to look at some of the known facts concerning this material.

What Is It?

A fungus, Gibberella, has long caused the Japanese rice industry great concern. The acid produced by this fungus is known to cause reduced rice yields, lodging (laying over) and excess plant growth. Research workers have now isolated the chemical compound but are unable to produce it artificially.

What Does It Do?

The response of different plants vary greatly to an application of Gibberellic Acid. Kohl and Kofranek at UCLA report this response varies from great stem elongation or rapid flowering to no detectable reaction. Their work was done on Commercial flower crops.

The material is not limited in action to only a few botanical families however. When certain species do react to treatment, their growth will increase from 2 to 5 times that of normal. Top growth seems to be stimulated more than root growth and rapid elongation of stems or internodes is usually the first noticeable effect.

USDA Researchers Marth, Audia and Mitchell report that this material may increase the growth rate and yield of a wide variety of economic crops. In some instances the setting of seed on Gibberellic Acid treated plants was more uniform and much faster than on untreated plants. The seed produced by G. A. treated plants produced normal plants.

According to research men, Gibberellic Acid may have a place in eliminating mid-summer dormancy of some grasses. Sartoretto reports in the Golf Course Reporter that G. A. treated Congressional bent stolons "remained green and started to grow perceptibly within a few days" during tests this winter. However, G. A. work with turf-grasses has been limited to date.

Many claims are and will be made for this new growth regulation during 1957. But all responsible research men agree that Gibberellic Acid is still in the experimental stage and much study remains before it will have adaptations in the turf-grass field.

N O T E S T H A T A R E N E W S W O R T H Y

OLD DISEASE - NEW NAME:

"Snow Mold" is on the way out ----- i.e. the term "Snow Mold", not the disease. Dr. C. J. Gould, Pathologist at the Puyallup, Washington Experiment Station reports that there are 3 organisms causing diseases commonly called "Snow Mold". They are Fusarium, Typhula and an unidentified basidiomycetes. In an effort to clarify the situation, Dr. Gould and other nationally known turf pathologists are proposing the term "Fusarium Patch" for the Fusarium type snow mold.

ONE ELEPHANT WE'D LIKE TO FORGET:

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has recently placed a \$500.00 research grant at UCLA for control studies on Kikuyu grass. This is one of the most serious problems facing superintendents in California. Their descriptive term for Kikuyu grass ---- "Elephant Grass".

TO HECK WITH POA:

Warren Lafkin has long been a friend and associate of northeastern Golf Course Superintendents. He recently wrote the following:

"There is sometimes a heated difference of opinion between those who believe Poa annua is retarded by withholding nitrogen in the Spring as against those who advocate early nitrogen feeding to get the bent off to a fast start, making it an aggressive competitor of Poa annua. Most of you know my position on this controversial question; feed the bent and to heck with the Poa. I just can't visualize how Poa can ever gain dominance in a good vegetative strain of bentgrass which is adequately fed."

We agree.

YOU, SOILS AND SCHOOL:

Want to know more about soils? You'll have an opportunity next February as the University of California, Davis, California is planning a short course on Soils for Turf Men. Dr. John Madison, Department of Landscape Management is at work on a program which promises to be an outstanding event.

SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND:

"Soil Fertility and Fertilizers" by Tisdale and Nelson is a new book recently published by MacMillan Co., 60 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y. It is an attempt to present some of the fundamental concepts about soil fertility and fertilizers. It opens with a brief historical introduction and then takes up the elements required in plant nutrition. Interesting reading for progressive superintendents. Price \$7.75.

"Turf Management" by H. Burton Musser is of course one book that should be on every superintendent's shelf. This USGA publication is 354 pages in length and the only reference book on golfing turf. Available from any USGA office, price \$7.00.

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"When a resolute young man steps up to that great bulley, the world, and takes him boldly by the beard, he is often surprised to find that the beard comes off in his hand, that it was only tied on to scare away timid adventurers".

Oliver Wendell Holmes

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