
Grau's Answers to Turfgrass Question

If you've got a question you want Dr. Fred V. Grau to answer, please address it to Grau Q&A, Golfdom, 407 S. Dearborn, Chicago 5, Ill.



EACH time we read a turfgrass survey we learn that the size and scope of the turfgrass industry either has become larger or someone has discovered that it really is larger than anyone had known up until that time. For anyone who is interested in figures available to date, drop a line to Dr. F. V. Juska, A.R.S., Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. We hope that the many political subdivisions in the country will take the time to study the need of this, probably the largest single agricultural enterprise. It adds up to a tremendous potential in fertilizer, machinery, chemicals, and manpower.

The first statewide turfgrass association was organized in Oklahoma. This occurred in 1946, if our memory serves correctly. Since then there have been other associations, state and regional and local, as well as turfgrass foundations such as Midwest. Actually, Midwest was organized in 1945 but didn't become active until 1946. The Pennsylvania turfgrass council is a good example of all turfgrass interests working together for the betterment of all

in close cooperation with the state university. One of the most recent to organize, statewide, is the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. Recently we attended a meeting in Euclid Park, O., where over 60 memberships were written in the new Western Reserve Turfgrass Association. We have been close to the formation of the Delaware Valley Association which has been used as a model or guide (we do not like the word model because some folks define it as 'a small imitation of the real thing' and that does not apply in this case) for the development of other associations, local or regional in scope.

We wish we could mention every group but it is impossible. We do wish to say that we commend the efforts of those who have worked for the formation of these important groups.

It has been our observation that memberships in the turfgrass organizations are preponderantly school and municipal officials and industrial representatives. This is good for the reason that these people rarely have had anything turf-wise beamed



Supts. and green chairmen got together recently in Augusta, Ga. for the first 1957 meeting of the Georgia Turf Assn. Harold Land of Augusta CC was host supt. and speakers included, Ed Dudley, Augusta National pro, Jim Latham of the USGA green section and Tom Mascaro, pres. of West Point Products Corp.

DOUG FORD

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in their direction. It is good for the entire turf industry when suppliers of maintenance needs come to "school" to study the recommendations that are being made and explained at the association meetings. The men who are seen most often by the grower of grass are those who visit him frequently to supply him with his needs. The most successful salesman today is the one who visits often and brings with him accurate up-to-date information on successful grass growing. Selling is done best through education and information.

By this time you might well ask, "Where does the golf course supt. fit into this picture?" The truth of the matter is that this whole development never would have gotten off the ground if the supt. had not been right in there giving freely of his experience in turf and in organizational matters.

The monthly meetings of the golf course supts. associations have been training of the best type for the experience of helping others to obtain the benefits of group action. So far as we know, every new association has had one or more supts. back of it, acting in advisory capacity, helping to draft by-laws, get speakers, etc. In no case have the supts. sought publicity for what they have done for the turfgrass associations, yet it has done much to bring dignity and honor to them. The reason is that they are using their knowledge of turf and people to help others obtain the benefits. Invariably, when a sticky question comes up in a meeting it is the supt. to whom they turn for the answer even though it may concern a ball diamond or a tennis court.

The other segment of the "turfgrass team" that is active in developing associations is the office of the county agent. This department of GOLFDOM has spoken of the place of the county agent in turf in a previous issue (May, 1957, p. 62). There is no more logical center for turfgrass information than the agent's office. He is the representative of the State University and the Experiment Station and is charged with the responsibility of giving information to those who request it.

It goes without saying that the real source of research information is the state university or the agricultural experiment station. Without these folks all the efforts, at the "association" level largely would be wasted. Administrative officials are recognizing the growing movement and welcome active participation on the part of their scientific teaching and extension staffs.