

Southern California Turf Culture

A Quarterly Publication devoted to the activities of the Experimental Program in Turf Culture of
the College of Agriculture, University of California, Los Angeles 24, California.

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THE GREEN SECTION EXPANDS

By
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The West Coast will get the first Regional Green Section Office about June first. This decision was made at the spring meeting of the USGA Executive Committee at the National Golf Links of America, Southampton, Long Island, on April 25, 1952. Charles G. Wilson, of the Green Section Staff, will head the affairs of the office, which will be at or near Davis, California. Wilson is known to many West Coast folks in turf because of his appearance at turf conferences, and more recently, during his survey to determine if a Regional Office on the West Coast is feasible and practicable.

For years the Green Section has been doing yeoman service in developing the National Coordinated Turf Program and in coordinating widely separated activities in turf management. With the main Green Section office located at Beltsville, Md., in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture at the Plant Industry Station, the problems of servicing USGA member clubs and cooperating institutions becomes increasingly difficult as the work load increases. In August 1945 when the Executive Committee of the USGA asked me to develop the Green Section program, there were less than 10 workers in turf at 4 or 5 experiment stations in the United States. The Green Section's Turf Research Review for 1951 lists nearly 100 workers at more than a score of stations.

The development of a Regional Green Section Office on the West Coast gives recognition to the splendid development in turf research during the past few years. It will serve to relieve the Beltsville office of considerable work and will help to develop the potentialities in the western states. The success of the West Coast office largely will determine the development of several other regional offices, covering the major turf centers of the country.

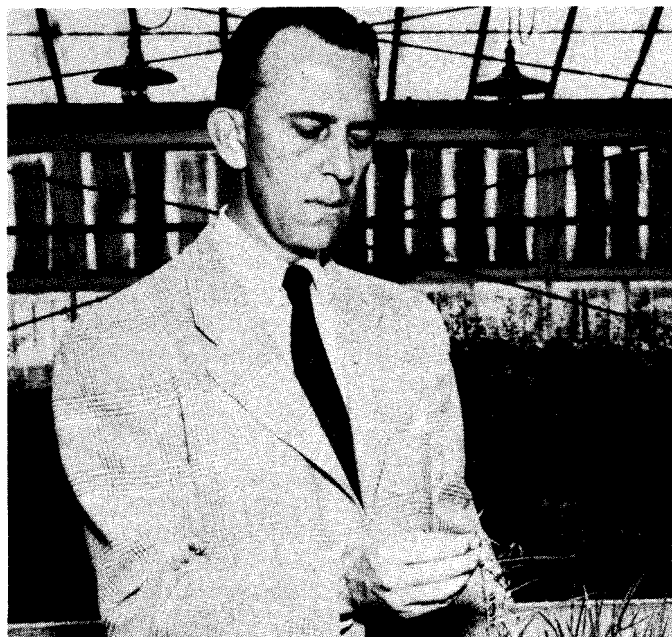
USGA member clubs and other turf interests have indicated their willingness to support the Green Section Office financially. The declaration is appreciated because it served to establish the office.

The Regional Director will help in every way possible to assist local, state and regional

groups to organize and to conduct their affairs in a sound, co-ordinated fashion. The Green Section has only Service to offer. Close contact with research will be maintained. Research is essential as the basis of sound recommendations. The Green Section will sponsor and encourage needed research and, whenever possible, will help to finance it. The staff members will attend turf conferences and field days to assist with educational and extension service features. An advisory committee will be formed to help the Regional Director to develop sound policies and procedures which harmonize with local developments.

Some of the greatest developments in turf seed production in the world are in the three western states. Many seed growers are producing seed of improved turf grasses which are products of Green Section work. The Green Section hopes to assist these growers to do the best job possible in order to develop adequate seed supplies of superior turf grasses at sensible prices.

There is little need to elaborate further on what the Regional Green Section Office is going to do. In a nutshell it will help everyone have Better Turf. It is the USGA's way of saying, "We want to do an even better job of servicing our member clubs and of helping other folks with their turf problems which are similar to ours,"



CHARLES G. WILSON
USGA Green Section

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON TURF CULTURE

The Southern California Conference on Turf Culture will be held at the Riviera Country Club in West Los Angeles on Monday and Tuesday, October 6 and 7.

Details of the two-day program will be announced later. It is planned to bring Dr. William Daniel of Purdue University, Mr. Charles Wilson of the U. S. Golf Association Green Section, and Mr. O. J. Noer of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission as speakers.

For further information, write to the Department of Conferences and Special Activities, University Extension, University of California, Los Angeles 24.

WEED CONTROL COURSE TO BE REPEATED

The popular and well attended evening course offered by University Extension on the Los Angeles Campus, Weed Control 823 AB, will be made available again during the coming summer. This will be a practical course for greenkeeping superintendents, grounds maintenance personnel, highway maintenance personnel, horticulturists, landscaping contractors, nurserymen, ranchers, vegetable growers, pest control operators, farm equipment dealers.

WEED CONTROL PROBLEMS TO BE STUDIED INCLUDE: identification, ecology, and physiology of weeds; modern agricultural chemicals and herbicides used in weed control; dosages, methods of application, spray rigs; specific methods of weed control in truck and field crops, turf, orchard, range land, and industrial areas; use of plant growth substances and other horticultural purposes.

The course will be taught by Jesse D. Skoss, M.S., Consulting Agronomist.

Section 1: U.C.L.A.: Monday 7-10, beginning June 23, meeting in room 29 physics Building.

10 Meetings; Fee: \$18.00

Organizational Meeting - June 23 at 7:00 P.M. Room 29, Physics Bldg., U.C.L.A.

The April 1952 issue of "Golfdom" published a picture of the golf class of Mr. Cecil B. Hollingsworth in the Athletic Department of the University of California. The photograph was taken on the experimental turf plots on the Los Angeles Campus, which are regularly utilized by Mr. Hollingsworth and his students. The accompanying article explained that these plots provided an excellent opportunity for the instructor to point out the differences in putting qualities of the many different kinds of grasses maintained on these plots.

THE PROBLEM OF BALL MARKS

Ball marks on greens are an ever present problem on golf putting greens and make an unfair hazard to the golfer, Mr. C. G. Yarn, proprietor of the Woodside Golf Course, R. F. D. 4, Des Moines, Iowa, displayed at the recent meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents of America in Columbus, a newly invented tool which would be inexpensive to make and can be carried in the pocket. With this device, which looks much like a very small flattened metal shoe horn, the mark can be lifted with a single, quick movement. It is to be hoped that clubs will see fit to provide this device to their members and encourage them to use it. This device should be considered as one more step in the direction of better turf.

TURF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

The original series of plots on Veteran Avenue cut at lawn or fairway height (three-fourths inch) and maintained under several levels of fertility has been terminated for new studies, since we believe that the essential information has been obtained. The most significant results will be useful to all who are interested in turf culture and will be presented here, since these plots will be devoted to other studies in the future.

Some of the ratings given here are based on ratings by a committee and others are based on observations by Mr. John Gallagher and Dr. V. T. Stoutemyer.

1. **Arlington Creeping Bent.** A vegetatively planted plot of this grass has been maintained under fairway height of cut since the beginning. This bent is aggressive and forms a tight dense turf, which has shown a somewhat undesirable swirl and tendency to mat under our conditions. Winter color has been good. Bermudagrass, crabgrass, chickweed and oxalis have invaded this turf measurably. There was some dollar spot during the third summer season, but no other serious disease attacks were noted. This strain was more resistant to injury by potassium thiocyanate weed sprays than Seaside bent. The value of plugging Arlington bent into fairway turf seems very doubtful here, although it is doubtless still one of our best grasses for putting or bowling greens.

2. **Seaside Bent.** This grass has provided a quite acceptable turf on the whole. Disease attacks have been severe occasionally and matting has been an ever present problem.

3. **Mixture of Highland and Astoria Bents with vegetative planting of Arlington Bents.** We failed to obtain a good stand of the Arlington bent and the turf was predominately Highland bent. This turf was damaged considerably by sprays of potassium thiocyanate.

4. **Astoria, Highland and Seaside Bents.** After the second year, the Seaside bent predominated in this plot. Weed invasion was more serious than in plots 1 and 3.

5. **Astoria Bent.** This plot never produced a really satisfactory turf and we believe that the Highland bent is much the best type of Colonial bent for this region.

6. **Highland Bent.** This plot was always superior to Astoria bent and at times was also superior to the plot of Seaside bent. However, there was always some weed problem. This bent was much less injured by sprays with potassium thiocyanate than were other strains.

7. **Kentucky Bluegrass.** Never really satisfactory. After the second year, this turf was heavily invaded by Seaside bent from plots of this grass at sane distance. Weed invasion was usually serious. Sprays of potassium thiocyanate discolored this grass slightly. In the spring, attacks of leaf spot were serious.

8. **Merion Bluegrass** This was an excellent turf with moderate nitrogen feeding, but mediocre under both starvation and overfeeding with nitrogen. Very resistant to turf diseases, but not completely free. Some *Poa trivialis* has been associated at times with this grass, which tends to increase with liberal use of nitrogen. This turf was highly resistant to invasion by bermudagrass, creeping bent, and many kinds of weeds under moderate nitrogen feeding.

Turf was slightly discolored by sprays of potassium thiocyanate. There is no question of the outstanding merit of this introduction of the U. S. Golf Association Green Section. We are also happy to be able to report that it performs very well in Southern California. We believe that this grass or possibly something else of a similar nature will eventually displace ordinary Kentucky bluegrass.

Merion bluegrass is not in any sense a miracle grass which completely solves all turf troubles, but is a valuable new aid in turf culture which will be useful in many situations in California.

9. **Chewing's Fescue.** This well known grass has formed a fairly good winter turf but has always thinned out during the summer with progressive deterioration of the turf from year to year. In view of the rarity of good spontaneously occurring stands of this grass in most parts of Southern California, we doubt if this grass is worthy of use in standard lawn mixtures here. The newer Rainier and Illahee strains are marked improvements but still deteriorated during the summer. It is difficult to say which of these two are best. Perhaps the Illahee was better in the earlier stages of testing and Rainier was the better at the time these plots were discontinued.

10. **Raritan Velvet Bent.** This grass was established from seed and has grown fairly well here, but has been slow to establish and slow to heal injuries. It has little resistance to invasion by weeds, bermudagrass and dichondra when maintained at a fairway height of cut. Climatically the grass is well adapted to Southern California along the coast.

11. **Meadow Fescue.** An attractive turf which seems preferable to the ryegrasses where a "nurse" grass is desired in the mixture. When grown alone, it is open in texture and readily invaded by weeds. A leaf disease appeared early in each summer and the turf deteriorated steadily from year to year. However, experience elsewhere seems to indicate that it is a permanent turf grass.

12. **Alta Fescue.** This has always formed a highly weed resistant turf in which even crabgrass and bermudagrass have shown little tendency to appear. The winter color is excellent if the nitrogen level is sufficient; The coarse leaf texture is the chief objection, Potassium thiocyanate sprays discolored it slightly. It will stand close mowing at heights under one inch.

(Continued on next page)

The Kentucky 31 and Kentucky 25 fescues seem to be closely similar to Alta Fescue but the Kentucky 31 seems to become finer with age.

By far the most promising grass of this type in our collection is a University of California production, Goar's Selection of Tall Fescue, produced by Mr. L. G. Goar, formerly in charge of the Meloland Branch Experiment Station in the Imperial Valley. This grass has acquired a finer texture than other strains. It grows luxuriantly in the coastal climate of West Los Angeles, but is a selection which will grow at high temperatures which cause ordinary Alta Fescue to cease growth. Lawn tests will be conducted in the hot areas of the state during the coming season. Present certified seed production is intended for pasture use in the desert and interior valley areas of California. We believe that this grass should fit into many places in the California turf picture, and we would like to see it tested nationally. Although a little slow to start, this grass has formed a virtually weed free turf with relatively infrequent watering and light use of fertilizers.

RECENT GIFTS

Northrup, King & Company
Los Angeles
5 lbs. Penn State Red Fescue Seed

E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company
Wilmington, Delaware
50 'lbs. Uramite
2 lbs. CMJ Weed Killer

Milorganite Division
Milwaukee Sewerage Commission
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
200 lbs. milorganite

C. M. Volkman & Company
San Francisco
3 lbs. Alta Fescue Seed

Germain's, Inc.
Los Angeles
98 lbs. grass Seed

Neil MacLean & Company
Los Angeles
2 cases Methyl Bromide

O. M. Scott & Sons Company
Palo Alto, California
10 lbs. Grass Seed

West Point Lawn Products
West Point, Pennsylvania
2 Sod Cutters

Pacific Toro Company
Los Angeles
Servicing of Equipment

Hardie Manufacturing Company
Los Angeles
Servicing of Equipment

Liqui-Nox Company
Orange, California
5 gals. Liqui Nox

GORDON WYCKOFF JOINS UCLA STAFF

Since the departure of Mr. John Gallagher, the work on turf culture at UCLA has been continued by Mr. Gordon Wyckoff.

Mr. Wyckoff is a native of South Dakota, who came to California 30 years ago. He attended primary and secondary schools in Long Beach, and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1939 with an A.B. degree in genetics. He was employed by the Genetics Department of the University there for a short time after graduation, and came to the Los Angeles campus in the fall of 1939 to assist in the newly established program in floriculture and ornamental horticulture working with Dr. G. A. L. Mehlquist in a program of plant breeding.

Mr. Wyckoff entered the Army in 1942 and attended the chemical warfare school at Edgewood Arsenal. He spent two years at Camp Detrick as plant propagator for the military forces and participated in the early work on 2, 4-D.

After the war Mr. Wyckoff spent a short time again with the Genetics Department at Berkeley, and a year with Germain's, Inc. He then spent over three years with the Division of Agricultural Economics, working on citrus marketing and packing house problems in Ventura County.

He returned to the Los Angeles campus in January, 1952 as Senior Laboratory Technician with the Division of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, and is currently in charge of the experimental turf plots at 300 Veteran Avenue.



GORDON WYCKOFF

The unique Southern California organization, The Athletic and Recreational Turf Association met Wednesday, March 26th on the UCLA campus. In addition to a tour of the turf plots, a talk was presented by Mr. Ray Nagle, backfield coach at UCLA on the requirements of turf for football fields. Mr. Draper of the County Agricultural Commissioner's office discussed the work of his organization on various phases of regulatory work. New turf grasses were described by Dr. V. T. Stoutemyer.