

# Greenkeepers Club of New England

# NEWSLETTER

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*"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it."*

—Margaret Fuller.

There seems to be at the present time in New England among the various golf agencies a lack of that cooperation which is so helpful and essential to efficiency. The Greenkeepers Club of New England, formed to help greenkeepers in a social and educational way and to uplift the standards of greenkeeping, is always ready to cooperate with the other golf agencies for the good of Golf in New England. Let there be an end to individualism, to petty strife, to misunderstandings; let us pledge ourselves anew to work together in hearty cooperation!

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Present knowledge seems to indicate a higher price for bent seed this Fall, due to a raise in the Tariff, and also to a probable scarcity of seed.

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If you have not already used it, you will probably need it before many years, and it would be well for us all to get to know arsenate of lead, to experiment with it, and to know the results obtained from it.

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The June meeting was held with Ted Swanson at the Bear Hill Country Club; those of us who were there enjoyed the day very much. An exhibition of the Jacobson 19" power putting green mower and the Worthington "Overlawn" and "Overgreen" was held.

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## THE STORY OF KERNWOOD BENT

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Kernwood velvet bent is called "Kernwood" because it was propagated from a plug taken from one of the Kernwood greens presumably originating from South German mixed bent seed. It seeds freely the first year, produces very few stolons, and comes true from seed.

The material used for propagation is the same as grass mown to make hay. The seed in the heads seems to help greatly to make a good stand when the "hay" is chopped and sown as are creeping bent stolons.

The first rows of velvet bent were planted six feet apart. Seed scattered from the heads soon filled in between the rows, making a solid stand, (hayfield). Since then we have been planting the rows nearer until last year we planted rows twelve inches apart, and I believe it would be well to plant six inches apart or sow broadcast to grow "hay" to plant greens or sod nurseries. We have planted about August 20, but believe around August 7 better as we notice that the young sprouts from the joints start better before August 20. Last year there was a wet spot in the plot used for propagation which had made a tangle of new growth. This grew best when planted in rows. We will try cutting off the heads and giving plenty of food and water to stimulate this new growth; it may prove a better method.

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### Planting for Sod

After the seed bed is prepared we roll it firm so that no deep foot tracks will be made by walking over the finished bed. A half to an inch of the surface is again loosened with a wheel hoe so that the chopped "hay" can be bedded into the loose surface. A strip about three feet wide is scattered with chopped "hay" and rolled with a light

wood roller. Next screened loam or compost is used to barely cover the stems of the "hay." Boards are laid on the finished strip to walk on, and the next strip planted. If the weather man gives you a few cloudy rainy days as often happens about this time, little further attention will be needed. In any event, the "hay" must be kept moist.

More soil can be added if needed but the sprouts do not seem to have power to push up thru much soil. Mow as soon as fairway height. We have grown about five or six thousand square feet per year, but see no reason why one cannot produce enough for eighteen greens in a short time. This grass grows best on moist ground but it is growing well on sandy greens also.

During the last five years we had some dead spots on the dry greens one year due to snow mould, lack of water in Winter, or other cause. This grass is susceptible to small brown patch, but large brown patch has attacked it very little.

ROBERT A. MITCHELL

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## BUILDING AND MAINTAINING TEES.

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A few years ago a tee was just a place to tee off a ball, but today it plays an important part of the golf course.

In planning a tee it is most essential that it should be large in order that the markers may be changed frequently, thereby protecting it. Also it should be built so as to beautify the course. It is not necessary to have it any particular shape but planned so that is most suited to the surrounding grounds.

It is necessary to know the location of your green and also your fairway in planning your tee. Then build accordingly.

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The first thing in building a tee is the foundation; this is very important because if it is well constructed it will not settle enough to spoil your top surface. Then a good subsoil and about four inches of good loam should grow good grass suitable for the tee.

Drainage is most important. Be sure to slope your tee so as to throw the water off. If allowed to puddle it may cause considerable trouble.

The largest upkeep of a tee is keeping it mowed; this is essential. As for fertilization, I should say about three times a year, either by topdressing or just fertilizing, whichever is necessary. This should keep them in very good condition.

In my experience with grasses I find that *Poa annua* will stand the hard use and also come back more quickly than any other. I have never planted any *Poa annua* seed, it seems natural for it to come in by itself.

T. W. SWANSON.

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### TEES AND THEIR UP-KEEP.

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Tees give one a good or bad impression of the links. They should be built as low as possible, because if tees are low, we are able to cut the greater part of them with a tractor. Sometimes for the sake of vision, tees are elevated; in this case the sides must be trimmed with a high machine, the use of which in the course of a year means considerable more for maintenance. In hot weather the raised tee has a tendency to dry out unless it is constantly watered, and this additional watering necessary means more expense.

The more tees there are on a course, the greater is the advantage, especially on a nine hole course where players repeat.

It is a distinct advantage to lay out and shape the new tees in November.

This gives the earth a chance to settle under the snow and rains of Winter and Spring. In April they are ready to be regraded, rolled, and sodded. Before sodding, however, I think a light application of bone meal or poultry manure helps to give the old turf new life.

JAMES C. SULLIVAN.

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### EXPERIMENT!

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Do you each year carry on definite experiments? Are you trying out on your course new methods, new fertilizers, new strains of bent? Do you believe all you read and hear, or do you first wish to try it out for yourself on your own course?

Each greenkeeper should experiment as much as possible and keep a definite record of what he finds out in each experiment. Various experiments can be run on the golf course at small cost, and the results are often very helpful and interesting. Here in New England we should be interested in the various strains of bent, not only for greens, but also for tees, and fairways.

For many experiments the turf nursery can be used; indeed, should be for any where there is any danger of burning, for it would be much better to burn a small portion of the nursery in trying out some new substance than it would be to burn a section of a green. The nursery is ideal for much experimentation.

Fertilizer experiments are easily carried on, and small experiments on the nursery should be followed wherever possible by larger experiments on the course itself. For all of these experiments, ample check plots should be left. An interesting experiment is to discover for your own satisfaction which fertilizer is best on your own course, for each part. This is especially helpful at this time because the

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tendency is to get away somewhat from too much sulphate of ammonia.

We can't all have plots such as are being carried along at Charles River Country Club, but we can all have our own experiments, and we will all benefit from them, and our courses will show results from them. Experiment!

G. C. W.

### DEMONSTRATION TURF GARDENS

In the trial grass plots at the Charles River Country Club, June 15, judged from a standpoint of putting surfaces, the seeded plots rank in the following order: Chewing Fescue, Colonial Bent, Seaside Bent, South German Bent, Red Fescue, R. I. Bent Washington grown, Annual Blue grass, R. I. Bent, and Velvet Bent. (These last two were seeded this Spring.) In the stolon group, they rank Metropolitan, Washington, Columbia, Virginia, Velvet.

In the fertilizer series on South German Bent, the plots rank as follows: 12-6-4, 6-12-4, ammonium sulphate, nitrate of soda, ammonium phosphate, ammonium sulphate and compost, urea, sewage sludge, poultry manure, bone meal, lime and sulphate of ammonia. The poorest plot is quite a little better than the checks.

In the lead arsenate plots on South German Bent and on Red Top and Bluegrass, the lead arsenate seems to have injured the grass as the check plots of the same grasses are much better.

On the fairway watering plots the watered plots are much thicker and greener.

In the fairway trial plots the Chewings Fescue and plots with Chewings Fescue in the mixture are far ahead of the other plots.

In the fertilizer series on fairway plots of Kentucky Blue and Red Top mixture, ranking is as follows: 12-6-4, ammonium sulphate, 6-12-4, bone meal, sewage sludge, manure, lime.

These plots were seeded September 16, 1928. The South German Bent with 12-6-4 fertilizer has a fair putting surface. The plot of Kentucky Blue and Red Top fairway mixture with 12-6-4 fertilizer has a good thick stand of grass.

FRANK H. WILSON, JR.

It would be well for all of us to keep in touch with these experimental plots, and to note with interest the results obtained from them. A variety of experiments are being carried on under New England conditions, and from the results obtained there should be something to help YOU!

EDITORS.

The Hansens are keeping busy this Summer adding a new nine holes to their old nine at Concord. They hope to be ready to seed this Fall.

The new nine at the Country Club will be opened for play on June 8. Howard Farrant has been so busy this Spring we haven't seen much of him!

The Arlmont Country Club are adding a new nine to their layout.

The Board of Directors met on May 27 with yours truly at Fall River, with ten present. We had a fine meeting!

Try and be present at the July meeting at the New Bedford Country Club.

Dan Snow has been putting in some new shrubbery and lawns around the club house at Segregansett Country Club.

We are very glad to see John Shanahan with us again, after a short illness!

The Employment Committee of the Club is ready at all times to try to help any club which is in need of a greenkeeper. If you know of any club which is looking for a new greenkeeper, notify the committee, of which John Shanahan is chairman.

Joe Oldfield says, "There's no use in worrying about which is the best fairway unit, they are all good if you use them right". After all, there is a sermon in that sentence, and it can be applied to all machinery!

"Get your Happiness out of your Work, or you will never know what Happiness is".

HUBBARD.