

NEWSLETTER

July, 1930.

Vol. 2, No. 7.

"The men who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and succeed."

-Lloyd Jones.

A survey of the brown-patch situation among several New England clubs finds the usual run of attack from no brown-patch at all to severe attacks in a few cases. Practically all brown-patch experienced so far has been small, and nearly all clubs report good control with whatever compound they are using, and all of the recognized mercury compounds seem to be in use. At least one club is trying poling at 5 A. M. but is not sure that this controls as yet. Several clubs are not watering at night now, watering in the early morning. Others report that they are using very little sulphate of ammonia during the brown-patch season, and using either organic or complete fertilizers. Reports show that many greenkeepers are seriously trying to discover the whys, the whens, and the wherefores of this disease!

The August meeting will be held at the Agawam Hunt Club, East Providence, R. I. on August 4. Members of the recently organized Rhode Island Greenkeepers Club will meet with us at this meeting. Let's have a big meeting!

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THE COURSE THRU THE GREEN

The approaches to the greens should be kept as closely as possible to the standard set for the greens, and treated in the same way. Good approaches not only add to the pleasure of the players and allow them to reap full advantage of cleverly placed shots, but in many cases they are available for temporary greens when the permanent ones are being rested or put out of play during frosty weather.

This important part of the golf course except for the routine work of rolling and mowing often receives but scant attention. Perhaps this area, known as fairway, some thirty acres, frightens and discourages those who would really like to see the going improved. If, however, one examines the course critically, it will be found, after allowing a hundred yards of semi-rough in front of each tee, and excluding bunkers, greens, and approaches, that it will not amount to more than thirty acres at the outside.

There are many ways of improving the course through the green, some of which I will now try to explain.

It is not often necessary to renovate the course through the green to any large extent, but should such treatfollowing the ment be required, recommended. Test the system is for lime, and add it needed, using pulverized chalk at the rate of one ton per acre. Then harrow the turf thoroughly with a grass harrow so as to work in the chalk, loosen and remove the moss and dead herbage, and open up the surface soil. This should be followed with a dressing of good fertili-zer at the rate of five hundred pounds per acre, as may be required. Sow the bad areas with a mixture of grass seed made up to suit the soil and the existing turf at the average rate of three to six bushels per acre according to the existing condition of the turf; i. e., sowing the seed thickly where the turf is thin or dead, and thinly where the turf is fair to good. Harrow and cross harrow, and finish off with a roller.

Some soils are so poor that they cannot carry a close turf without aid. If they are deficient in lime a dressing as above will work wonders inasmuch as it will liberate any inactive chemical constituents the soil may contain. It cannot, however, make good any actual deficiency of the essential constituents,nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash,which are necessary for the growth of a close healthy turf, and which can only be supplied by the use of fertilizers. It is sometimes advisable, in order to keep the expense down to the lowest limits, to treat the approaches and chief lies only, and as five tons is sufficient to treat twenty acres or eighteen tons the whole of an eighteen hole course, the question is well worth consideration. A compost made up of well-rotted manure and good loamy soil, at the rate of twenty to forty loads per acre makes an excellent dressing, particularly for light sandy soils deficient in humus, but unless it is old and well broken up it lies about the surface for a long time and is much objected to by the players.

When one looks at his score card sometimes he will see at the bottom, "Replace Divots". Many players re-place divots, or see that their caddies do it, in a very conscientious manner, a great number do it in a perfunctory manner, and a good number do not do it at all. When a divot is taken and replaced, in most cases it will be thrown aside or picked up by mowers, so it is quite a matter of chance whether the scar heals quickly or remains open for a year or more. A divot taken when the soil is moist or during damp weather stands a fair chance of recovering quickly, whereas if it is taken when it is hot and dry it stands a very poor chance anyway until the next growing season. The best way to heal divot marks is to fill them up with prepared soil and seed. I have found it easiest to take a yard of screened loam and mix with it about fifty pounds of grass seed to suit the soil, and to apply the prepared soil and seed by dropping a handful of it into every divot mark seen, and press it down with the foot. It is incredible how quickly and thoroughly all such scars can be healed if the work is done systematically. The best way to do the work is to send out two men with a cart going up the center

of the course, the men working away from it, one on either side. Carrying a quantity of soil in a bucket, they will cover a few fairways a day, and a job well done is money well spent.

JAMES J. FERME,
Myopia Hunt Club.

LATEST NEWS ON EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS AT CHARLES RIVER

Hear Ye! The plots are still going, and ready to teach us much. Last year we had to be content to learn about those grasses and fertilizers which act quickly and make a fairway or green playable within a short time. Among the grasses which gave us a quick fair putting surface were the fescues. The fertilizers that acted quickly were the complete chemical fertilizers, but before the year was over both the fescues and the complete fertilizers had done a submarine act and were letting other grasses and fertilizers pass over them. The putting surfaces and fairway plots were, in general, nothing to brag about, but this year there is a big improve-ment all along the line. Therefore ment all along the line. Therefore there are many changes which should prove interesting this year.

The plots came through the Winter remarkably well, there being no change from the time they went in until the time they came out. There was no Winter-kill or Snow-mold.

Recently we have added four new plots to our trial plots of putting green grasses. At the same time we moved the Unicorn strain of Washington bent. This was moved in order to have a new type of Colonial bent near the original Colonial bent. The Unicorn is now beside the Seaside bents.

The new Colonial bent is called Prince Edward Island Grown Colonial bent and was planted on May 13, 1930 from seed. It was up May 21st. The other new plots are New Brunswick Creeping Bent, Festuca arenaria, and Emerson's New Fescue and were planted May 17. The two fescues were up May 24 and the creeping bent on May 26. They were all planted on a very poor clay soil dug out of the rough and received no pre-

paration other than raking and rolling.

There are five groups of plots, as follows: trial plots of putting green grasses; fertilizer experiments on putting green grass, (seeded to South German mixed bent); cutting experiments; trial plots of fairway grasses; fertilizer experiments on fairway grasses, (Kentucky Blue and Redtop mixture.)

The grasses which have shown up best on trial plots of putting green mixtures are the velvets. The stolon velvets are way ahead of the seeded velvet bents due to the greater speed with which they have filled in. Consequently they have fined up faster.

Kernwood Velvet has a commanding lead over the rest of the velvets, having an almost perfect putting surface, a wonderful green color, and there have been no weeds since they were weeded on May 27. Chickweed was its worst enemy last year, but it has been successful in crowding it out this year. Its only enemy now is small brownpatch. A recent application of NuGreen to one half of the plot not only checked but eliminated the small Brownpatch on the half sprayed. Number 12476 from Washington, D. C. ranks second; it hasn't the even color and texture of Kernwood altho it is far from being poor. It also is free from weeds.

Among the seeded velvets, Canada is first while Peckham's is very poor, only 50% of it being real velvet.

Coming to the other bents we find Cocoos (a seaside bent) well out in front. It has a fine texture; i. e., even throughout, as well as a good color. The weeds are very few. Following in order of their merit are German Mixed, Colonial, Rhode Island, R. I. Washington grown, and creeping bent taken from 15th fairway at Charles River.

As our eye strikes the stolons, Metropolitan is foremost with a fine even texture and a beautiful color, and having few weeds. Next in order are Columbia, Seaside bent (from Kittansett), Washington, and Virginia.

The fescues have stood up very poorly, Red fescue having practically said good-by, and Chewings fescue packing up to go after attacks from leaf-spot last year and this. The Red fescue was wiped out by leaf-spot last while Chewings fescue came back to take a terrific walloping again this year.

(continued on page 6)

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JULY MEETING

The monthly Greenkeepers Club of N. E. meeting was held at the Weston Golf Club Inc., July 7. After dinner and short business meeting, demonstration of loam steamer and inspection of the course, 28 members participated in an 18 hole medal handicap tournament.

Results of Tournament:

First low net won by Michael O'Grady, New Bedford, 85, 15, 70.
Second low net won by Thos. Galvin, Rhode Island Country Club, 95 20, 75.
Third low net won by Howard Farrant, Brookline Country Club, 90,

Fourth low net won by John Graham, Needham Country Člub, 92, 15,

Fifth low net won by Ed. Hanson, Concord, 99, 20, 79.

Largest gross won by Chas. O'Keefe, Charles River Club. Special Guest Prize won by H. B.

Babcock, Chairman Greens Committee of Wampanoag Country Club, Hartford, Conn.

Clifton E. Sowerby.

RHODE ISLAND GREENKEEPERS CLUB

On Monday, June 26 the Greenkeepers of Rhode Island met at the Bonnet Shores Golf Club for the purpose of organizing the Greenkeepers Club of Rhode Island. Dinner was served at 5 P. M. and immediately after the meeting was held. Mr. Woodworth Bradley temporarily took charge and the following were elected officers for one year:

Pres., R. Wallace Peckham, Sachuest Golf Club; Vice Pres., Lawrence Hay, Agawam Hunt Club; Vice Pres., Thomas Galvin, Rhode Island Country Club; Treas., Martin Greene, Wannamoisette Country Club; Sec'y, Herbert Moran, Newport Country Club.

It was voted that the yearly dues

It was voted that the yearly dues be One Dollar (\$1.00) per member. No one not a member of the Green-keepers Club of New England could join the Rhode Island division. Four new applications were received for the New England organization. The July meeting will be held at the Sachuest Golf Club, Middletown, R. I. at Mr. Peckham's invitation.

Herbert Moran, Sec'y

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Latest News on Experimental Plots At Charles River

(continued from page 3)

The fertilizer experiments on seeded German bent have Sewage Sludge first in the race for supremacy, and it is getting better all the time although it started off very poorly last year. Slowly but surely it kept coming up until it led. It did not fluctuate in quality as the time approached for each new application as did the other fertilizers. The quality of the grass is excellent, while there is a very noticable lack of weeds. Poultry manure tankage, 6-12-4, and Nitrate of soda are neck and neck for second place. Sulphate of ammonia, 12-6-4, Urea, AmmoPhos, Sulphate of Ammonia with compost, Sulphate of Ammonia with lime, and Bone meal follow in the order named.

Chemical injury from the chemical fertilizers was very severe during the month of June in spite of a 50% application and every precaution being taken to prevent injury. Chemical injury occurred in June, 1929 also.

The trial plots of fairway grasses show that the Chewings fescue and German bent plot is best, having no cuppy lies and few weeds. Kentucky Blue, Redtop, and Chewings fescue is second; Kentucky Blue and Redtop, third; Kentucky Blue, Redtop, and German Bent, fourth; and R. I. Bent, fifth.

Fertilizer experiments on fairway grasses find Sewage sludge in the lead again. It has no cuppy lies and very few weeds. Bone meal is a close second, manure third, and sulphate of ammonia fourth. The complete fertilizer and lime plots are very poor, having burned badly in the drought, causing them to have cuppy lies.

The application of fertilizer to the fairway plots has been changed this year. Last year they received applications monthly the same as the putting green plots do, but this year they receive fertilizer only on the 15th of April and the 15th of September.

The cutting experiments show that the short cut gives a better smoother putting green surface.

Lead arsenate has done little outside of checking the weeds effectively.

It has been necessary to water the greens plots frequently due to the very

dry weather in the early Spring. The fairway watered plots are far better than the unwatered plots.

There has been no large brown-patch on the plots. Some of the velvet bents have been attacked by small brown-patch. On July 7 half of each trial plot of the putting green grasses was sprayed with NuGreen at rate of one pound to a thousand square feet. In every case the brown-patch has been effectively checked on the half receiving treatment.

GEORGE J. ROMMELL.

A well-known club of the Chicago district is using for Brown-patch control ¾ pint Electric Worm Eradicator and a pound of Urea to fifty gallons of water applied to a thousand square feet once a week. What do you think about it?

Lloyd Stott, formerly with Howard Farrant at the Country Club, is now assistant to James Lawson at Misquamicut, Watch Hill, R. I.

The Greenkeepers Club of Rhode Island held a well-attended meeting with President Peckham at the Sachuest Golf Club, Newport, R. I. on July 21.

We were pleased to note, on a recent visit to the Rhode Island Country Club, that the wires which formerly passed over the fifteenth and sixteenth fairways have been buried, and thus one of the very few poor features of this fine course removed.

It is with extreme regret that we announce the death of our fellow-member, Mr. John A. F. Graham of the Needham Country Club. Mr. Graham collapsed with heart trouble on the eighth green of his course on July 21st, and passed away before he could be taken to the hospital.

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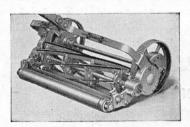
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