

NEWS LETTER

October, 1930.

Vol. 2, No. 10.

“What do we live for if not to make the world less difficult for each other?”

—George Eliot

The drop in the Stock Market, and the business depression as a whole have had the general effect of decreasing the incomes of many clubs during the past year. Decreased income always means a decrease in the expenditure for the course, and the greenkeeper often has a difficult task to keep up the high standard of maintenance previously enjoyed. Often the standard must be lowered and some things left undone. Members are often unacquainted with the situation, and unjustly condemn the greenkeeper for such a lowering of the maintenance standard.

If the greens committee points out to its greenkeeper that there must be a decrease in the expenditures for the coming year, the greenkeeper should be able to explain where this decrease will affect the maintenance on the course, and where the standard will be lowered. Then the greens committee can explain in turn to the members that because of decreased income, there is less money to spend on the course, and hence some things are to be left undone; and, the greenkeeper will not get as much unjust blame. Perfect cooperation between greens committee and greenkeeper is necessary at such a time as it is in all phases of successful course maintenance.

The last outdoor meeting of the year will be held at the Waltham Country Club, Waltham, Mass., on Monday, November 3. There will be an eighteen hole medal play tournament starting at 9:45 if fair, and a very important business meeting rain or shine, dinner following. We hope to see you there!

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October, 1930.

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THE DEMONSTRATION TURF GARDENS AT THE CHARLES RIVER COUNTRY CLUB

Another growing season is nearly over and some of the observations made at the plots may be of interest. The Summer has been very dry and we are now in a period of unprecedented drought.

The plots have an added row containing Holland grown Red Fescue, Fescue arenaria, New Brunswick grown creeping bent, and Prince Edward Island grown Colonial bent.

The greens trial plots all have fair putting surfaces and fairly thick turf. The choice of a greens grass is principally a matter of color and texture. The Metropolitan stolon bent and the Washington stolon bent plots are very good. Plot 3e, Velvet bent stolons (No. 12476) is very fine and has never been attacked by brown-patch. The Velvet bent patches in the South German mixed bent plots are beginning to show. The Red and Chewing Fescue plots are poor. The Colonial bents from Washington state, Rhode Island, and New Zealand are very similar. Coccoos bent seems to do very well. That *Poa annua* thrives goes without saying.

In the greens fertilizer plots on South German mixed bent the plots change from time to time. During the 1929 season the commercial fertilizer plots, (12-6-4, 6-12-4, ammonium sulphate), were the outstanding plots. During this season the organic fertilizers, (poultry manure, activated sludge,) have forged ahead. The mineral fertilizers are quick acting, the plots showing quickly the effect soon after the application, and fading out before the next one; while on the other hand the poultry manure and activated

sludge are steadily uniform. The bone meal is slowly improving, but very weedy.

The weed count taken September 15th, shows the following results:—activated sludge, 220; poultry manure, 146; check, 225; ammonium sulphate, 23; ammonium sulphate and compost, 150; check, 237; Nitrate of soda, 239; Urea, 115; ammonium phosphate, 111; check, 284; 6-12-4, 53; 12-6-4, 67; check, 200; ammonium sulphate and lime, 227; bone meal, 347.

There have been numerous attacks of small brown-patch, chiefly on the velvet bents, No. 12476 alone being immune. We have had no large brown-patch.

The fertilizer experiment on the fairway plots shows no results due to the extreme dry weather.

The watered plots of fairway grasses are very good. Of the unwatered plots, chewings fescue 80%, South German mixed bent 20%, and the plot of Kentucky Blue 40%, Chewings fescue 40%, Red Top 20%, have best withstood the drought.

Arsenate of lead has controlled chick-weed, checked worms to some extent, and shows no ill effects on established turf.

In conclusion let me say that I have received much information of value from the plots. They are here for the benefit of golf. Make use of them.

Frank H. Wilson, Jr.

MEETING AT EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS

A well attended meeting was held at the experimental plots at the Charles River Country Club, on Sunday, October 5, 1930. Mr. Frank Wilson spoke concerning the work being done at the plots, and Dr. John Monteith, Jr., explained the various series of experiments, and answered questions.

Fairway plots treated as on course, received a 10-6-2 fertilizer this past Spring, and will receive Milorganite this Fall.

Reports on Japanese beetle are encouraging, parasites are helping control apparently.

A Kernwood bent nursery badly infested with the sod web worm was visited, and pest discussed.

CLEANING BENT GRASS SEED

We have received from Dr. H. F. A. North, Ass't Agronomist at the Rhode Island Experiment Station, some very helpful information relative to cleaning bent grass seed, and we are pleased to give you this help on a problem presented by one of our members.

"In your NEWSLETTER, Vol. 2: 8, August 1930, I note that Charles Parker of the Belmont Spring Country Club expresses a desire for a means of cleaning small lots of bent grass seed. We have a similar problem before us here this fall, that of cleaning the material from about 75 small plots of various bent grasses, from which yields per acre will be calculated. We have had fair success with the desk size of "Clipper Cleaner", manufactured by A. T. Farrell, Saginaw, Michigan.

The volume of air was reduced by exchanging the two belt pulleys and by covering the upper half of each air port with a thin piece of lumber. Only a small opening was left for draft on each side by nearly closing the slides and nailing them in that position. The chaffy, leafy material was first riddled through a cobbled-together perforated screen of approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ inch mesh. This material was put through the machine using a perforated screen of 1-25 inch above, and a dust screen, 60 x 60 (finer, if possible to obtain) below. This cleaning takes out much of the chaff. The dust is allowed to sift out by removing a slide in the shaker frame. By exchanging the upper for a 36 x 36 screen, the cleaning is rather satisfactorily completed."

THE SOD WEB WORM

During July my greens were attacked by what appeared to be cutworms. The worms were small, and when dug out of the soil were more active than the ordinary cut worm. They also lived in a webbed lined pocket and ate the grass off in a small streak where it met the ground. Some of the pupae cases were small and red, too small for a cut worm pupae case. I took about a dozen worms to the U. S. D. A. Entomological Station at Arlington. They identified them for me as the sod web worm, and sent two men over to get further data regarding the attack and the resultant injury. They recommended spraying

with arsenate of lead with a sticker added, such as calcium caseinate or fish oil soap. I tried both of these but the whitening of the greens was quite an objection. I found that 20 pounds of arsenate of lead mixed with a hundred pounds of Milorganite seemed to control the worms.

During the first part of October another brood has attacked my grass garden. There are four or five broods of this pest in a season. Due to hard dry fairways this season, the sod web worm has concentrated on the greens.

A poisoned bait may also be used for control,—white arsenic or paris green, one pound—dry bran, one peck—Molasses, one pint—water, two to four parts or more if needed. This bait will also kill birds.

Frank H. Wilson, Jr.

OCTOBER MEETING

The Championship of the New England Greenkeepers Club was held at Braeburn Country Club, Wednesday, Oct. 8th.

In the morning tournament, Mr. Ted Swanson with an 84, and Mr. R. W. Peckham with an 87, were the two medalists. Match play in the afternoon to decide the championship of the New England Greenkeepers Club. Mr. Peckham won and became champion.

Peckham— 4-4-4-5-6-3-5-3-4-5-4-3-4-5.

Swanson— 4-5-4-6-5-4-4-3-5-5-5-4-5-5.

Peckham wins 6 up and 4 to go.

44 members and guests participated in an 18 hole medal handicap play.

1st low net won by E. D. Pierce—92-15-77.

2nd low net won by J. C. Adams—100-20-80.

3rd low net won by Ed. Hanson—104-24-80.

4th low net won by Joe Oldfield—91-10-81.

Special old man's prize tied by Mr. James Sullivan, 85, and Mr. H. B. Cottelle, which was played off and won by Mr. Sullivan.

Mr. P. W. Chase won the special guest prize.

After the tournament a dinner and short business meeting was held in the club house.

C. E. Sowerby.

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“Lead-Arsenate Experiments on the Germination of Weed Seeds”, Bulletin 508, by W. C. Muenscher, recently published by the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, is of interest to all greenkeepers who are using or who will use arsenate.

This bulletin covers experiments to discover if lead arsenate in the soil prevents the germination of weed seed, to obtain a comparison of the relative toxicity of arsenate accumulating in the soil after the different amounts had been added, and to determine the effect of lead arsenate upon the germination of weed seeds.

Results showed that applications at the rate of 10 to 100 pounds per 1000 square feet did not consistently reduce the germination of weed seed, but germination of the chickweeds seemed to be reduced by applications. The author concludes that, “The use of lead arsenate with top dressings on lawns does not seem practicable as a general method for controlling weeds.”

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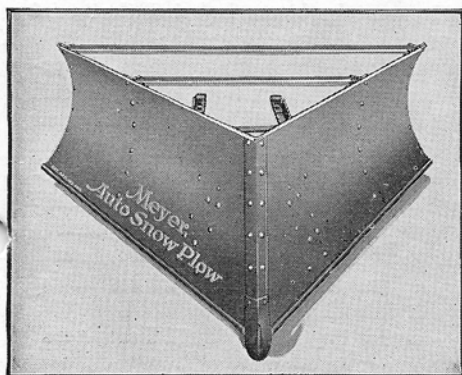
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Since the handicap list was published in the April issue of the NEWSLETTER, the Golf Committee has changed several handicaps, and added several new names to the list. These changes follow:

Arthur E. Anderson	26
Clinton K. Bradley	20
Harry C. Browning	8
Marston Burnett	24
H. B. Cottle	27
Dennis Crowley	35
Howard Farrant	10
John J. Fitzpatrick	0
Elmer Fuller	35
Martin Greene	20
Christian Hansen	35
Edwin Hansen	24
Paul F. Hayden	12
James Holden	18
John Latvis	20
Ernest Lord	25
Charles Mullaney	9
James McCormack	10
John McDonough	22
Harold Mosher	18
Charles O'Keefe	32
Thomas O'Leary	20
Joseph Oldfield	10
Elliot D. Pierce	12
John Shanahan	20
Joseph F. Sheridan	22
Lloyd G. Stott	30
James Sullivan	12
T. W. Swanson	4
Patrick Tameo	18
Carlton E. Treat	15
Guy C. West	15
Philip Cassidy	24
William McBride	18

Those not listed here have same handicap as given in April list.

Carl Treat has built a new first tee this Fall, and relocated the entrance road and parking space.

The new eighteenth hole at Charles River is to be 438 yards long, with a tee 90 by 25 feet. The seed mixture

used for new portion of fairway is Chewings fescue 80% and R. I. bent 20%.

A greenkeeper recently told us his idea of the relation between ants and arsenate of lead, was that the lead arsenate killed the worms and the ants fed on the dead worms. Can you prove him wrong?

Mike O'Grady at New Bedford has been hauling out many yards of humus-peat from the right of his fourteenth fairway this past month, and is spreading much of it over the poor parts of his fairways.

We understand that the Rhode Island Country Club will have a fairway watering system soon, and probably the Charles River Country Club. The past two seasons have certainly shown the need of watering fairways.

"It must be borne in mind that turf consists of a vast number of grass plants closely crowded together. Nourishment must be provided since the soil values are constantly being drawn upon by the plants for their growth."

"Fertilization maintenance is therefore, vital to successful lawn making. Proper treatment makes strong, thrifty turf grasses which crowd out weeds and foreign growth. Weeds are an indication of soil infertility."

—from Peppard's "Turf Fertilizers"

The resignation of Daniel C. Snow as a regular member was received at the August meeting and accepted with regret. Mr. Snow has devoted a great deal of time and thought to the progress of the club, having been a Trustee for several years, and the club showed its appreciation by electing him an Honorary Member until such time as he resumes greenkeeping.

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