



NEWS LETTER

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JULY

1931

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Greenkeepers' Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

GUY C. WEST Editor
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

MARSTON BURNETT Business Mgr.
330 Waltham St., West Newton, Mass.

July, 1931

Vol. 3, No. 7

MAKING A GOLF COURSE ATTRACTIVE

Obviously the first thing, as well as the most important, is to select a site with a variety of contour and with picturesque possibilities. However, most of us have the problem of improving the course or links someone else has designed and built, but even so there are often large opportunities for the artistically inclined to improve the vista by changing the location of a tee or by banking shrubs in an unused corner.

Generally the best results are secured by changing the face of Nature as little as possible. In other words, adapt your greens plan to the landscape, not changing contour any more than is absolutely necessary to fit your conception of the proper hole. Someone has said that "the best government is the one that governs the least". So the best course alters Nature the least possible. The most esteemed by the Scotch, and most talked about course, is the Royal St. Andrews, that is strung out over the natural dunes and hollows along the coast of Scotland. In sharp contrast to this we have the much advertised course built in Newport on the private estate of the late T. Suffern Tailer, where he endeavored to "graft on" some famous holes of abroad. Just as one could expect, it is painfully artificial, and a good example of what to avoid.

At Misquamicut, near Westerly, is a perfectly fascinating layout. Greens nestle in natural valleys, each hole conceived to make the drive a sporting proposition between two hills, or winding down a natural depression. The second nine holes are on the lowlands, in complete contrast to the rugged natural hills; a dog leg around an inland bay, or a short hole entirely over water, a clever avoiding in construction of

everything that looks artificial, geometrical, or even too intentional.

But what we want to find out is how we can add a subtle touch here and there to make the course we are on more fascinating, just why some simple holes are so charming and others so totally uninteresting.

My observation tells me that there are possibilities often in selecting a new site for a tee, maybe hidden in a cool shady retreat; there is an ideal one at Sakonnet between two natural granite boulders.

My green wooden settees pained me every time I looked at them, they were forever blowing over on tees raised for better visibility. After the Fall top-dressing was over I scouted my swamps for flat smooth stones with a weathered side if possible; one stone the right length and width made three settees when split. From these I fashioned some permanent, solid, rustic, and natural settees. At No. 1, is a fifteen foot Newport conglomerate, just like the outcropping ledge near it, and happily looks as though it had been there since Moses was a boy.

Many courses run near unsightly buildings that can be hidden by planting rapid growing trees. I had such a problem, and without funds for decorative purposes, I again took to the woods and cut a load of branches from swamp willows, and with a light iron bar put them down deep enough to insure moisture in Summer, and ten feet apart; they are now rapidly obscuring the objectionable buildings.

Bunkers can make or mar the appearance of a golf course more than any other single feature. A great deal can be done with shallow bunkers by a dune-like embankment at the end away from the shot, and a facing, or sand-flashing surface, that adds greatly to the visibility, and helps the player to determine the distance to the bunker. Here again, Nature is the only infallible guide. Leave a jagged edge with clumps so placed as to appear to advantage from the place where the ball comes to rest after a fair drive. Of course, the distance the bunkers are from the green depends on the length of the second shot.

An overhanging edge is often necessary to prevent sand from blowing out on the green. When such an edge comes in front of the green, great care should be exercised to see that a proper mashie or niblick shot will not trap under the

edge, but will roll back down to a lie that can be played on to the green. Such an edge is often very attractive artistically but when art alone is considered, often provokes not only just criticism, but incites to profanity. Try to analyze just why some greens are so fascinating and pick out the salient feature for use at home.

It may have come to your notice that rock gardens are becoming fashionable. This suggests that rocks have an intrinsic beauty all their own. An enormous amount of money is worse than wasted on many courses in blasting and burying every natural boulder or ledge on or near a course. Leave your bit of natural scenery, lichen covered evidences of the ice ages; and dog-leg around them. A bit of careful work will make it almost impossible for a ball to lodge on or under them; they make a good hazard and add not a little to the sportiness and picturesqueness of a course.

On my course are two holes, the most attractive of the nine, where the natural boulders make, not mar, the hole. I can best explain by a brief description of No. 3 and No. 6. No. 3 is 335 yards up hill, slightly dog-legged. From the tee located in a bog swamp, an ever widening fairway lined with brakes and blueberry bushes on both sides grades up a steady incline 220 yards. From here the fairway converges toward the green, but on the right is a generous deposit of glacial boulders terminating in a triangular cliff, apex toward the fairway, slanting at a 45 degree angle. A sliced second shot that clears the boulders bounds out into the fairway from the cliff and rolls down hill to the player. A jolly hazard, and easy to play over when properly played.

The other hole is of unusual interest. The tee stands on a rocky promontory that commands an extraordinary view of the whole southern extremity of the Island of Rhode Island. The green is 200 yards distant, 50 feet below the tee level, at the foot of an ancient ash tree. However, the important thing is the psychological effect of looking over 80 yards of irregular boulders, the last weighing approximately 50 tons. The rest is smooth fairway, but steep side hill. A topped drive plays ping pong in the rocks below. A sliced ball always disappears in a swamp. A good drive lands altogether nicely on the green. Everyone loves a sporty hole. It's a bright idea to leave some of the course

material, and play over or around trouble.

One last suggestion; often a great many beautiful shrubs grow wild on some part of the course, and can be transplanted to cosy corners near the fairway, and add greatly to the beauty of the place. Ferns are easy to transplant to shady places. Rhododendrons are native to R. I. and prosper in moist swampy land. Evergreens in rocky nooks add to a vista.

If but one of these suggestions fills some need on the reader's own course, I shall be content.

R. Wallace Peckham,
Sachuest Country Club,
Newport, R. I.

JULY MEETING

The July meeting of the Greenkeepers Club of New England was held at Concord Country Club, Concord, Mass., Monday, July 13th.

1st low net—

John McDonough—79.

2nd low net—

Guy West—82.

3rd low net—

Paul Hayden

Paul Wanberg

John McCormack—tied—83.

Playoff won by John McCormack.

3 low gross scores—Sowerby 86, Peckham 87, Ted Swanson 89.

Clifton E. Sowerby.

The August meeting will be held at the Cohasse Country Club, Southbridge, Mass., on Monday, August 10th. Inspection of grass plots and course in the morning, 18 hole medal handicap tournament will be held after lunch.

The Championship of the Greenkeepers Club of New England will be held at the Rhode Island Country Club in October.

Clifton E. Sowerby.

When you looked over those brown-patch scars, did you think of Shakespeare's lines?

"How poor are they that have not patience?

What wound did ever heal, but by degrees?"

DEMONSTRATION TURF GARDENS**Charles River Country Club**

Most of us have just passed through an attack of brown-patch on our greens, tees, and fairways. The following notes were taken at the plots on July 7th and 8th, and may be of interest. On July

7th large brown-patch appeared on the following plots: South German mixed bent fertilized with ammonium sulphate, compost and ammonium sulphate, lime and ammonium sulphate, sewage sludge, nitrate of soda. It also appeared on Rhode Island bent plots.

On July 8th the following condition prevailed:

| | Sprayed | Unsprayed |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|
| Unicorn bent stolons | none | severe |
| Red fescue (European) | none | none |
| Red fescue (New Zealand) | none | none |
| Kernwood Velvet bent | none | slight |
| Native bent | none | slight |
| P. E. I. Colonial bent | moderate | severe |
| Canada velvet | moderate | severe |
| Red fescue | none | moderate |
| Chewings fescue | none | moderate |
| Washington bent stolons | none | slight |
| Metropolitan bent stolons | none | slight |
| R. I. bent Wash. grown | severe | moderate |
| R. I. bent N. Z. grown | severe | moderate |
| R. I. bent | severe | severe |
| Velvet bent, seed (Canada) | severe | moderate |
| Annual blue grass | slight | slight |
| Virginia bent stolons | moderate | heavy |
| Columbia bent stolons | moderate | heavy |
| Cocoos bent | moderate | heavy |
| German mixed bent | moderate | heavy |
| Highland velvet stolons | slight | moderate |
| No. 12476 velvet stolons | slight | moderate |

These plots were sprayed with a mixture of 2/3 Calomel and 1/3 Corrosive sublimate on July 4th.

Fertilizer plots, July 8th:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Sewage sludge | Very severe |
| Poultry manure | moderate |
| Check | moderate |
| Sulphate of ammonia | severe |
| Compost and sulphate of ammonia | moderate |
| Check | moderate |
| Nitrate of soda | severe |
| Urea | light |
| Ammonium phosphate | severe |
| Check | moderate |
| 6-12-4 | severe |
| 12-6-4 | moderate |
| Check | slight |
| Lime and ammonium sulphate | severe |
| Bone meal | severe |

These fertilizer plots were sprayed on July 9th with Callotox at the rate of 2 pounds in 50 gallons of water per thousand square feet. The rows of greens grasses half of which are sprayed and half unsprayed were also sprayed again July 9th with a mixture of 2/3 calomel and 1/3 corrosive sublimate at the rate of 3 ounces in fifty gallons of water per thousand square feet.

The South German mixed bent on the

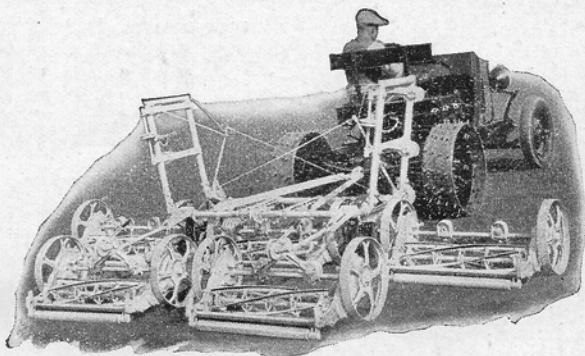
outside of the plots was also attacked. This also was sprayed on July 9th. One section was sprayed with yellow oxide of mercury, at rate of one ounce per thousand square feet. Another was sprayed with corrosive sublimate, at rate of three ounces per thousand square feet. All these different sprays checked the brown-patch. The sprayed grasses have started to recover; the unsprayed still show the severe injury.

Frank H. Wilson, Jr.

BROWN-PATCH NOTES

Nearly all clubs in New England had brown-patch, either small or large, or both, during the second week of July. The weather was humid, and moist, and the temperature was generally quite high.

At Braeburn, where the greens had had Calogreen on Tuesday and Wednesday, there was a little large, no small, but tees were covered. Belmont Springs had some of both; Barbak 211 had been used dry, cure doubtful. At Charles River, mixture of 2/3 Calomel

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and 1/3 Corrosive sublimate is being used both as preventive and cure; brown-patch came on some greens in spite of it. Barbak 211 applied on Thursday, brown-patch came Sunday. At Kittansett, Calogreen is being used both as preventive and cure. Nu-Green is being used with good results at Bear Hill, Woodland; Tatnuck and Needham are using Calo-clor with success. Co-hasse is using Semesan.

The results reported with Barbak 211 are not too favorable so far. Several greenkeepers report no control, a few wish to try it further, and a few others think they got control for a few days.

Send in **your** results with any fungicide. Let us know how much brown-patch you have had, and any factors which you think may have had anything to do with the attacks or the control.

We are pleased to have a letter from Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson of the Massachusetts State College, relative to the unusual conditions which brought the large brown-patch the past few weeks:

"During the past three weeks there has been a very general and serious attack of large brown-patch throughout New England. This has come at a very unusual time, and without a chilling temperature. This has caused many greenkeepers to doubt the chilling factor in the development of the brown-patch fungus, and many more of them to doubt the value of polling.

I want to call your attention to the fact that in my lectures, and in the publications regarding temperatures necessary for the development of the fungus, I have from the very first stated that the fungi would develop if the temperature remained for 14 to 16 hours between 78 and 85 degrees F. We have had two occasions in the last three weeks when this unusual condition has occurred, and the resultant attack of brown-patch has appeared and also has been very serious.

Under such conditions I doubt whether fungicides or polling would give complete control, but I am very certain that either one will be a very great help in the control of the disease, and either one, especially polling, will lessen the severity of the attack."

We are indebted to Prof. Dickinson for thus clearing some of the doubt and uncertainty which many greenkeepers are bound to have concerning this very troublesome fungus.

THE GREENKEEPER'S LIBRARY

A list of books recommended for the greenkeeper's library at the Amherst Conference:

- "Golf Architecture in America," Thomas
 "Turf for Golf Courses," Piper and Oakley
 "A Text Book of Grasses," Hitchcock
 "New Manual of Botany," Grey
 "Handbook of Fertilizers," Gustafson
 "The Lawn," Dickinson
 "Common Weeds of the Farm and Garden," Lang
 "Shrubs of the United States," Apgar
 "The A B C of Turf Culture," O. J. Noer
 "Grasses," Ward
 "The Soil," Hall
 "The Links," Hunter
 "Plant Disease Fungi," Stevens
 "Lawn Care," O. M. Scott & Sons
 "Golfdom,"
 "The National Greenkeeper,"
 Green Section "Bulletin,"
 "Michigan Weeds,"
 "Golf Turf," Stumpp & Walter

We might add:

Various U. S. D. A. and Experiment Station Bulletins. The NEWSLETTER! We hope.

Some Bulletins which will help:

"Important Cultivated Grasses," U. S. D. A. Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1254.

"Experiments with Turf Grasses in New Jersey," New Jersey Agri. Exp. Sta., Bulletin 497.

"Seed Inspection," Mass. Agri. Exp. Sta., Bulletin 56.

"Lead-Arsenate Experiments on the Germination of Weed Seeds," Cornell Univ. Agri. Exp. Sta., Bulletin 508.

"The Persistence of Certain Lawn Grasses as Affected by Fertilization and Competition," R. I. Exp. Sta., Bulletin 217.

"An Analytical Study of the Putting Greens of Rhode Island Golf Courses," R. I. Exp. Sta., Bulletin 212.

"Weeds: How to Control Them," U. S. D. A. Farmers' Bulletin 660.

"Lawn Management Facts," Mass. Agri. College, Extension Leaflet, No. 85.

"The Effect of Air Temperature on the Pathogenicity of Rhizoctonia Solani Parasitizing Grasses on Putting Green Turf," Mass. Agri. Exp. Sta., Contribution No. 105.

And many others on side issues!

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SUGGESTIONS FOR A REFERENCE LIBRARY ON TURF MANAGEMENT

(N. J. Agri. Exp. Sta.)

1. Land Drainage and Reclamation by Ayres & Scoates. Published by McGraw-Hill Book Co.
2. Land Drainage by Powers & Teeters. Published by John Wiley & Sons.
3. The Nature and Properties of Soils by Lyon & Buckman. Published by The MacMillan Co.
4. Principles of Soil Technology by Emerson. Published by The MacMillan Co.
5. Soil Management by Bear. Published by John Wiley & Sons.
6. Fertilizers by Bear. Published by John Wiley & Sons.
7. Fertilizers by Voorhees. Published by The MacMillan Co.
8. Plant Nutrition and Crop Production by Russell. Published by Univ. of California Press.
9. Bacteria and Soil Fertility by Greaves. Published by D. VanNostrand Co.
10. Bacteria in Relation to Country Life by Lipman. Published by The MacMillan Co.
11. The Botany of Crop Plants by Robbins. Published by P. Blakiston's Son & Co.
12. The Principles of Plant Culture by Goff. Published by The MacMillan Co.
13. Turf for Golf Courses by Piper & Oakley. Published by the MacMillan Co.
14. The A. B. C. of Turf Culture by Noer. Published by the National Greenkeeper.
15. Manual of Weeds by Ada Georgia. Published by The MacMillan Co.
16. Injurious Insects by O'Kane. Published by The MacMillan Co.
17. Insects and Their Control by Wilson. Printed by Thatcher-Anderson Co., New Brunswick, N. J.
18. Diseases of Economic Plants by Stevens & Hall. Published by The MacMillan Co.
19. Bulletin of the United States Golf Association Green Section. Vol. for 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929.
20. Agricultural Meteorology by Smith. Published by The MacMillan Co.

There will be a meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers' Association, to which all members of the Greenkeepers' Club of New England are invited, on Monday, August 17th, at the Massasoit Country Club, Warwick, R. I. Eighteen holes of golf in the morning, followed by an old fashioned clambake at Dubey's Grove nearby.

The July meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers' Association was held at the Warwick Country Club.

The Green Section Summer Meeting will be held at the Experimental Plots at the Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass. on July 27th at 3 P. M.

John Latvis of Tatnuck is a very fortunate man, as he is now the proud user of his new combined garage and workshop, built at cost of \$12,000. This building not only contains showers and toilets for the workmen, but also has a fine office for the greenkeeper.

A Johnson Motor Scythe, manufactured by Hedge and Matthies Co. of Boston, was demonstrated at the July meeting.

We are pleased to note that the newspapers are giving more and more space to greenkeepers. The Providence Journal recently had a fine article on the difficulties of greenkeeping, with pictures and comments from Thomas Galvin, Martin Greene, and Harry Cottle. We also have noticed with interest the fine publicity which the Manchester (N. H.) Union is giving Bill Lindsay this year.

Schmuck (At filling station): "Here comes another I. W. W. customer."

Loafer: "What's that?"

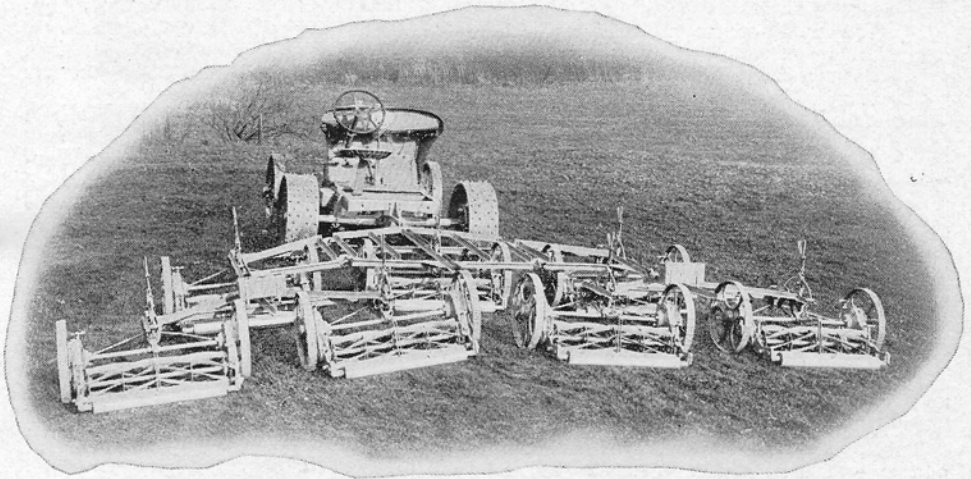
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HOW THE GRASS PLANT GROWS DISCUSSION

This discussion was led by Prof. Davis of the Botany Department.

Any old rotting material which plant can take in is **humus**. Necessary elements for plant growth are C HOPKNS Ca Fe Mg. These are found in everything that lives. After root dies, (containing necessary elements), it is organic, it is available for plant food in five days.

Some plants will die out under competition; will starve to death unless fed and watered.

There is no need to inoculate for legumes, better fertilize.

Organic material holds water. Finely ground charcoal will hold moisture.

Earthworms help to make organic matter available. (Read Darwin's "Theory of Vegetable Mold").

There is a vast quantity of organic matter available which could be used, composted first for some time with soil and manure.

Individual plants have taste for other elements.

Carbon dioxide from air and water and oxygen from soil used by plant to form starch, this changes to sugar to feed plant. Phosphorus is taken into root, goes to nucleus of every cell. The potash is sort of a hammer to stimulate other elements. Protoplasm is mostly nitrogen. Sulphur also goes into the protoplasm. The iron is used in forming the green of the plant.

Feed balanced food.

Small brown-patch belongs to genus *Fusarium*, of which there are 2200 varieties. Disease is often to blame for poor conditions, when some other factor is blamed.

World's biggest crop is grass.

G. C. W.

"Unless it makes life more worth while, don't call it education. The only lasting values any culture can produce are to broaden man's capacity for service and to bring the human spirit greater peace."

"Football may be a he-man's sport, but golf is the game for the rough."

The July meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association was held at the Barrington Country Club, Barrington, R. I. on July 20th. Over forty members and guests played nine holes in the morning and nine in the afternoon over this sporty layout, owned and operated as a public course by Mr. Harry Cottelle. A fine clam-bake was served at noon.

Gross prizes were won by R. Wallace Peckham of the Sachuest Golf Club and Robert MacAndrew of the West Warwick Country Club with gross scores of 73. First net was won by Martin Greene with a net of 73.

Here is an interesting note, well vouched for which will be of interest to golf fans.

Golf hazards in Africa are such that in the rules of one golf club it is stated the ball may be lifted without penalty if it lodges in the footprint of a hippopotamus!

Note to business: It's much harder to turn a corner lying down.

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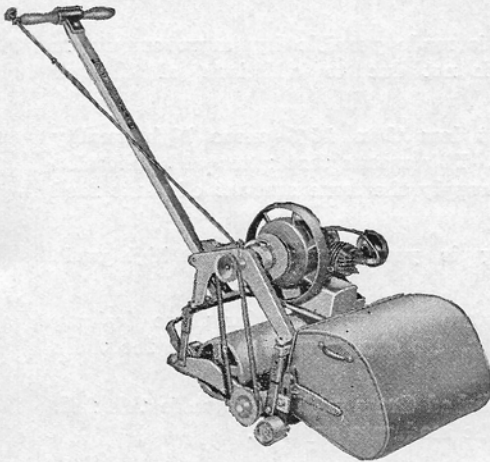
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