

NEWSLETTER

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JUNE

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

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RHODE ISLAND GREENKEEPERS FIELD DAY

The second annual Greenkeepers' Field Day was held at the R. I. Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I. on May 25th. Greenkeepers were present from Connecticut and Massachusetts, as well as twenty-eight out of a possible forty-two from Rhode Island.

After registration, the morning was occupied with a visit to the experimental plots under the direction of Dr. and Mr. North. The plots Odland showed improvement from last year, and some new experiments are under way. On the old lawn plots the experiments being carried out are the old test of acid vs. alkaline; and also effects of compost top dressing on different grasses; manure, lime, and alkaline Blue grass; fertilizers on Kentucky effect of different soil reactions on newly seeded R. I. Bent plots; and results of arsenate of lead treatments. Weed eradication tests are also being conducted.

On the golf green plots there is a comparison of different strains and varieties of bent grasses, fescues, and blue grass for golf greens; stolons vs. seed; and also a reproduction test, to determine whether bent grasses are self pollinated or not.

Experiments are being conducted on another series of plots, to compare the seed producing ability of different bent grasses under local conditions, and to test the inheritance of characters of different bents. Another series of plots of R. I. Bent grown for seed have different fertilizer mixtures to determine what is the element which influences seed production.

Following lunch in the College Dining Hall, a Grass and Turf Conference was held with Director Gilbert presiding. President Raymond G. Bressler welcomed the gathering to the College. The principal speaker was Mr. Daniel A. Clarke, proprietor of one of the State's largest nurseries. Mr. Clarke spoke on "Trees and Shrubs for the Golf Course". This address is appended. Following this conference, there was

Following this conference, there was a demonstration of mowing equipment on the College lawns, and most of the well-known makes were represented. Several also played golf in the late afternoon at the Point Judith Country Club, and thus wound up a very interesting day.

PLANTING OF GOLF GROUNDS

1. Areas to be planted.

- (a) Boundaries of grounds.
- (b) Carefully placed groups throughout grounds.

2. Need for boundary planting.

- (a) Gives unity to the grounds, enclosing them much as a frame does a good picture.
- (b) Affords protection from the elements, particularly from wind.
- (c) Shuts out unsightly surroundings.
- (d) Gives a certain degree of privacy and seclusion.
- (e) Adds the intrinsic which trees and shrubs afford.
- 3. Grouping of trees and shrubs throughout grounds.
 - (a) Break up the larger area and form smaller units.
 - (b) Take away from the baseness of the grounds.
 - (c) Afford shade.
 - (d) Are dependent for location upon the topography of the grounds.

4. Principles governing arrangement of trees and shrubs.

This logically leads to an examination of the principles governing good planting. These may be assembled under the somewhat unpretentious heads of simplicity, breadth and harmony. As to simplicity, the meaning is clear from the very term itself. Simplicity ought to characterize our attempts. Right here let us free our minds from the idea that there is any inherent relationship between simplicity and bareness. Distinctly there is not. When we have determined our needs, we must meet them in as straightforward a manner as possible. If a simple hedge will best serve our purpose, let us use it. Let us not be beguiled into substituting a

meaningless mass of shrubs. Keep in view the fitness of the attempt. Avoid over-elaborateness. Likewise observe simplicity in the number of plants used. Do not crowd. Beware of an overuse, particularly of shrubs and trees. Then choose comparatively few varieties. From the failure to observe this pre-caution may be attributed so many of the defects of planting. When so many beautiful shrubs are offered by the nurserymen, and so many striking novelties, the planter may easily forget his main purpose, think too much of the claims of the individual plants, and thus produce a confused medley instead of an harmonious whole.

As for breadth, what is it? It may be said to be the making of one feature principal and the keeping of subordinate features from obscuring or belittling it. The meaning may be clearer when viewed in relation to some tangible object, as for instance, the lawn. This when it occurs, should be principal. It should possess openness and extent and should have a fringe of shrubs or trees and shrubs about its borders. Never should it be cluttered and crowded with individual shrubs or with clumps of shrubs. An area thus treated ceases to be a lawn and the whole becomes a mere collection of plants with slight grass strips between the individuals. This error, or rather blunder, is most common and deserves the most avoidance. Futhermore. studied if breadth is to be secured, this fringe of shrubs skirting the lawn must be composed essentially of masses, not of single plants nor of groups of two or three.

Harmony should prevail throughout. The plants used on our grounds should be in perfect accord with our native vegetation. In fact, it is best to let our own trees and shrubs form the framework of our plantation, the background, as it were, for those worthy exotic plants which please us with the charm of their form. of their flowers, or of their fruit. Despise not the beauty of our native plants, but rather encourage them to contribute to our pleasure and to our appreciation of their real worth. Then there should be harmony between the trees and shrubs and their surroundings in respect to size. They should not be too small or too large. This size-concord should exist between the plants themselves. A very tall shrub and a low shrub should not be placed side by side. In the mass, as a rule, there should be a gradual gradation in height. There

should be a nice transition from the grass to the tallest shrubs. There may be some exceptions, but accept it as a rule that we should ever strive for concord and not for contrast. Likewise harmony should prevail in the texture of the foliage. A bold tropical foliage should not come in contrast with delicate foliage of fine tracery. In truth there is little place for this bad, bold foliage, nor will it trouble us if we are content to observe our first principle of harmony and not be seduced by the desire for mere display. There should be a careful transition between shrubs with diverse texture of foliage, just as there should be a gradation in height. Then, particularly in the case of vines, there should be harmony between the foliage and the structure to which it is related. For one thing the foliage should not be too large and coarse. Then it should be in accord with the material of which the structure is composed. Most important is color-harmony, which is likewise commonly violated. The foliage of our trees and shrubs should harmonize in color as well as in texture. One monotonous tint of green is to be avoided, but still more an excessive use of bright hued plants. To be safe let us shun the so-called golden foliaged plants, those possessing sickly as well as sickening yellow foliage. Avoid shrubs with variegated or blotched leaves. And use only sparingly, and then with discretion, trees or shrubs with reddish coloring."

FIELD DAY NOTES

Some of the finest test plots we have seen anywhere!

Some grasses recommended for Rhode Island:—a good mixture for greens, 40% Chewings fescue, 40% R. I. Bent, and 20% Red Top; for fairways, Canada Blue, Chewings fescue, Fine-leaved fescue, and Red Top; for the rough, Sheep's fescue.

Skin the loam from the rough and use it for compost, then seed Sheep's fescue.

Rhode Island has four greenkeepers with over thirty years of service at greenkeeping; John Yule at Newport and Wanumetonemy. 33 years; Hugh Colgan. Point Judith. 32 years; Lawrence Hay, Agawam Hunt, 32 years; and James DiLuccio, Agawam, Metacomet, and Massasoit, 31 years.

If you missed this Field Day and have an opportunity to visit these plots later, do not hesitate. What you will see, and what you can learn will repay you for your trouble.

NEW JERSEY FIELD DAY

The annual June Field Day was held at the New Jersey State Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J. on June 15th. This meeting was sponsored by the N. J. State Golf Association, the N. J. Greenkeepers Association, and the Experiment Station.

Over a hundred and fifty assembled at the plots in the afternoon, and examined with interest the various experiments being carried out. Plots of various grasses were started in 1923, and some of these have since been discarded as unsuitable for conditions at the Station. These plots are divided, half cut at lawn length, and half allowed to go to seed. Grasses discarded are crested dog's tail, sweet vernal, wood meadow. Rye grass mowed at lawn length will persist, but cuts hard. Poa trivialis is of some value in shady places. Meadow fescue is not to be recommended. Timothy has no place for fine turf.

Plots of various bents have half cut at lawn height and half at putting green height. Four plots near these show the four mixtures recommended by the Station for various conditions in New Jersey. (It is noticeable that Kentucky Blue grass will come in all plots but bent).

The fertilizer series plots are now entering their fifth year. These plots were originally Virginia bent, with same amount of Nitrogen being given all plots during season. The organics, especially alfalfa meal, bring in the earthworms. The acid plots are dark green, but in a dry spell are first to suffer, the less acid plots are much more healthy throughout the season. Clover is not present in plots where quickly available N. is present. A pH of 5.5 is crital point of acidity here. Only certain types of weeds are controlled by acidity. Vigor in turf is most important factor in weed control; keeping weed seed out is second factor of importance.

A topdressing experiment is also being carried on part of these plots, with half soil and half sand; a third soil and two-thirds sand; two-thirds soil and a third sand; and two-thirds soil, a third sand, and lead arsenate. The lead arsenate plots have no earthworms.

Disease was very evident on most of the highly fertilized plots, and Dr. Howard Sprague of the Station explained that it was not certain whether this was small brown-patch or a leaf spot. These attacks are preceded by cool wet weather in every case.

Several areas of different species of bent at putting green height included one very fine strain known as Valentine No. 2. This is one of the finest looking plots we have ever seen, but probably would be hard to keep in condition on a green.

A fertilizer element test with and without lime is of interest, showing conclusively that N. is absolutely necessary, but the need of the other elements are not shown so much as yet.

Other experiments being carried on are a comparison of soil types, comparison of types of organic matter, soil texture experiment, height of cut experiment, seed mixtures for lawns, with various fertilizers, nursery of bent grass strains, etc.

The evening meeting was held at the Hotel Woodrow Wilson. Following dinner, the meeting was in charge of Mr. R. F. Arnott, Chairman of the New Jersey State Golf Association, as chairman. Mr. Arnott welcomed those present, and pointed out that everything being done is for the greenkeepers with the cooperation of the Green Section. He introduced Dr. Monteith of the Green Section, to speak on "Velvet Bent".

Dr. Monteith pointed out that we have not seen the ideal grass for putting greens as yet; several grasses are suitable for golf course work, particularly putting greens, each has its advantages and disadvantages. Many around the country have been interested in Velvet Bent; there has been a lot of experimenting with it. We are not recommending any one variety of thirty at Arlington for whole 18 greens, are merely advising to try a part of a green. It is one of the most beautiful grasses. It will grow where other bents will grow, is economical to maintain, but is more finicky than some other grasses.

There seems to be a reaction toward variety on turf on greens just the same as variety of contour, away from the idea of same speed and same texture for all greens. Velvet bent is slow coming, slow to recover from injury. There are many colors, many varieties.

NEWSLETTER

TOTAL 2-YEAR REPAIR BILL FOR QUINT AND TWO GREENS MOWERS—50 CENTS!



"The PENNSYLVANIA Quint we purchased two years ago," writes Mr. Wilbur Arnett, greenkeeper of the Bridgeman Golf Club, Bridgeman, Michigan, "has given wonderful satisfaction on fairways and rough. "The fairways improved greatly and we kept the rough at the right height all the time at a saving of more than half. OUR TOTAL RE-PAIR BILL FOR THE TWO YEARS IS 50c!

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More factors than looks must be considered. Grass must be studied for whole year to try it out well.

The second speaker was Dr. T. E. Odland of the Rhode Island Experiment Station. Dr. Odland described the interest in seed production in Rhode Island, extending down from Colonial times. Most of the seed produced now is R. I. Bent, some Velvet Bent. Experiments in seed production are being carried on at the R. I. Station. On many courses there is an opportunity to propagate own seed in small amounts. Dr.Odland also described the other experiments being carried on at the R. I. Station, but as they are covered elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER, we will omit this portion of his talk.

Dr. J. G. Lipman, Director of the N. J. Station was the next speaker, and he made an earnest plea to have more recreational facilities, for the more leisure which is bound to come when the shorter hours and the fewerday week come for labor.

Dr. Howard Sprague talked on the fine relationship between the greenkeepers and the Station. He spoke of the inquiries coming in almost constantly to the Station, from home owners, parks, etc., as well as golf courses. Velvet Bent propagation by stolons is not always satisfactory; velvets as a group are not as easy to handle. It would be best to wait a few years before doing too much with them.

Mr. Henry Islieb, President of the N. J. Greenkeepers Association welcomed his fellow greenkeepers, mentioning the fact that some were present from Long Island, Philadelphia, Westchester, and Massachusetts. Mr. Islieb also acted as chairman for the short time in which there was some discussion. We felt sorry that more time could not have been devoted to this phase of the program.

Although we feel that the Experiment Station should certainly be complimented on its fine plots, that we should thank Dr. Sprague, Mr. Islieb, and all the others who helped to make our visit so enjoyable; the biggest thing we noticed was the very evident and very splendid cooperation which exists between the agencies which jointly sponsored this Field Day, the N. J. Golf Association, and the Experiment Station. All of these organizations should certainly be complimented on this very fine cooperation.

G. C. West.

JUNE MEETING

The June meeting was held at the Fall River Country Club, Fall River, Mass. on Monday, June 1st. An eighteen hole medal handicap tournament was played in the morning. The prize winners were:

1st net-John Counsell-	94-15-79
2nd net-J. O'Malley-	110-30-80
3rd net-Athur Anderson-	101-20-81
4th net—E. Hansen—	105-24-81
5th net—E. D. Pierce—	95-12-83
1st gross-R. W. Peckham-	90
Best net nine-M. O'Grady-	48-8-40
Best nine grossH. Farrant-	- 47
Most 4's-Guy C. West	
Most 3's—Carl Treat	
High Gross-E. B. Fuller-	136

Special Guest Prize—M. Lineberry—89

The first three net prizes were presented by President Thomas Almy and Green Chairman W. Prescott Rogers of the Fall River Country Club, and the Greenkeepers Club appreciates the kindness of these men in helping boost golf among our members.

Clifton E. Sowerby

The article in the May issue on Power greens mowing by John S. Parsons has started some argument at least, and we have had a few letters concerning this subject. A letter from Mr. W. L. Austin of the Ideal Power Lawn Mower Co. calls attention to their new power mower. Mr. K. E. Goit of the Toro Manufacturing Co. writes as follows:

"In the last issue of the NEWS-LETTER I was very much interested in the article by John S. Parsons of the Portland Country Club, about power and hand greensmowing. This is by far the best analytical article that has ever appeared in any publication on this particular subject. Mr. Parsons expresses on paper what a good many of the better known men have expressed privately, and he has certainly done a very good job of it."

A letter from Mr. Charles B. Worthington, President of the Worthington Mower Co. takes the opposite view, and is of general interest:

June 8th, 1931

Dear Mr. Editor: The article entitled "Power putting green mowing versus hand mowing" which Mr. Parsons contributed to the

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May number of your Newsletter is interesting in many particulars. It shows among other things that progressive greenkeepers are beginning to discuss questions of this character that until a few years ago were never thought of. Until the advent of the Worthington gang mower, the golf course machinery and practice of the day had remained for generations substantially unchanged from those with which Tom Morris was familiar.

It is not easy to account for this. Perhaps the players were not exacting and the slowness of the machines cut no figure in those years when time was the cheapest thing a greenkeeper could waste.

But these conditions in the last few years have certainly been altogether changed. The power machinery of the modern greenkeeper is as advanced as any to be found in similar departments of mechanics.

As all of golfdom is aware of the wonders these power machines have wrought on the fairways, a call has naturally become insistent for power upon the greens to repeat if possible, on this far more important and costly service its fairway success.

In response to this call, as a preliminary reconnoiter so to speak, the hand mower of commerce carrying upon its back an engine for power purposes, was called into action. In various modifications it now occupies on parks and private estates an important place.

But this walk behind design has not stained as Mr. Parsons says, the popularity or success it promised. We agree with him in this and on many other things, but when he comes to discuss the Overgreen, a machine of a different type, whose rovel design grew out of a determination on the part of its builders to have it escape the very faults and weaknesses he claims to have discovered, we feel quite sure that he has not taken time enough in his examination, to fully understand its salient features.

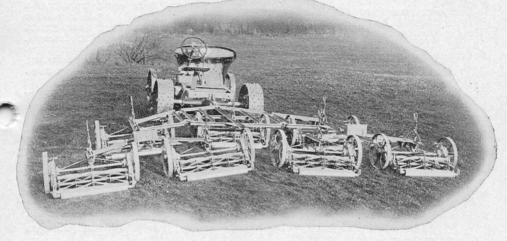
In making his calculations, designed to prove that power has not yet gained any real advantage over hand mowing, he includes the time spent in going and coming to the greens, and preparing for operation. He intimates that by omitting this, in some of our calculations we have thrown considerable doubt on their correctness. These outside operations were purposely excluded because it seems to us they apply with equal effect to both hand and power machines, to be counted or omitted to suit the investigator. In any event we fail to see the force of Mr. Parsons contention that it takes longer to prepare one than the other. But surely this point can be settled in actual test by the experimenter. The Overgreen and its performance is no longer a subject of abstract or theoretical calculation. It stands a perfected achievement. It is demonstrating what it can do and what time or money it can save, in daily practice on hundreds of courses all over the Country. Mr. Parsons must realize it would not remain on one of these, if his summing up of its shortcomings were correct.

If for the sake of the economic bearing which this subject has upon If for the sake of our clubs expenses and budget, he were to carry his investigation along a little further, he would discover for himself that there is no vagueness or uncertainty in the exploitation of this machine. It is proving now every day that the quality of its cut is unequalled; that it mows four greens of 6000 square feet in the time that it takes to mow one by hand; that as the greens increase in area this difference becomes still greater; that as the mowing gang comprises three of as perfect hand mowers as any in existence, it must necessarily cut as perfect a swath and leave a surface as unblemished.

He would also convince himself that the Overgreen power element with its entirely novel compressible tires, produces no rolling effect whatever. Whether the weight on the wheels is much or little, the pressure on the turf is regulated by hand to any degree that is deemed perfectly safe. It is this discovery in fact that seems alone to have made possible the placing of power on the greens.

But in the last analysis this is a very serious question indeed, apart from any mechanics. It is not to be decided by a wave of the hand nor is it rightfully effected by the esthetic idea that there is beauty in the parallel track of hand mowing. It involves the very existence of many clubs struggling today to reestablish themselves on less extravagant lines. Every friend of the game welcomes any improvement that will make it less expensive. It means more clubs, more players and ultimately more employment. It brings the game into the reach of all. Men like Mr. Parsons, rest under the responsibility of seeing that this endeavor, involving

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Chas. C. Worthington

The next meeting of the Greenkeepers Club of New England will be held at the Concord Country Club, Concord Mass., on Monday, July 13th, at 9:30 A. M. 18 hole golf tournament, putting contest, and entertainment. A new nine holes has just been opened. Make your plans to come to this meeting.

We note with pleasure the appointment of John-Shanahan of the Braeburn Country Club, West Newton, Mass. to the Advisory Committee of the Green Section. We feel that this is a very judicious and happy appointment.

There will be a meeting at the Charles River Country Club Experimental Plots on July 27 at 3 P. M.

COMSTOCK PARK NOTES

The Comstock Park Public Golf Course, formerly the Cranston Country Club, is situated on top of Applehouse Hill, Cranston, Rhode Island. Nearly 14,000 admission tickets were sold in the season of 1930.

Late in season of 1930 construction was started on second nine holes. This new nine holes is now coming along fact and I want to have them ready by August 1st, if possible. We have all g evens and tees seeded and grass is showing. I am going to put on a shovel and teams this week, (May 18th) to fill holes and grade, and will have tractors to finish plowing and get ready to seed fairways, I have the 14th and 10th ready and want to seed the rest of the fairways within two weeks. I have nearly all the sand in traps.

Our greens will be very sporty, having high backs and being well trapped. The seventh is four feet ten inches higher at back than the front. I made it a point to grade them so as to be good for the putt at the same time, but you must not take it for granted they will be easy. The twelfth is about eight feet high at back from the lowest point, still the top is fairly level. The greens all can be seen from the tee except the eleventh, and this one has a tree for a guide, with branches high enough to be of no bother for the ball. The tenth is a short hole with two small traps, one at each side at back, and twenty-five yards in front of it is a trap which runs across the entire width. No rolling to this green, and you must pitch your ball. The fifteenth has a high back with one small sized trap, and a ball should stop good; but look out for a roll if you putt too hard down grade, for it has a roll two ways. The sixteenth is a leg of mutton, and two large traps, one at each side near the approach, and don't try rolling on as it is dangerous. The back is about six feet up.

The thirteenth is quite an easy grade, but with a high back, with one trap. Fourteen is well trapped on three sides, and watch your step there. Seventeen is another with very large traps, but a good wide appoach. We have a bunker at each side to enter, with a trap at end of one about fifty yards in front. Eighteen is a large green with four small traps and two approaches.

We will have open drains across the 16th and 17th and 18th, and an open ditch up along side of 15th. Let us see you play it and say it is easy!

Roland F. Robinson





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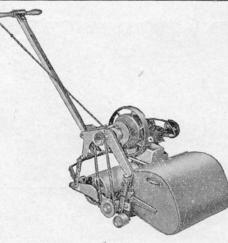
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