



NEWS LETTER

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TESTS OF PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZERS

MARCH

1932

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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March, 1932

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FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, on Feb. 8th. Mr. R. W. Clark of the Braintree Golf Club was elected an Associate Member.

The first speaker was Mr. Kenneth Welton of the Green Section. Mr. Welton gave a resume of his talk given at the Convention in New York, and discussed the importance of the structure of the soil used for putting greens.

He brought out that because a soil is fertile for corn or crops does not mean that it will be fertile under putting green conditions. Under these conditions some soils seal up, sink, giving less pore space, ruining the structure.

It is best to have greenkeeper on hand during construction to look after soil used; if this has not been done, and construction has been poor, greenkeeper should go on record in regard to the condition, knowing that play will ruin the greens. Then two or three greens may be rebuilt yearly, taking up the sod and changing the soil; or, they may be built up gradually by spike rolling and top-dressing with sandy soil.

Where greens are to be built, soil samples should be made. Mr. Welton described tests recently made with soil samples. A mold of Arlington silt loam took 8 pounds to break, while a similar mold of same silt loam with 50% sand took 6¼ pounds, and another of silt loam and 50% peat only took 1¼ pounds to break. A mold of a third each silt loam, sand, and peat took less than two pounds.

Dr. J. L. Horsfall of the American Cyanamid Co. gave an interesting talk on diseases and control with Barbak 211. Turf diseases are caused by fungi; other conditions must be right for fungi to work. The range of temper-

ature must be favorable; moisture is necessary. The fertilizer program may have something to do with the amount of disease; too much Nitrogen may be harmful. Certain strains are more susceptible than others.

The action of the fungicide upon the fungi is that it kills the mycelia if in sufficient concentration; the sclerotia present are able to resist the fungicide. Fungicide strong enough to kill the sclerotia would probably kill the turf. A heavy rainfall will make the concentration light; also cutting the grass and watering reduce the amount of fungicide. There comes a time when the concentration is so light that mycelia can grow again.

Barbak 211 had been tested in 1930, but 1931 was a much different season. The 42 days control reported was in 1930, with little rainfall; in year such as 1931 this would not hold;—for this reason it is impossible to predict length of time that fungicide will protect. Barbak 211 now has 50% more mercury than in 1931.

From reports gathered from Barbak users, 63% of those using it were satisfied. Reports of duration were from 2 to 27 days, average was 10 days. Margin of safety for Barbak 211 is 500% without burning grass. Barbak 211 is 9.5% metallic mercury; also has some fertilizer value. Barbak xx contains 19% metallic mercury, rest is inert matter.

Mr. M. V. Bailey of the same company gave a short talk on Fertilizers. It is possibly not right to use nitrogen alone. Other plant nutrients are gradually being used up. Complete fertilizers are even now giving better results in some places. Heavy applications of potash are bringing in white clover, hence go light with potash on greens. The use of phosphate on putting greens will build up the root system. The continued use of nitrogen makes soils acid. In such soils phosphate is combined as salts of iron and aluminum. In neutral or alkaline soils phosphates are combined as salts of calcium, and are much more available. Phosphorus as supplied by superphosphate is held by soil, thus when used on greens is held near surface. Ammonium phosphate is more available phosphorus, hence causes deeper root system. The ammonia forms of nitrogen cause more acidity than the nitrate forms of nitrogen fertilizers. The system of

making artificial manure has now been worked out well, may help those greenkeepers who are unable to secure manure for their compost piles.

EQUIPMENT

It is customary, I believe, for the majority of larger golf Clubs to employ a good, all-round mechanic to care for all its equipment. This is undoubtedly to advantage, as there is an almost constant demand for his services, especially during the playing season, and too, this removes a bit of the burden from the shoulders of the Greenkeeper.

But, however, smaller clubs such as Cohasse are unable to keep a man solely for this purpose; and yet this important item cannot be overlooked if the work is to be accomplished in the allotted time and in a satisfactory manner.

The tractor driver is generally recognized or considered as a sort of handy man, but he has his work to attend to and is able to devote little time to work on other equipment. Hand mowers, for instance, require considerable attention through-out the entire season and a general overhauling during the winter months in order to have them always ready for use. Owing to this condition I, for one, have concluded that in such a situation the Greenkeeper must so acquaint himself with all types of mowers as to be not only capable of determining the trouble, but also to make any required adjustments and minor repairs.

We have a lawn mower sharpener of a well-known standard make, also a finishing stand especially built for the type of putting-green mower used here and these together with motor-driven emery wheel and grindstone along with a small vise, wrenches, screwdrivers, etc., constitute the equipment of our workshop. With these items always in condition I am in a position to "operate on any ailing mower" immediately, during the busy season and as we do not have spares to depend on, this method enables us to keep the work going along with no time lost waiting for some repairman to make the necessary repairs and return the mower. We never send our mowers outside except in cases of major breakdowns which require machine shop facilities to set them going again, and when the greatest care is exercised such mishaps are few.

Our regular workmen are also taught the care of tools, especially mowers. No operator takes out a mower without first assuring himself that the reel turns freely yet close enough to the bottom or bed knife to insure a clean cut, that no side play exists due to loose or worn bearing and that all working parts are properly lubricated; a small wrench is provided each operator, which he carries for making necessary roller adjustments for height of cut.

Except in cases of real necessity no workman continues to operate a mower when any adjustment has become altered to cause undue noise or difficult operation until re-adjustment has been made.

All mowers and other equipment are thoroughly cleaned and dried before being returned to their proper places in the tool house.

Sometime during the winter I pull down all mowers, clean and sharpen them, making any necessary replacements, paint them all over (excepting bolts, nuts, or adjustment screws) and they are once more ready for use. Other tools and equipment receive the same care and I am sure that in addition to convenience this is a very economical method.

Ernest B. Lord,
Cohasse C. C.

MARCH MEETING

The regular March meeting was held a week early, on February 29th, at Horticultural Hall, Boston. Mr. Talbot Chase, President of the Massachusetts Golf Association, gave an interesting talk on the newly organized Service Section of the M. G. A., what it is, and what it is trying to do. Mr. Chase pointed out that it is the function of the M. G. A. to promote the best interests of golf. The old New England Service Bureau was taken over, reorganized, name changed, a Service Section Committee appointed, with three greenkeepers as members.

The purpose of the Service Section is almost entirely information; to gather information about prices, new equipment, certain phases of maintenance, etc., and to send this information around in bulletin form. It is hoped that this work will help to create a stable market, and show a marked improvement in prices.

The office will be at the M. G. A. office, 50 State St., Boston, in charge

of Fred Corcoran. Mr. Chase asked for hearty support of Mr. Corcoran, and for all factions to work together to give the Service Section a try for this season.

The Service Section aims to leave each club, each green chairman, each greenkeeper, his own independence, but to furnish information to all.

The second speaker was Mr. C. Adrian Sawyer, Jr., Chairman of the Greens Committee at the Braeburn Country Club. Mr. Sawyer spoke on "Our Problem", and said in part:

"Individually and separately, you and I have many problems in our connection with a Golf Club; you, with your care and maintenance and handling of labor, I with a thousand rabid golfers, well meaning critics, suggesting all sorts of things and changes, the budget officer—with his eyes on every expenditure, the tournament committees with their numerous demands, etc. So when I say **Our Problem**, I refer to that which concerns both of us simultaneously: in a fundamental and yet in a big way.

Now, what is Our Problem?

It is for both of us, collectively, to be of the **greatest possible service to our own club!**—and I mean exactly what I say.

Before analyzing the details of this problem, that you may see more clearly the Greens Chairman's responsibilities, let us examine the background of his office.

Picture to yourself the annual meeting of a Golf Club. The Directors and generally the Treasurer are elected by the members of the club. Later, at a meeting of the Directors, the President and other officers are elected. The President then appoints the Chairmen of his committees, and generally confers with each chairman as to the personnel of the respective committees, in order that the members shall be of definite value and congenial workers.

Our Brae Burn Grounds Committee consists of five members, including a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. Professionally, we have a lawyer, a merchant, an engineer, an architect, and a builder. We recognize that we must have men of varying golfing ability from the low to the high handicaps, as the location of a tee or trap or the limit of rough must be acceptable to the majority of players. Each member of the Grounds Committee has the welfare of the club at heart, and is a power among his friends in selling the program of the committee, and in defending it from

unjust criticism. The President of the club generally sits in during the meetings and, in our case, the meeting is not complete without our Greenkeeper and his assistant. General policies are discussed every month or two, and then the burden for successful fulfillment of these policies is placed squarely on the shoulders of the Chairman. Don't think for a moment that this is an idle responsibility. If, through a mistake or error in judgement of the Greenkeeper, 18 greens are lost over night, it is the chairman who is held responsible by the membership of the club, even though the real cause be generally known.

This is legally true, as well. Article XI, Sec. 4, of the Brae Burn constitution states: "The Greens Committee shall have charge of the links and of matters pertaining to the upkeep for the maintenance of the grounds."

Your Greens chairman, loaded with instructions of the Committee, is ready to act, and now turns to the Greenkeeper, in what should be the **meeting** and not the **parting** of the ways. Here, shows the stuff that counts in both Chairman and Greenkeeper.

If there be a club manager, the situation is changed slightly, depending also on whether the manager is by profession a hotel man, a greenkeeper, a professional, or a paid club member.

If any of you were in the shoes of this chairman, what under these circumstances would you desire most in your Greenkeeper?

I want the assistance of a **partner** in the business of Grounds, and when I say "partner", I mean one in every sense of the word. Confidence in each other, loyalty, a voluntary, unbiased exchange of ideas, and last, but not least, one hundred per cent co-operation—no petty politics, no attempts at currying favor with club officers or the shifting of burdens. (I am assuming, of course, that the Greenkeeper's knowledge of his profession is above question, and that the Chairman is able to grasp his own particular problems.)

I believe that the Chairman has not only the right, but a duty, to discuss with his Greenkeeper questions affecting the budget, the wage of labor, the equipment program, and the extent and character of grooming and beautifying the course, etc.

In my opinion, there is no limit to the effectiveness of the Greenkeeper who steadfastly maintains these relations with his Chairman. The qualities I have mentioned are found in some of this country's most successful men, such as:

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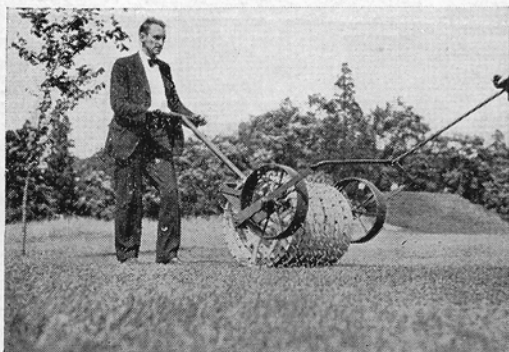
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Acquaint yourself with the budget and what it means. If your club does not have one, set one up for yourself and follow it through to the year's end. Learn what it has to teach you month by month. The higher up the ladder you climb, the more you will be obliged to deal with the budget. Learn to handle men effectively, and, at the same time, to keep their respect. Let us hear our men say that we insist on a good hard day's work, but with it all, that we are **square**. In my business, I would hire a man on no more endorsement than this.

Learn what the different kinds of work are costing you, and continually endeavor to reduce this cost. Make your purchases wisely, and with true economy. Treat your employers' bank account as though it were your own.

Be careful of the little things in life; our speech, our dress, our considerations of the feelings of others. Let us train ourselves to think straight and to the point, and to develop a sound judgment. Be up-to-date. Let us not be afraid to investigate new methods and new equipment. Experiment, but experiment well before trying new things on a large scale.

Keep in close touch with your Greenkeeper's Club and its members, and assist in keeping it active and progressive. All the while, prepare yourself for the duties of management, whether it be for Golf Club, Municipal Course, or Park. Perhaps you have a leaning for work in one of the Federal Bureaus, or, possibly, in a business connected with seed, fertilizers, or equipment. No doubt, some of you good golfers, like Joe Oldfield, will emulate Donald Ross in specializing in golf-course construction and in problems of maintenance.

By and large, however, it is my belief that the majority of you will find greater satisfaction and contentment in doing your Greenkeeping work so well that you are assured of your position with the club of your choice, as long as you wish to keep it.

SPORTSMAN'S AND GOLF SHOW

The annual Sportsman's and Golf Show was held at Mechanic's Building, Boston, from February 6th to 13th. The Golf Show was secondary to the sports exhibits, and yet there were

several exhibits of interest to the golf minded. Exhibitors of golf equipment included Hovey & Co., New England Toro Co., Breck's, Worthington Mower Co., Thos. W. Emerson., and J. F. Buel.

There were educational exhibits by the U. S. G. A. Green Section, with Kenneth Welton of the Green Section and T. T. Taylor of the Metropolitan Green Section in charge; Massachusetts State College, with Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson and several of his students in charge; Massachusetts Golf Association and by the Greenkeepers Club of New England. The committee in charge from the Greenkeepers Club was Frank H. Wilson, Jr., Chairman, John Shanahan, Howard Farrant, T. W. Swanson, and Guy C. West. All Directors of the club helped in taking charge of the booth.

The Green Section exhibit included several photographs of turf diseases, scalds of various kinds, weeds growing from flats of compost, etc.; various samples of peats; charts of fertilizer results at Experimental gardens, etc. The Massachusetts State College exhibit was arranged to show the work done at the Winter School for Greenkeepers, to bring out the many things a greenkeeper is supposed to know, and to show mounted specimens of seedlings from Pre-seeding fertilization experiment. The Massachusetts Golf Association brought out the activities of its new Service Section. The Greenkeepers Club exhibit mainly brought out the many activities of the club, and the booth served as a meeting place for greenkeepers attending the show.

All communications in regard to club affairs should be addressed to the Secretary, Charles W. Parker, 47 Bowker Road, Waltham, Mass.

In answer to many inquiries, we wish to state that the R. E. Bradley who has recently taken over the Ideal Mower Sales and Service at 273 Boylston Street, Brookline, Mass. is not the Woodworth Bradley who is a Seedsman and Equipment Dealer in Providence, R. I.

Elmer Fuller has used the fine winter weather to put in five large traps at the Highland Country Club. Elmer says, "Try to make par now"!

Lloyd Stott is now greenkeeper at the Meadowbrook Golf Club in Reading, Mass.

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TESTS OF PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZERS

Prof. M. H. Cubbon

So many new fertilizers are being put on the market and highly praised by those responsible for sales promotion that questions regarding the availability and value of this or that material are heard from all sides. The fertilizer control service of the Massachusetts Experiment Station attempts to partially answer these questions by making actual tests to determine the availability of fertilizer elements to growing plants. Thus the control service does more than merely determine if a fertilizer is up to guarantee; it finds out how the plant behaves when supplied with the fertilizer.

In the case of phosphatic materials the plan is to grow a crop which uses plenty of phosphorus, on a soil low in phosphorus, and to supply the deficiency from various phosphatic materials. The amount of crop produced plus the quantity of phosphorus taken up by the plant are compared with similar figures for some standard fertilizer such as superphosphate. The figures in the table following show how some different phosphatic compounds behaved in recent tests. All figures are relative to superphosphate, which accounts for a few of the numbers exceeding 100.

Source of phosphorus	Relative availability of phosphorus	
	Basis of dry matter yield	Basis of phosphorus recovery
Superphosphate (Standard)	100.00	100.00
Ammoniated superphosphate	99.46	110.07
Ammo-Phos (11-46)	103.74	114.92
Basic Slag Phosphate (16%)	74.86	133.19
Basic Slag Phosphate (15%)	89.90	128.06
Calcined Phosphate or available phosphate	91.24	119.86
Calcined Phosphate or Low Fluorine phosphate	70.77	76.32
Colloidal Phosphate	22.02	38.38
Fused Phosphate and Potash	92.42	99.35
High Grade Residue By-Product	80.00	93.57
Ober Residue A	108.04	116.03
Ober Residue B	44.67	73.71
Precipitated Bone (American Glue Co.)	88.05	111.37
Precipitated Bone (Imported)	101.95	109.32
Citratous Precipitated Phosphate	110.92	157.89
Reform Phosphate	73.98	75.67
Finely Ground Rock Phosphate	13.74	35.21
Triple Superphosphate	104.81	113.24

These figures indicate how poorly the natural phosphates such as rock phosphate and colloidal phosphate show up in comparison with more soluble forms of phosphorus.

Brief descriptions of the different materials in the above table are to be found in the fertilizer inspection bulletin, No. 54 in the control series, published in December, 1930. Copies of this bulletin can be had by writing to the Extension Service, Massachusetts State College, Amherst, Mass.

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SEED YIELDS OF BENT GRASS AT THE RHODE ISLAND EXPERIMENT STATION IN 1931

T. E. Odland and H. F. A. North

Seed yields were obtained for a second year at the R. I. Experiment Station in 1931 from a number of different bent grasses and with different amounts and kinds of fertilizer on Rhode Island (Colonial) bent. Considerable interest has been evident from a number of sources in the results obtained since very little work has previously been done anywhere on this problem. In 1930 the seed yields were considerably higher than had been anticipated with a number of the bents and the seed was of high quality. The Rhode Island bent, for example, showed a purity of 97.12 per cent and a germination of 90. Kernwood velvet bent had a purity of 92.38 per cent and a germination of 89. The yields in 1930 ranged from 28.1 to 323 pounds per acre.

The seed crop in 1931 was very much lighter than in the previous year. The average yield for all fertilizer treatments on Rhode Island bent was only 34.3 pounds per acre whereas in 1930 the average was 109.4 pounds per acre. In general, the yields were approximately 1/3 of the previous year. The purity and germination tests have not been completed on the 1931 crop.

The light yields the past year seemed to be due chiefly to poor seed setting—there was enough hay produced to indicate yields fully as large as the previous year. In fact from the field appearance of the plats one might have expected fully as heavy yields as were obtained in 1930. Apparently the light set was due to the unfavorable weather conditions during the critical period of pollination.

The following tables show the yields obtained during the past year.

TABLE I. Yields of seed of different bent grasses in 1931. (Section B).

Kind	Pounds seed per acre
Red Top	156.8
Highland velvet bent	126.8
Astoria bent	96.7
Seaside (Marshfield) creeping bent	88.0
R. I. (Colonial)	82.2
Seaside (Coos Co.) creeping bent	79.6
Virginia (creeping bent)	38.6
Kernwood velvet bent	26.1
B. P. I. 14276 velvet bent	25.8
Washington creeping bent	11.6
Yorkshire velvet bent	9.6

TABLE II. Yields of Rhode Island bent with different fertilizer ratios in 1931.

Fertilizer Ratio	Pounds seed per acre
N P K	
0—0—0 (no fertilizer)	7.2
1—6—3	7.2
2—6—3	10.1
4—6—3	33.7
6—6—3	56.6
6—2—3	45.0
6—10—3	47.7
6—6—1	59.3
6—6—5	41.8

The Red Top produced the largest yield of seed. This was also true in 1930. Virginia creeping bent produced next to the highest in 1930 but was one of the poorer ones the past year. This was due to poor growth as well as climatic conditions. The same was true of the other creeping bents. It seems as if under our conditions the creeping bents will not maintain seed production over as long a period as will Rhode Island Velvet bent. The Metropolitan creeping bent did not produce enough seed so that any could be harvested last year.

As in 1930 the amount of nitrogen in the fertilizer had the greatest influence on the seed yield. The yields were almost directly proportional to the amount of nitrogen used. Variation in the amount of phosphoric acid or potash had very little effect on the seed yield.

Attention should be called to the fact that these results were obtained on small experimental plats. Under larger field conditions it would be necessary to guard against using too much nitrogen and so cause lodging.

President McCormack has appointed the following committees for 1932:

Welfare Committee:

James Sullivan, Chairman,
47 Hammond St., Waltham, Mass.
Martin Green,
8 Ivy St., E. Providence, R. I.
Elliot D. Pierce,
Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass.

Employment Committee:

John Shanahan, Chairman,
253 Fuller St., W. Newton, Mass.
Michael J. O'Grady,
Slocum Rd., N. Dartmouth, Mass.
George Volmer,
Hatherly C. C., Minot, Mass.

Educational and Interrelation Committee, Massachusetts Section:

T. W. Swanson, Chairman,
110 Bedford St., Lexington, Mass.
Frank H. Wilson,
Charles River Country Club,
Newton Centre, Mass.
Carlton E. Treat,
Woodland Golf Club,
Auburndale, Mass.

Rhode Island Section:

R. Wallace Peckham, Chairman,
Sachuest Golf Club,
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Watch Hill Rd., Westerly, R. I.
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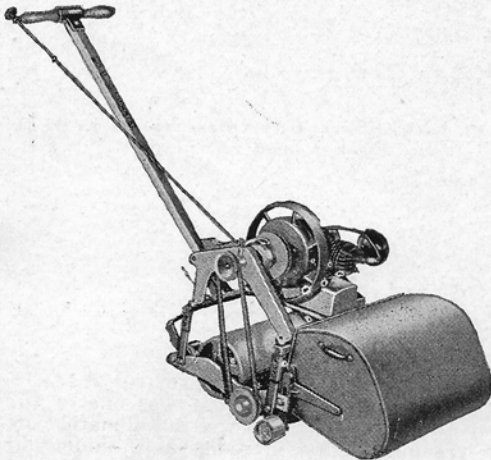
SPRING WORK ON THE GOLF COURSE

The first thing I do on my course, just as soon as the frost is out of the ground, is to rake my greens with very fine sharp round-toothed rakes. Then I brush them off with birch brooms, and spread a quarter inch fine sifted baked loam over each green. Then I drag a steel mat both ways over each green and roll with a heavy water roller.

I sod badly worn tees. Where places in fairways are winter killed, I rake out the old grass, then seed, loam, and roll. I roll all the fairways just as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

Thomas Murray,
Tedesco Country Club.

The What Cheer C. C. of Pawtucket, R. I. where Charles Thibault is green-keeper-manager has a fine bowling green, which is much patronized during the season. Probably few country clubs have such a side-line!



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