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NOVEMBER

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*"Are you using your mind or just
being a regular feller?"*

NEW WORK BY DR. SPRAGUE

A paper entitled "Root Development of Perennial Grasses and Its Relation to Soil Conditions" by Dr. Howard B. Sprague of the New Jersey Agri. Experiment Station, a reprint from SOIL SCIENCE, has recently come to our attention. This paper describes the methods, etc. relative to the experiments conducted by Dr. Sprague in the root development of Kentucky Bluegrass and Colonial Bent. Observations as set forth in the "Summary" of this report are of interest:

Summary

"An original method for determining abundance of roots for pasture and turf grasses was devised to permit a study of root development on a typical podzolic soil of the gray-brown forest soil group.

"Periodic harvest of roots on Kentucky bluegrass and colonial bent grass during the months of April, May, and June indicated that bluegrass began formation of new roots approximately 2 weeks earlier than bent grass, apparently because of a difference in the minimum temperatures at which growth could proceed. New roots were produced on bluegrass until May 4, whereas formation of new roots on colonial bent continued intermittently until about June 15.

"The maximum root weight for bluegrass occurred in early May and practically 2 weeks later for bent grass. The

maximum root weight was approximately twice as great as the quantity present at the beginning of the season, indicating that at least one-half of the root system is newly generated each spring. This being the case, soil and cultural conditions in early spring are more likely to affect root development than at other seasons. Practically all of the roots for both species were found in the upper 9 inches of soil on the soil type investigated, the abundance decreasing rapidly with depth.

"The subterranean growth in the first inch of soil always consisted of stems and roots. Since total root weight was highly correlated with root weight below the first inch, the latter value may be relied upon for comparative root studies, thus eliminating the necessity for separating roots and stems in the upper soil level.

"A detailed comparison of the root development of six grass species in June 1931 showed hard fescue to be the only grass with roots extending in significant quantity below the depth at which the soil had been plowed in previous cropping. There was a rapid decline in the abundance of roots of all species between the first and sixth inch soil layers. This reduction was apparently not caused by changes in soil reaction, available phosphorous supply, or quantity of soil organic matter as measured by organic carbon content. In general, reduced root development below the sixth inch was associated with greater soil acidity, lower available phosphorous, and lower carbon content, but the relation was apparently not one of cause and effect.

"Mowing twice weekly at a height of ¼-inch greatly restricted root development of colonial, seaside, and velvet bent grasses, as compared with ⅞-inch with the effect most pronounced from the third inch downward. Although hard fescue possessed more abundant root growth than the three bent species, when cut at ¼-inch, this characteristic did not prevent eventual killing of the fescue. The death of hard fescue under close mowing was apparently a case of gradual starvation caused by continuous and severe defoliation made possible by the erect habit of growth of the tops.

"The root development of Kentucky bluegrass clipped at ⅞-inch twice weekly was fully as abundant as that of uncut bluegrass. Root development of redbud was reduced by regular mowing at ⅞-inch. From the behavior of the two

species bluegrass appears better suited than redtop to the repeated clipping occurring on pastures and lawns.

"Although the three bent species tolerated regular mowing at a height of $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch, the ratio of roots to tops produced was considerably lower than when mowed at a $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch length. The longer cut favored relatively greater occupation of the deeper soil layers, and therefore greater opportunity to maintain growth in periods of adversity. The ratio of roots to top was comparatively low for bluegrass, not because of scanty root development but because of abundant top growth. The low root-top ratio of this species was compensated for by the underground placement of the creeping stems and the ability to become dormant in unfavorable seasons.

"The root development of creeping bent grass cut at $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch length with 12 different systems of fertilization indicated that the residual effect of fertilizers on the soil is of great importance. Total root weights in the upper 10 inches of soil were several times as great on plots with pH values below 5.5 as on those with reactions of pH 5.8 or above. Since the vigor of tops was inversely correlated with root abundance, and many of the grass roots in the strongly acid soils appeared to be dead, the conclusion is drawn that the roots produced in previous years had accumulated because the soil reaction was not favorable for their decay.

"Comparisons of grass root systems under different types of management should not be used to measure the effect of the treatment on root development, unless the soil reaction has permitted decay of dead roots.

"A lack of correlation between the supply of available phosphorous, organic carbon content, or abundance of lime, and root development suggests that certain unidentified factors control root development and occupation of soil layers on such soil types. Aeration and physical resistance to root penetration are suggested as possible factors that would merit consideration.

"Slowly available nitrogenous fertilizers permitted somewhat greater root development than soluble fertilizers supplying equal amounts of total nitrogen. Since relatively high ratios of soluble nitrogen to carbohydrate reserves have been shown to favor top growth rather than root development, it seems possible that early spring applications of available nitrogenous

fertilizers in abundance may reduce the quantity of new roots formed and thus limit utilization of the soil resources for the remainder of the season."

A REMEDY FOR CLOVER

For the benefit of those green-keepers who have had difficulty in controlling clover on their greens, may I pass along my experience with a remedy this season which appears to be a sure thing.

Our 4th green at Juniper Hill was an eye sore because of the heavy infestation of clover. It was about the worst case of the kind I have seen. In fact it was almost impossible to find a decent cupping space anywhere on the green. It was apparent that the well known remedies already tried were not making any appreciable change. To make the situation more discouraging a few other greens seemed to be doomed in the same direction as the 4th.

Finally, having read in *GOLFDOM* about a clover remedy called "Tonagren", I decided to give it a trial, even tho I was rather skeptical about the results claimed for it.

After the first application, made in early Summer, it was apparent that it was a worth while product. The clover wilted, shriveled, and became smaller. Likewise patches of chickweed were affected, but with no burning or discoloring of the grass.

After the second and third applications the clover became smaller, and grass blades were noticed coming thru the clover patches. By the middle of the Summer the 4th was a changed green. Instead of the clover predominating, grass now has the upper hand.

At the present writing, while all the clover has not been entirely eradicated, it seems evident that Tonagren will do the job. Incidentally, I only made four applications, where the directions call for six or eight on heavily infested clover areas. Also the material was not applied as early as recommended.

Following are the directions which I followed: First, apply Tonogren on a warm day, when the grass is dry and after the green is cut. Use $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to cover 5000-6000 square feet. Dilute material with 3 gallons of hot water, (taken from tractor), mix slowly, and screen into 50 gallons of clean water.

I applied the material with a power sprayer, which we use in applying sul-

phate of ammonia. The power sprayer does a quick job as well as a uniform one. In five days a second application was made. (Greens should not be watered for ten hours after applying Tonagren). A week after the second application I used sulphate of ammonia.

Following these directions apparently secured the desired results. Gradually and without leaving bare spots where the heaviest clover patches occurred, the grass just naturally grew where it couldn't thrive before. Final results, therefore, for this season were highly gratifying.

Tonagren costs \$1.10 a pound f. o. b. Kansas City.

Homer C. Darling.

A TRIBUTE

Those members of the Greenkeepers Club of New England who ever met "Mike" Pierce must realize that something has gone from their life and from Greenkeeping.

His capabilities and abilities have been indelibly stamped on the golfing world by his Course, Kittansett. Let who will claim the credit, Kittansett is "Mike" Pierce.

"Mike" was more than a Greenkeeper, yes much more. Gentleman, Diplomat, Councillor and Confidant, all these and more for above everything he was a plain unaffected Man.

It was my privilege to have worked for him. To have seen him in many moods under many difficult influences and never have I heard an unkindly word from him or seen either by act or expression the slightest indication of any traits which might have been construed as small or mean.

Whoever he was associated with, and "Mike" rubbed elbows familiarly with men from all walks of life, found him a man to all men. Yes, he was one man to all men; he was "Mike".

I might go on endlessly for "Mike" was productive of innumerable amusing and interesting anecdotes but to do so brings home all the more poignantly this irreparable loss.

If there is a Happy Hunting Ground, and let us hope there is, there is "Mike", his vocabulary, his pipe and his misbehaving "sticks" strolling over his beloved Kittansett.

Charles W. Parker.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting was held a week early, on October 30, at the Rhode Island Country Club, Nayatt, R. I. An eighteen hole medal handicap tournament was held with following results:

Class A,—

- 1st gross, E. Phinney, 87
- 1st net, M. O'Grady, 89-73
- 2nd net, T. Mattus, 97-75
- 3rd net, J. McCormack, 90-76

Class B,—

- 1st net, H. Cottle, 106-68
- 2nd net, A. Di Luccio, 97-71

We were pleased to have as a guest at this meeting Greenkeeper Hanson of the Pines Hotel Course, Digby, Nova Scotia.

Extension Leaflet No. 85, "Facts on Lawn Management" by Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, and issued by the Extension Service of the Massachusetts State College at Amherst, has recently been revised. The revised leaflet may be obtained by writing the Extension Service.

We are pleased to announce the marriage of Ordert L. Wendell and Virginia F. Purvis at Lexington, Ky. on August 8th. We really didn't believe it of Ort, running off like that and not telling us about it! Ort and his new missus are spending the Winter in Florida, and will be in Attleboro after April 1st.

The Directors held an important meeting at the Woodland Golf Club on November 13th.

Send any ideas for Winter meetings to Chairman Robert A. Mitchell of the Entertainment Committee.

NOTICE TO OUR ADVERTISERS

In order that we may get the NEWSLETTER for December in the mails and to our members before Christmas, we must ask that all copy for the December issue be in our hands by December 10th. This will give everyone an opportunity to express any Christmas greetings desired.

TRADE NOTES

Special attention is called in the New England Toro ad. for this month to the very positive increase in price of Milorganite after January 1st. "Believe this ad", is the advice given, as the Code under the NRA will make the increase necessary.

We understand that the Worthington Mower Company is putting out a new dump cart to go with its tractor. A reorganization of the company has taken Ross Sawtelle from the Boston office to the New York office as V. President of the company, and has left Robert B. Beale, Jr. in charge of the Boston branch office.

We are pleased to hear from Steve Berecz of the Power Lawn Mower Service Co. relative to the Code. Steve writes in part:

"We have operated under the code since its inception. We work on a forty hour week basis and pay a wage schedule well above the minimum set in in the code. Our shop is run on fixed wage plan as we do not think that piece work or commission method of compensating workmen is productive of the best work or interest of the men.

"For the past three years we have been giving a high character of service to the leading private estates, institutions and municipalities in Greater Boston. We have increased our plant equipment and space to accommodate the work which the Greenkeepers of New England will send to us."

The Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association held its November meeting on the 20th at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence. Plans for the annual Short Course for Greenkeepers at the Rhode Island State College were discussed. The Short Course will be held this year the week of January 29.

"Today's tough break may be tomorrow's stepping stone".

"Looking wise is not a substitute for knowing how".

A GREENSMAN'S GLOSSARY

By Bobby Joner

Reprinted from

"The Pacific Greenkeeper"

Caddy—A young boy, not over 70, who carries your bag and helps you lose balls. These he secretly recovers and you buy them back next week from the golf shop. You are cheap if you tip him less than four-bits.

Links—A lot of holes strung out up and down in rough pasturage. The original pattern was discovered by a German sausage maker, hence the name "links". (You are wrong if you supposed it came from the lynx-eyed caretaker. You should know from the spelling.)

Golf Ball—A small white (in its original state) pellet, decorated (in its original state) with slight round concavities, or cross bands of intricate design. Often redecorated by particular players who like to see facsimiles of the smiles of

Worthington Mower Company

New England Branch Office
(Sales and Service)

**ONE STATE STREET
BOSTON**

Telephone Lafayette—1413

ROBERT B. BEALE, JR.

We are also prepared to quote on a selected line of general maintenance requirements.

friend wife on all sides of the sphere. A loving tie which binds golf and home. A reminder of the pleasant smile Susan smiled when she said, "Go on and play your old golf. Me settin' here all alone all day's all right, I'm used to it,"—slam!

Lost Ball—A ball driven out among the rubbish, or weeds, or woods, or oil sump, or elsewhere, that defies recovery by anyone but a Scotchman. Counts an extra stroke and much extra language. The best way is to have another ball in the palm of your hand, and drop it in the weeds, at the same time hollering, "I've got it." Some will be foolish enough to believe you. When helping an opponent find his lost ball, if you find it and it is a good one, quickly substitute an old one of yours, saying, "Was it a Fairway, or what?" He will claim it, not knowing the difference.

Another kind of lost ball is one you find lying on the fairway with nobody in sight. Put it in your pocket. Then when the owner shows up over the hill, help him hunt a while, saying finally, "Where 'nell could it uv went?" This is almost certain to convince the loser of your innocence.

Divot—A slice of sod dug with an iron. Should be placed where it originated, upside down. Often neglected. Often thrown at an old dry scar. Well practiced divoteers usually send up a word or two of appreciation with a divot. These words invariably begin with D or H.

Green—The smooth grassy surface you miss when approaching. Always too fast or too slow. Original home of Old Man Alibi. Always has one or more sand traps handy.

Sand Traps—A creation of the Devil. Has positive magnetism for rubber. Easier to approach to than the pin. A nice place to study English. Especially interjections and adjectives. Here elaborate descriptions of the ball are heard, with emphasis on canine ancestry.

To recover from a trap: first, watch to see that opponents are not watching you; second, carefully scrape away sand from back of ball; third, take two or three practice tries (don't count); fourth, then bloom! a mighty swat, filling your eyes with sand, and the air with brimstone; fifth, step one short step forward and repeat performance. You should get out in not over three (counted) strokes.

Stroke—A swing at or upon or toward the ball. Each effort must be counted (new rule). Whiffs need not be counted unless opponent is watching.

Addressing the Ball—A manner of discussing publicly the ball and its forbears. Also refers to the multitudinous wiggle-wagglings indulged in by some preparatory to whiffing. The more detailed the address the more inevitable the whiff.

Putting—Rolling or shoving the ball into the oyster can. Any distance less than 4 feet should be conceded by your opponent. If he doesn't holler loudly. A slow follow stroke is best to shove in a five-foot putt. Putting suggests that classic: "Merrily we dub along, dub along, dub along, dub along; merrily we dub along, o'er the bum pea green." Those who habitually take 3 or more putts should get down on knees and elbows and shoot as if playing billiards, using the butt end of the putter.

Lie—(a) Erroneous statement of player, especially opponent. Difficult to improve. Three golfers on the East Side (no reference to any beverage) defy the city to improve their lies.

(b) Position of ball on ground. If in a bad lie, pick up on pretext of identification, place back carefully on a grassy eminence, and resume play. If opponent is at some distance, one can improve a lie with the club while addressing.

On the green, when you pick up for opponent to putt, be sure to replace ball 6 or 8 inches nearer cup.

Stance—Position of feet in addressing the ball. After making a rotten shot your opponent always says, "No wonder, your stench was awful!"

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

WHEN? On February 5, 1934.
WHERE? At the Woodland Golf Club, Auburndale, Mass. **WHAT?** Our Tenth Anniversary Celebration. **HOW?** Dinner, Entertainment, and Dance for Members and Wives.

Plan now. Mark the date. Date up your wife for the celebration. We should have the largest crowd of the year!

Now on the Market
The Queen of all Grasses

Hyper-VELVET-bent
 94% Pure - Germ. 88%
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PRODUCES a hardy green velvety turf, compact, upright and fine.

TRUE in purity of species and consistent in color and texture.

SPREADS above and below ground with short creeping stems.

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MODERN SERVICE

The day of the itinerant scissors grinder as an all around repairman has passed. Modern times have demonstrated the need for specialization along all lines.

Conforming to the spirit of the times we have developed the best equipped and most efficient **LAWN MOWER REPAIR SERVICE** in New England, working exclusively on factory principles, where trained men sharpen and recondition mowers, prolonging their life.

This service makes it unnecessary to discard a used mower, hand or power, because of some defect that may be remedied.

What Our Service Includes:

Every mower, including the engine unit in power mowers, is taken apart and completely **REBUILT** (not merely repaired).

Every part is thoroughly cleaned and any worn parts replaced. Cylinder and bottom knife are reground. When assembled, the mower is greased and the blade is again ground in a specially constructed machine, assuring a perfect cutting edge. All mowers are painted without additional charge.

We will examine your mower and furnish estimate without cost.

Truck service is maintained for collection and delivery within one hundred mile radius of Boston.

IDEAL MOWER SALES & SERVICE

111 Cypress St. — Brookline, Mass.

Announcement

The most modern, and completely equipped shop in New England, devoted exclusively to the Repairing, Sharpening and Overhauling of grass cutting equipment is now available to the Greenkeepers.

Steve Berez, known to the Greater Boston Greenkeepers as one active in the Mower Business for the past 14 years is in charge of this service. With the background as manager of the Ideal Power Lawn Mower Company's, Brookline Service, and Breck's Service Department, Mr. Berez promises to set the Standard for Quality Service in New England.

We earnestly solicit your patronage.

Power Lawn Mower Service Company

Somerville, Mass.

1934



PRICES

New Prices for Delivery of Milorganite After January 1

This is our third attempt to inform every probable purchaser of fertilizer that MILORGANITE will advance on Jan. 1, 1934. This is positively the dead line for shipping at today's price. We will accept orders for shipment during November and December at the lowest price in history. It may be many years again before a fertilizer of equal value can be purchased at this low cost.

Less than car lots will advance at the same rate for shipment from Newton stock. We will accept orders until the end of the year for shipment from stock at today's prices. After Jan. 1st shipment advance prices will be charged.

Our sales of MILORGANITE for 1933 exceed 1931, showing that a great many buyers are continuing its use on a definite program. Are you one of these buyers? If not—then it might pay you to investigate its advantages. Samples are still obtainable without charge.

Exclusive New England Distributors

New England Toro Co.---West Newton, Mass.