



NEWS LETTER

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OCTOBER

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MEETING AT EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS

A joint meeting of the Service Station of the M. G. A. and the Greenkeepers Club of New England was held at the Charles River Country Club, Newton Centre, Mass. on October 10th. The afternoon meeting was held at the Experimental Plots, and the various experiments and grasses there were explained and discussed by Frank H. Wilson, greenkeeper at Charles River, and Kenneth Welton of the U. S. G. A. Green Section. There was also a demonstration of the new fairway watering system.

The evening meeting followed dinner at the club house, and was in charge of Rogers Dow, Chairman of the Service Section Committee. Mr. O. J. Noer spoke on "Fertilization or Irrigated Fairways", and said in part:

"Reseeding of fairways is now almost a thing of the past, fertilization is now used. Fertilization alone promotes growth in Spring and Fall when moisture conditions are favorable. Because fairways are often brown in Summer is responsible for interest in fairway irrigation. Some people think that fairway irrigation is panacea of all ills; but other means besides irrigation are necessary. There are liable to be ill effects from watering, such as an increase in clover.

"In Metropolitan districts there is a decided demand for watered fairways and clubs are turning more and more to water. Irrigation provides green turf, insures positive results from any fertilizer we may use, prevents loss of turf from drought. The disadvantages are (1) increases labor costs, (2) accentuates plant food losses, (3) further complications such as clover control, and in some sections, other weeds such

as crab grass, (4) possible overwatering, with the resultant too soft turf.

"Feeding is necessary to provide plant food; watering simply takes away the moisture as a limiting factor. Feeding will be necessary besides water.

"Some soils are too acid to get best results on fairways; these effects are most evident in hot weather. There is a difference as far as the kind of grass is concerned; the fescues and bents will stand acidity best. Lime may be needed, but should not be used to excess as it will bring in clover. Factors governing how much lime to use: (1) degree of soil acidity, (2) kind of grass, (3) soil texture—sandy or loam or clay—smaller amounts of lime are required to give change in sand than in heavy soil. It is better to use one of the dolomitic limestones which contain some magnesium. Apply either in Fall, Winter, or Spring, as far in advance of any phosphatic fertilizers as possible. Lime should never be used at same time or just previous to use of ammonium salts.

"Potash is least important on fairways, as the clippings fall, and this potash goes into the soil. Potash encourages clover, is to be considered most on sands, mucks, and peats. Phosphorus shows most prominently on new seedlings, and on established fairways the results are less striking. The amount of phosphorus to use is governed by the amount of available P in the soil, the kind of grass, and the texture of the soil.

"Nitrogen is the element responsible for active growth, and is the element primarily responsible for control of clover. For quick results use inorganics. For Fall use the organics are well adapted. Spring and Fall are best time to apply fertilizers as the air temperatures are more favorable.

"The tendency is to cut fairways too closely because golfers demand it. There would be better turf if we could have turf longer.

"Fertilization is absolutely necessary when fairways are watered."

Wendell Miller, Irrigation Specialist, discussed fairway irrigation and the system at Charles River. He pointed out that ten years ago there were very few systems East of the Rockies. Drainage was in demand for several years, and is more essential than irrigation. Fairway irrigation has now spread from the less than ten to from 90 to 100 courses East of the Rockies. It is now almost a necessity upon the well fitted

golf course. It has now assumed a competitive phase in Metropolitan centers.

A pitfall of irrigation is that an excess of water is liable to do more harm than good, it may run out the grass plants and bring in weeds. Only a definite amount of water is needed.

In planning a system, the amount of water needed is the starting point, the source of the supply is all important, the rainfall, run-off, etc. are considered. Weather records are studied. Items of pumping plant, source, are very variable, make it impossible to advise costs without detailed study. Clubs should not rush into irrigation unless the supply is sufficient. Small sized pipe is not efficient. Irrigation should be put on according to need not according to the clock.

The life of the pipe is probably twenty years at least, and of the pump ten years.

Kenneth Welton of the Greens Section summed up several of the points previously discussed and told of his travels around the country this past season in the interests of the Green Section.

It is important not to cut too short because of the fact that the leaf is the "stomach" of the plant, the manufacturing plant, and by cutting too short we prune this "stomach". Clover can stand close cutting as well as grass.

Superfluous watering is not desired. It is most important to pick up water table before it is lost. It is a good idea to rip up a little once in a while to tell where the water is; use the spade and there will be no guess work. We can not water on schedule.

Conditions around the country this Summer: generally dry with very little trouble on turf, some cut worm and sod web worm injury. There was somewhat extensive damage to greens by storms. Investigation showed that the root systems had been badly damaged, due to lack of oxygen. The so-called "scald" was probably due to lack of water, the greens drying up in the top quarter inch.

The use of sand and organic matter to break down clay was discussed.

Various questions were asked all the speakers following their talks.

OCTOBER MEETING

The second annual Greenkeeper-Pro tournament was held on October 2nd at the Charles River Country Club. An eighteen hole best ball tournament was played with the following winners:

1st gross, Emil Masciocchi and A. Briggs, Oak Hill Country Club, 73.

1st net, Bill Lindsay and Jim Hendry, Manchester (N. H.) C. C., 74-67.

2nd net, Jim McCormack and Roland Hancock, Unicorn C. C., 74-69.

There were forty-four teams entered, and also three single players. Phil Cassidy won the net prize of these later with a 99-71.

Jim Hendry with an individual score of 74 was low for the pros, and Roland Hancock had a 75.

Emil Masciocchi was low for the greenkeepers with a score of 78.

Hancock and McCormack had the low score for the inward nine, a 35; but we saw Tom Jones get an individual 36 coming in, with a 6 on the par 4 twelfth, which was good golf.

We wished Frank had put the markers back a few feet further, we would have been off the back side of the tees!

At the luncheon following play, Jim McCormack for the greenkeepers and Les Cottrell for the pros both expressed the desire that this meeting be made an annual affair.

Frank Wilson led a personally conducted tour to the Experimental plots following lunch, and also showed his new fairway watering system in operation.

We are pleased to get some reaction to one of our ideas! What do you think about this greater club?

The Editor.

THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB

Under this title there appeared in the September issue an article with which, in the main, I am in hearty agreement. However, I certainly do not agree with the idea of tying "these sectional organizations to our club."

I have had several years of pleasant and educational associations as a member of the Greenkeeper's Club of New England and feel that it is a worthwhile organization as is, but that it is now time that the club ceased to be

the Greenkeeper's Club of Boston and truly lived up to its name.

If I remember correctly, the major reason that we did not join with the National Greenkeeper's Association was the fact that we did not care for their system of representation. Does not the same condition exist for any greenkeeper outside of a fifty mile radius of Boston? I personally have been able to attend only two meetings in the last two years. Small return for the dues paid, yet I have continued my membership because I believe in the organization and hope that some change will be made.

Sectional groups can be very strong and in many cases sufficient unto themselves. I cite those of the Connecticut and the Westchester County groups. However, for real strength and for the good of the cause a central organization is needed which will tie together the local groups. This body could be organized as any of the national or international lodges, fraternities or clubs, with delegates from each section to elect officers, and so get away from the point which in my mind seems to be the only reason that we are not affiliated with the National Association of Greenkeepers.

I sincerely hope that any one reading this article will see it as it is intended; a constructive criticism with the hope that the Greenkeeper's Club of New England may continue its good work but with a vastly increased scope.

Marston Burnett.

WINTER SCHOOL AT MASS. STATE

A recent letter from Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson of the Mass. State College indicates that the Winter School for Greenkeepers as outlined for 1934 will present the best program yet. The courses will remain the same but have been revamped to place emphasis in accordance with the trend of the times, and because it will be impossible this year to give the advanced course, some of the work taken by that group will be added to the regular course.

Prof. Dickinson states that he finds the men taking the course are more familiar with the problems each year, and for this reason the course this year will be more professional.

The enrollment this year already includes men from Washington State, Canada, and other Western states. Those in Massachusetts who are thinking of taking this course should get their applications in at once before the enrollment is filled. The limit of enrollment may be increased a bit this year, as the State College desires to serve Massachusetts and New England particularly.

THIS MOTORIZED AGE

by Leslie Wildgust, Winchester C. C.,
Winchester, Mass.

A motor driven walk type machine called a Tillavator, brought here from Denmark, was given a practical tryout recently by Orville Clapper of the New England Toro Company, on one of our greens that had been stripped of the old turf preparatory to the laying of a new surface.

This machine did in one operation a job that would need a plow and harrow, in less than half the time usually required and actually replaced five men.

A series of hooks mounted on coiled springs rotating at about 350 RPM on a width of 20 inches, makes a perfect mulch at a depth of six or eight inches. It pulverizes the soil and smooths it out at the same time, thus saving a great amount of hand raking. It also tosses out all stones easily, enabling a man to follow the machine with a pail and pick them up. In this manner 1½ yards of large and small stones were removed, leaving the soil in a light fluffy condition.

I am so impressed with the Tillavator's performance, that we are going to rent it by the day for use on another green and also our first fairway and nursery.

We can prepare these areas for re-sodding and planting in less than half the time it would take in the ordinary way, and in addition, gives us a perfect bed for the new sod.

It will pay all our members to look at this machine. You will do a much better job than is possible under the old methods and save money besides.

TURF NOTES FROM IOWA

Altho Iowa is some distance from New England, we are pleased to hear from that State from time to time. At the Iowa State College, the turf work is in charge of Dr. V. T. Stoutemyer. Dr. Stoutemyer recently wrote us that they have now several plots of turf grasses at the college, and are especially interested in determining the merits of the velvet and seaside bents for that locality. So far the seaside bent does not seem to be showing up as well as the creeping bents in that region. There is very little velvet bent turf in the state at present. The strain called "Woodhill" seems to be the most promising bent at present, as it stays green much later in the Fall than does the Metropolitan and Washington bent.

The following is a list of bents in the plots at the Iowa State College:

Creeping Bent (*Agrostis palustris*)

1. Atlantic City (U.S.G.A.)
2. Columbia (U.S.G.A.)
3. Flossmore (Mass. Agr. College)
4. Flossmoor
5. Metropolitan (U.S.G.A.)
6. Metropolitan (Wakonda Club)
7. Penn. State 2(29)4
8. Penn. State 6(29)1
9. Penn. State 7(29)3
10. Penn. State 8(29)3
11. Virginia
12. Washington (U.S.G.A.)
13. Washington (Wakonda Club)
14. Washington (O. M. Scott and Sons)
15. Woodhill (Wayzata, Minn.)
16. Collected Sioux City C. C.
17. Collected Hyperion Club
18. Collected Des Moines C. C.

Seaside Bent

- Agrostis palustris* var. *maritima*
19. Seaside Bent (Canadian)
 20. Seaside Bent (Coos County)

Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*)

21. Acme
22. Arlington or B. P. I. 14276
(U.S.G.A.)
23. Cunningham or B. P. I. 15640
24. Elizabeth
25. Fall River "C"
26. Highland
27. Kernwood
28. Mountain Ridge
29. Newport
30. Nichol Ave. No. 1
31. Nichol Ave. No. 2
32. Penn. State 3(30)3
33. Penn. State 4(30)2

34. Penn. State 7(30)1
35. Philadelphia No. 2
36. Valentine No. 2
37. Yorkshire
38. Wykagyl

Colonial Bent

- (*Agrostis capillaris* or *A. tenuis*)
39. Colonial or Rhode Island Bent
 40. Astoria Bent (Classification
in doubt)

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

We soon will be celebrating our tenth anniversary as a club. A committee has been appointed to fittingly commemorate this event. This committee would appreciate suggestions from any member relative to this celebration. We already expect to have some meeting, either the annual or the February meeting, have a special program, and we have talked of a special issue of the NEWSLETTER for February. We would appreciate further suggestions. The committee appointed is Guy West, John Shanahan, Frank Wilson, Carl Treat, and James McCormack.

LAWN SEEDS AND SEEDING

by H. F. A. North—Rhode Island
Agricultural Ex. Station.

The Experiment Station is often requested to suggest seed mixtures suitable for planting lawns and other areas where a good turf is desired. It is not always possible to say definitely that a certain kind of grass or mixture is the best for a given condition. Several different mixtures might be suggested for some conditions where it would be difficult to say which one might prove the most suitable. The care used in planting, fertilizing and after care, may have more to do with the success of the venture than the original selection of a certain seeding mixture. Some general suggestions for making a choice of a certain kind of grass or mixture can usually be made. The following are a few suggestions of grasses or mixtures that should prove well suited for the conditions mentioned.

(A) For the average Rhode Island soil that either has not been limed or

only to a small extent so that it is still somewhat acid:

- (1) For finest quality turf, seed R. I. (Colonial) bent alone at the rate of 2 to 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn.
- (2) Good quality, less expensive than (1).
R. I. (Colonial) bent 80 %
Red Top 20 %
Seed 2 to 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft.
- (3)* Good quality and permanent in dry soils and shade. This makes a tough sod and can be cut short, but is rather hard to mow.
R. I. (Colonial) bent 40 %
Chewings or Red Fescue 40 %
Red Top 20 %
Seed 4 pounds per 1000 sq. ft.

(B) For the moist and relatively fertile soil where lime has been used recently.

- (1)* Good quality turf which stays green both early and late in the season.
Kentucky Bluegrass 60 %
R. I. (Colonial) bent 20 %
Red Top 20 %
Seed 3 to 4 pounds per 1000 sq. ft.
- (2)* Good quality turf under shady conditions.
Chewing's or Red Fescue 50 %
Rough-stalked Meadow grass 30 %
Ryegrass (perennial) 20 %
Seed 4 to 5 pounds per 1000 sq. ft.

*Canada Bluegrass may be added to this mixture for thin soils.

Planting Time. The chances for a good lawn are the best if it is planted in late August or early September. The grass planted in the spring must compete with all of the summer weeds and the dry weather as well. Seed on a day soon after a soaking rain if possible. If it is necessary to seed a lawn in the spring of the year some ryegrass should be added to the mixture. This makes a very quick growth and helps to keep the weeds down until the fine grasses can get started. About 20 per cent of the total weight may consist of perennial rye grass.

In Memoriam

It is with extreme regret that we announce the passing on October 7th of our friend and fellow member, Elliott D. "Mike" Pierce of the Kittansett Club, Marion, Mass. Mike has been one of us for so long, and had always taken such an interest in the affairs of the club, that his passing will be deeply felt by all.

Two new Extension Leaflets issued by the Extension Service of the Massachusetts State College are of interest. One, No. 70, "Control of Cutworms", describes the life history and habits of cutworms, tells of their enemies, and suggests remedies. The second, No. 31, "Control of Aphids or Plant Lice", gives a description of these insects, and suggests various control measures. Both of these leaflets are more for the flower or vegetable grower than for the grass grower, but most of us grow other crops but grass in some quantity, and hence are interested in such information as is contained in these leaflets.

"The spirit of the present day is making new demands upon us. In our hope for the future and our forward look we are not unmindful of the lives and services of those who have preceded us. The memory of them gives us a greater determination to prove worthy of the ideals which they and we hold in common. Yet we are pledging ourselves not to rest on past glory; but to move forward, in the spirit of the times, to new heights of aspiration and accomplishment."

The Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association held its October meeting at the Ledge-mont Country Club, West Warwick, Rhode Island on October 9th.

A new code recently adopted by the mower makers is of interest to all of us who use mowers. We are indebted to GOLFDOM for several features of this code which should help to clear up some conditions which have existed to some extent.

1. Uniform classification of dealers, distributors, etc.

2. No mowers to be sold on consignment or at prices less than advertised list prices. Trade-in allowances will be limited to schedules as shown in Association Blue-Book of trade-in allowances. Terms of sale will be 3% sight draft, 2% ten days, 30 days net.

3. Guarantees limited to replacement of defective material for a 90 day period.

4. Equipment may not be left on trial for a period exceeding 24 hours, and such trial shall be limited to 4 hours actual use.

5. Granting of secret rebates, special discounts, gratuities to employees or others, or any other act to falsify the correct and true selling price of the product will be unfair competition. Dealers and representatives will

not engage in wilful or malicious defamation of a competitor or competitor's products.

Right along this line we understand that the New England Toro Company are now operating under the code with all employees working forty hours. (We shall be pleased to hear of any other dealers, etc. operating under the code, and of their reactions to it.—Editor).

Frank Robinson reports that he has been experimenting with the velvet No. 14276 this past Summer, and likes it very much, finding it immune to disease this season. Ten rows set a foot apart in June have already run together. Other rows were allowed to go to seed, the tops cut off, and these show better results in growth. Frank calls this strain a wonderful grower, and says that it grows as a putting green grass should, thick and upright.

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We have one 8 horsepower machine here which may be rented. We supply the operator and all expenses of operation. Prices will be quoted if you give us an idea of the type of work and the area to be worked.

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