



NEWS LETTER

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APRIL

1934

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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N. A. G. A. RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions have been received from the National Association of Greenkeepers, and have been referred to the Directors for a report at the May meeting. Kindly read these resolutions carefully, also the comments from the Directors' meeting.

"WHEREAS, the National Association of Greenkeepers of America at the Eighth Annual Convention at Pittsburgh, approved the resolutions of the executive committee on enlarging the scope of organized greenkeeping by giving the local organizations an opportunity to affiliate with the National, we submit to you the following platform for your consideration and action.

- (1) That the N. A. G. A. exist as the association to represent the mutual interests of all greenkeepers; to concern itself in problems that reach beyond the scope of a local group.
- (2) That the local organizations continue with their present identity and government and maintain a jurisdiction over their own affairs as heretofore. In so far as a truly National association must consist of members from all sections of the country, it is logical that all members of the locals are expected to belong to the National Association.
- (3) Owing to the fact that some of the locals admit to their organizations men who are not eligible to the National (dealers, manufacturers, etc.), it is requested that locals set up associate memberships to care for these men. On that basis it is possible for the locals to revise their By-Laws to conform with the requirements of the National body.

(4) In order that the locals may have an equal voice in association matters, each local will be entitled to one delegate to the convention and such delegate upon proper certification may cast the vote of the entire local membership. Thus a delegate from a local consisting of 10 members in good standing in the National would cast 10 votes and a local consisting of 37 members would cast 37 votes through their delegate. All delegates should be instructed by their local association. Local organizations will receive from the N. A. G. A. secretary, all information available regarding proposed business, and such information will be sent to the local secretary in ample time for action by the local organization before instructing the delegate. A zoning plan is proposed, subject to further consideration of the locals, whereby the National body will assume a proportion of the traveling expenses of the delegates.

- (5) In so far as there are greenkeepers who are geographically isolated from local organization contact, but desire to become members of the N. A. G. A., a special grouping of these men will be made for representative purposes. Such grouping will be made by the secretary of the N. A. G. A. upon approval of the President.
- (6) Except in cases of isolation mentioned in paragraph five, a member pays the combined local and national due to his local secretary-treasurer, and the local secretary-treasurer will forward such due to the National secretary. The locals may vary in the amount of their own fees according to their custom, but the amount drawn for National is the same the country over.
- (7) The dues of the N. A. G. A. for the year 1934 shall be \$6.00 per member exclusive of local dues and death benefit fund. The National secretary will forward Death Benefit Fund application blanks upon request by a member.

The following are comments from the Directors' meeting:

1. Approved.
2. It is the consensus of opinion of the Board of Directors that this paragraph would better read; Greenkeepers shall become members of

their local organizations before being eligible for membership in the National and that membership in the National shall be optional.

3. Only Greenkeepers, Assistant Greenkeepers, and Greenkeeper-Pros shall be acceptable to the National for membership.
4. Needs further study.
5. Refer to paragraph No. 2 with the addition that local organizations be formed in sections where no such local organizations exist.
- 6 & 7. It was moved to consider these two paragraphs together. It is the opinion of the Directors that an annual dues to the amount of \$6 would be harmful to membership of local organizations.

Upon a vote for reconsideration it was duly moved and voted that under paragraph 2 the phrase "membership in the National shall be optional" shall be stricken out and insert "local organizations shall join in a body".

It was duly moved and voted that the Editor of the Newsletter is instructed to publish these opinions, not necessarily unanimous.

MEETING WITH SERVICE SECTION

The second annual joint meeting of the M. G. A. Service Section and Greenkeepers Club was held at the Braeburn Country Club on April 2nd. Speakers included Chairman Sawyer of the Service Section Committee as Chairman of the meeting, President Cross of the M. G. A., Pres. Jaques of the U. S. G. A., Prof. Dickinson of the Mass. State College, Pres. West of the Greenkeepers Club, Mr. Wilson of Charles River, Manager Marriott of Charles River, and the main speaker of the evening, Dr. Howard Sprague of the New Jersey Agri. Experiment Station.

Dr. Sprague brought out that our local soils are not ideal for turf growing, are forest soils. Drainage is very important, as the root growth of grasses largely takes place in the Spring; if the water level is high, root development is retarded. Most roots are in upper level, working depth is about 4 inches.

Grasses are perennial plants that have annual root systems. Substantial portion of root system is formed each Spring. It is very essential that we make conditions as favorable as possible

during this period. Root growth begins about time grass begins to "green". Bluegrass will grow at lower temperature than Colonial bent.

The losses of plant food from turf areas by leaching are great. On green of 5000 sq. ft. minimum loss would be equal to 65 lbs. sulphate of ammonia, 15 lbs. superphosphate, 35 lbs. muriate of potash, and 75 lbs. of hydrated lime. It may not be necessary to add this yearly, may need more.

In any system of turf management, do not economize on factors which are the limited factors. Three years of improper feeding can do much harm. After four years of reduced income we are coming to a very critical time.

On fairways a rational system of fertilization—if too acid, should apply lime; correction of acidity may be enough on some soils to carry over without much fertilization. It does not seem necessary to correct all acidity; results only come when lime is limited factor. In supplying plant food, a complete fertilizer is necessary, ratio will depend on soil and treatment given; applied in one or two applications, early Spring and Fall. Make best possible use of natural conditions.

On greens more fertilizer is needed, not just nitrogen, but phosphorus and potash and lime. At least one complete fertilizer application a year in early Spring, add nitrogen as needed to promote slow growth; sulphate of ammonia is O. K. on soils excessively acid. One pound of hydrated lime is needed to every pound of sulphate used to correct acidity of sulphate used. A pH of 5.5 seems to be critical point.

Whether water is taken in by the soil rapidly or not is of utmost importance. Acidity increases the amount of time to take in water, hence increases run-off. Water in excess is bad in that it increases leaching of plant food and lime and makes a soft succulent growth.

In general we cut too short. Cut as long as we can and get away with it. Cut oftener and higher.

Organics decompose at different rates.

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting was held at the Woodland Golf Club, Auburndale, Mass. on April 2nd. All dealers were invited to this meeting, and the program consisted of short talks by several. The fol-

lowing were the speakers and their subjects:—

Mr. S. A. Robinson of Breck's—
"Landscaping the Club Grounds".

Mr. J. F. Buel—"Advantages of Spiking Greens".

Mr. H. O. Dodds of Thos. Emerson & Co.—"Outlook for Grass Seed Market".

Mr. William Collins—"Weeds and Weed Control".

Mr. D. G. Reid of Hovey & Co.—
"Proper Watering".

Mr. R. E. Bradley of Ideal Sales & Service Co.— "Power Mowers for Tees and Approaches".

Mr. O. O. Clapper of the New England Toro Co.—"Fairway Mowing".

Mr. Stephen Berecz of Power Lawn Mower Service Co.— "Servicing Equipment".

Mr. Chester Sawtelle of Worthington Mower Co.—"Greens Mowing—Power vs. Hand".

These talks were both interesting and instructive. The meeting as a whole demonstrated well the fine cooperation which exists here in New England between greenkeepers and dealers.

PRO GET-TOGETHER

The first Professional Get-Together Dinner of the New England Section of the P. G. A. was held on April 16th at the Hotel Lenox, Boston.

A fine program of speaking was presented with Jack Shea as Toastmaster. Speakers included Pres. Jaques of the U. S. G. A., Treas. Jack Mackie of the P. G. A., "pinch-hitting" for President George Jacobus, Mr. E. C. Conlin, Sec. Manuf. Assoc., Prof. Dickinson of the State College, Pres. Lewis Myers of the New England Section P. G. A., and Mr. Ralph Clifford, speaking for the golf writers.

Your president was honored with an invitation to this gathering, as were several other greenkeepers, and enjoyed the spirit of fellowship which abounded there.

THE STORY OF PONKAPOAG

The Ponkapoag Golf Course is a public golf course operated by the Metropolitan District Commission. It is a part of the Blue Hills Reservation which is under the supervision of Captain Joseph Rooney. There is a seasonal membership fee, and the course is also open to daily fee play.

The course is of 18 holes, layed out by Donald Ross, built in 1931 and 1932. The first nine was opened for play in July, 1932, and the second nine in April, 1933. The greens are seeded to South German bent, fairways to Red Top, Chewings Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass. On the second nine the fescue was changed to Colonial bent. There are very few fairway traps, that is, to trap the tee shot, but there are plenty of woods to catch a slice or hook. The greens are trapped tightly enough to be interesting, but not too severely so as to hold up play too badly. We have two brooks running through the course which are utilized several times for water hazards.

As the volume of play is heavy, as many as five hundred players in a day, our biggest problem is to keep them moving. We cannot afford to have obstructions that will hold up play. We keep our rough down pretty well. We have been fortunate this year in having extra labor from the C. W. A. This has enabled us to go into the woods well back from the fairways and clean out all underbrush and dead wood. In many places we have grubbed out stumps, rocks, and leveled holes and hummocks that were not covered in the construction of the course. We have also done some draining in wet spots in the fairways.

In addition to this work on the regular course we have done the cleaning and rough grading for a nine hole pitch and putt course. The holes range from 100 yards in length down to one that is merely a putting green with no pitch shot to it. This should be an interesting thing to play on, and will help take care of practice shots that are wanted. This will help especially on busy days.

Sam S. Mitchell.

H U M U S

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A topic of growing interest to golf circles is IRRIGATION. We are distributors for the BUCKNER RAINIER CORP. of California and New York, and if you too, are interested we have a fully illustrated catalogue written especially on this subject, which is yours for the asking. If you have not yet received our 1934 booklet, drop us a line, and we will be glad to mail it to you.

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N. HOWDEN

As the May meeting opens the outside season we wish to call attention to the ruling passed last year relative to Summer meetings. Guests at Summer meetings should be limited to club officials or prospective members. The Golf Committee is arranging one tournament at which other guests may be present.

It seems proper at this time to call attention to the fact that all who take part in the Summer tournaments should know the rules of Golf. There is no excuse for any greenkeeper not knowing the rules and playing according to them. In the past there have been several unintentional errors made. Let us all resolve this year to know the rules and abide by them, and thus be fair to our fellows and to ourselves, and help make the work of the Golf Committee easier.

Paul Hayden, Chairman of the Golf Committee is now busy lining up the Summer tournaments and would be interested in knowing if your course is a-

available. Likewise, Homer Darling of the Entertainment Committee is looking for suggestions. And also The Treasurer, Frank Wilson, would like your cooperation in sending in the dues not already paid.

We have been wondering where some of our old friends are of late. It's been a long time since we saw Tom O'Leary, and where is Phil Cassidy? We were pleased to see some of the boys at the Service Section meeting, also a few at the Dealers' meeting, who haven't been around much lately.

Bill Lindsay of Manchester, N. H. is now at the Wampanoag Country Club, Hartford, Conn.; Jack Counsell from Reservation has gone to the Salem Country Club, and we hear that Geno Pettizoni has left Norfolk for Vesper.

Let us know your new addresses, boys.

The Board of Directors has voted that the Golf Committee be instructed to prohibit any practice or pre-tournament golf play at the Summer meetings.

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COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS FOR LAWNS

By Howard B. Sprague, Agronomist
N. J. Agri. Ex. Station

The establishment and maintenance of healthy turf depend in large measure upon the fertility of the soil and the supply of available plant nutrients. Although certain grass species are more tolerant of low soil fertility than others, in general, the essential elements for growth must be present in liberal quantities for sturdy plant development. Weed control, prevention of drought injury, avoidance of disease outbreaks, resistance to insect attacks, etc., are all intimately related to the proper use of fertilizers.

Farmyard or stable manure is no longer recognized as the standard source of plant food for lawns. Commercial fertilizers are applied with greater effectiveness and at a considerably lower cost. In addition commercial fertilizers do not contain weed seed, are not of-

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The many requests for a MOTO-MOWER putting green mower has resulted in our carrying on experimental work on this type of a mower during the past two years. Actual cutting service by these mowers on golf courses this past year justifies the MOTO-MOWER COMPANY manufacturing and offering for sale our "Greenskeeper" putting green mower.

It is a real mower, built as light as is possible (165 lbs.) and still retain sturdy construction and the desirable necessary features for satisfactory easy operating. The weight so perfectly distributed that the ground pressure on greens is no greater than that of a golfer's foot. Double gear drive, encased in oil-tight housing, relieves any side strain. Throw-out clutch for disengaging reel when transporting; cutting unit, eight crucible steel blades; cutting height, $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

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fensive or unsightly, and may be readily obtained. Complete commercial fertilizers contain the three more important substances frequently deficient in soils, namely, **nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash**. A complete fertilizer is not necessarily well balanced for all purposes. The combination of fertilizer elements must be varied to suit the requirements of specific plants or soil conditions.

Of the three elements supplied in complete fertilizers, **nitrogen** is the most important in the development of turf. Nitrogen may be present in the form of **ammonia compounds, nitrate compounds** or **organic compounds**. Substances supplying nitrogen in the form of **ammonia** (including urea) are immediately available for absorption by plant roots. Continued use of **ammonia compounds**, however, tends to create strong soil acidity, thus necessitating periodic applications of lime. Compounds carrying nitrogen in the **nitrate form** are also immediately available. Nitrate compounds do not increase soil acidity but are readily soluble and easily leached from the soil, if not absorbed by plants. **Organic compounds** of nitrogen, such as cotton seed meal and bone meal are slowly available materials, since they must decompose in order to release the plant food contained. Nitrogen in this form is of greatest value on light textured and shaley soils.

From the practical standpoint, it is impossible to specify a certain form of nitrogen that would be ideal for all conditions. The fertilizer must be varied to correct deficiencies present in the particular soil investigated. On strongly acid soils, nitrate nitrogen is preferred; and on open soils, organic nitrogen should predominate in the fertilizer mixture. As a general rule, the fertilizer mixture designed for use on lawns should contain substantial quantities of all three forms of nitrogen.

Although nitrogen is essential for plant growth, an excessive supply is extremely injurious. The quantity of fertilizer applied to supplement natural fertility of the soil should be limited to produce a slow growth of hardy grass, rather than to stimulate tender luxuriant vegetation easily injured by wear, disease, insects and other unfavorable conditions.

Practically all lawn soils in this region are naturally deficient in **available phosphate**. The use of manure,

sulfate of ammonia, urea, and similar fertilizers has accentuated this deficiency, with the result that on many lawns, the lack of sufficient phosphorous definitely limits top and root growth. Lawn fertilizers should contain a liberal proportion of phosphoric acid to provide a regular supply of the element. Unlike nitrogen, an abundance of phosphoric acid produces no harmful effects on turf. The role of **potash** in plant nutrition is less apparent although there is evidence indicating the importance of potash in plant growth. An abundant supply of available potash increases the resistance of the turf to disease and other unfavorable conditions. The fertilizer mixture should include, therefore, a sufficient quantity of potash to meet the requirements of plant growth.

There is no single ratio of elements that may be considered ideal in a lawn fertilizer. On phosphate deficient soils, phosphoric acid should predominate in the fertilizer mixture. However, on turf containing fescues or bent grasses, the supply of phosphate and potash is less important than on lawns composed largely of Kentucky bluegrass. For lawns with mixed vegetation, on soils of average fertility, a fertilizer containing 4 to 6% nitrogen, 6 to 10% phosphoric acid, and 4 to 5% potash should prove suitable. One third to one half of the nitrogen might well be present in the organic form and the balance equally divided between ammonia and nitrate nitrogen. The phosphoric acid may be derived principally from superphosphate or basic slag, and the potash from muriate of potash or similar salts. Ten to twenty pounds of a fertilizer of this type per 1000 square feet, applied in early fall and again in early spring will completely satisfy the need for plant food on the average lawn, and avoid stimulating growth of summer weeds.

Many commercial fertilizers are composed of soluble substances only. Such fertilizers may be used satisfactorily for feeding lawns if supplemented with organic materials. In this case the application per 1000 square feet consists of 8 to 15 pounds of a commercial fertilizer, and 10 to 20 pounds of either dehydrated animal manure, bone meal, castor pomace, cottonseed meal, soybean meal, or a similar substance.

Where no striking phosphate deficiency exists, 5 to 10 pounds of a 8-6-4 or a 10-3-3 fertilizer will prove as effective as 10 to 20 pounds of a 4-8-4

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or a 5-10-5 mixture. Concentrated fertilizers analysing 15-30-15, 12-24-12, etc., carry considerably greater amounts of plant food per pound and may be applied in smaller quantities. Such concentrated fertilizers are completely soluble and their effect is less lasting on light textured or open soils than fertilizers of the type previously described.

Reliance should not be placed entirely on such organic materials as animal manure and bone meal, as the sole fertilizer for lawns, since these substances decompose slowly in cool weather and consequently little plant food is supplied in autumn and spring when turf grasses could use plant nutrients to the best advantage. In general, soluble fertilizers should be withheld during the summer months because of danger from burning, and the stimulation of summer weeds.

CONTROL OF SOD WEBWORM

During 1933 many putting greens in our district were infested with sod webworm. Symptoms in the turf due to this insect are very similar to dollar spot. The insect eats the grass leaves in small areas usually less than 2" in diameter, and when they become numerous these patches merge together to cover extensive areas. This pest cannot be controlled with the mercury compound commonly used in treating turf diseases.

However, successful control of the sod webworm can be obtained by spraying lead arsenate on the greens at the rate of one-two pounds to the thousand square feet. This material is applied to the leaves with a power sprayer and left on the leaves without watering it in. The purpose of leaving the chemical on the leaves is that the worms come up and feed during the night and eat the leaves and stolons. If the material is watered in, the worms are not affected by the treatment. The greens should be well watered before treatment so that the lead arsenate will remain on the leaves for a period of at least from twenty-four to thirty hours before the greens are watered. It may be necessary to repeat this treatment two or three times during one season to keep the insect under control.

It is expected that the sod webworm will be more prevalent during the coming season and greenkeepers should be prepared to use preventative measures.

Service Section Committee.

Plan to be present at the annual Greenkeepers' Field Day at the Rhode Island State College next month, probably the 21st. The plots there are among the best in the country, the hospitality is fine, and the opportunity to get help for that problem that troubles you is there for you to grasp.

The idea brought out by Mr. Lawson of the Woodland 4-ball team for marking the ball on the green is of especial interest, inasmuch as we all deplore the present methods used; i. e., scratching a mark or making a dent in the green. Of course, there are a few golfers who really appreciate how long it takes for such marks to heal, and now use coins, but the number is too few. Some such idea as was presented by Mr. Lawson will no doubt prove the solution to this greenkeeper's trouble.

"One wise decision counts for more than weeks of blind activity".

"What you haven't the nerve to say to his face is far better not said at all".

"It's a cinch to cut the other fellow's budget".

"Remember it's ideas that sell—not conversation".

"If business is baffling try building a lawn—and cheer up".

"To get the measure of the boss, size up the men he's trained".

"Few complaints are altogether baseless".

"Machines follow rules. Men interpret them".

How Many Grades of Seed?

When you buy seeds—remember the house which makes a practice of carrying low grade as well as the better grades cannot give you the satisfaction or assurance of value that a concern which for years has made it a habit to stock only—top qualities in every line.

For example:—Emerson does not carry a pound of Blue Grass in its warehouse under a 19 lb. to the bushel grade. This is not generally true of most seed houses.

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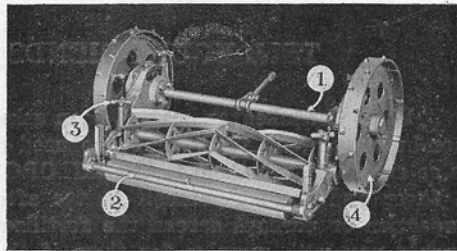
This new Worthington Fairway Unit scalps less than any other. We can prove it to you.

In addition to our usual quick-acting hand-shift for the gears (see No. 4), our new Unit is now equipped with one for the cutting knife (see No. 3). No fussing with wrenches. Just a turn of the hand-wheel. Self-locking in any position.

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Will you permit us to mail to your home a small sample of MILORGANITE? Will you hand this, with the folder to the one responsible for the flowers which grace your home?

Will you at the same time allow us to send a two pound bag of MILORGANITE to you at the club? Will you give this sample a reasonable trial on some undernourished spot?

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WE KNOW IT WILL PLEASE YOU.

We can safely say this as there are so many thousands of people in every walk of life who have used MILORGANITE on their flowers—shrubs—lawns—greens—fairways and even their vegetables with remarkable results. There are many of you who will read this article who are prejudiced against organics. We want you to try this material and if it fails for you, then we will not again ask for a trial.

We have sold over a thousand tons in one season to the New England trade. We have already shipped ten cars this spring. We distributed 10,000 samples at the New England Spring Flower Show in Boston. Hardly a day passes that we do not receive a 'phone order from some satisfied sample user asking for a bag or two for the home lawn, and in some cases orders run into tons.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT IT

What Greenkeeper has not been asked time and again for some non-burning, good fertilizer to be used on the members' lawn? It is so simple to tell them to use MILORGANITE. You will do them a favor and not let yourself in for after-hour personal bother to supervise or perhaps spread the fertilizer for them. We will even supply you with samples for them if the demand is too great for your patience. We do not ask you to sell it to them for us, no never that. Just tell them to ask their regular dealer to buy it for them. Our name is on the folder and the packet—he can write to us for details.

NEW ENGLAND TORO COMPANY

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