



NEWS LETTER



THE LATE JOHN SHANAHAN

NOVEMBER

1934

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GUY C. WEST Editor
312 Mt. Pleasant St., Fall River, Mass.

HOWARD D. FARRANT Business Mgr.
132 Russett Rd., West Roxbury, Mass.

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It is with deep regret that we announce the death on October 31st of John Shanahan, greenkeeper for the past thirty-one years at the Brae Burn Country Club, West Newton, Mass., and Honorary President of the Greenkeepers Club of New England.

John was born in Templederry, County Tipperary, Ireland in 1864, coming to this country at the age of twenty-four.

Known and loved by the many thousands who have enjoyed Brae Burn for his devotion to his job and his fidelity to his club, John was particularly gifted with powers of observation and a vision to comprehend the various phases of his work.

In his passing each and every greenkeeper has lost a friend and help in time of stress, and the Greenkeepers Club of New England has lost not only its Honorary President, but also its ablest advisor.

JOHN SHANAHAN MEMORIAL

A committee of Messrs. Treat, Wilson and Swanson has been appointed to make various suggestions toward a John Shanahan Memorial. These suggestions and any others offered by our members will be discussed at the December meeting. All members are requested to take special note of the following report of this committee:

"The committee on memorial to John Shanahan offer the four following suggestions.

"(1) It is the consensus of opinion of the committee that there shall be a John Shanahan Golf Shield to be played for each year at the annual Greenkeeper-Pro Championship. It was suggested by the committee and chairman of the Pro Golf committee that this be an annual event, and further it was suggested that the committee take the matter up with Mr. Sawyer and the Brae Burn officials to see if Brae Burn will cooperate to the extent of having this championship as a permanent event at Brae Burn and allow us to place the shield in their trophy room as a permanent memorial to John Shanahan; the names of the winners each year to be inscribed on the shield.

"(2) It was also suggested that the Greenkeepers Club of New England establish a fund to be known as the John Shanahan Fund and that the club hold itself responsible to set aside each year the sum of not less than fifty dollars, this money to be available as a long time loan to any deserving greenkeeper or greenkeeper's son, the same to be used for educational purposes. Further that a sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated this year to establish this fund.

"(3) Furthermore that the editor of the Newsletter investigate the cost of a Memorial Number of the Newsletter, which shall contain a loose leaf portrait picture of John Shanahan, 4" x 6", and suitable articles to go therewith. It is suggested that this be the January issue.

"(4) Furthermore that the Greenkeepers Club of New England have struck off each year a medal, to be known as the John Shanahan medal or reward of merit, to be awarded to the person or persons who during the year contribute the most distinguished service to the profession of greenkeeping. (This is intended as an award not particularly to greenkeepers, but to any machine, remedy, control, or outstanding contribution of any kind to the profession of greenkeeping by any company or person."

We have recently heard from Alex G. Bryce, whom most of our members will remember as one of the founders of our club. Alex has been with the Aronmink C. C. of the Philadelphia District, but has changed his affiliation recently to the Wilmington Country Club of Wilmington, Del.

PURCHASING GRASS SEED FOR YOUR GOLF COURSE

Golf is a game played on grass. The kind of grass varies in tees, fairways, greens, rough, in sandy soils, in clay soils and in the individual tastes of clubs. Have you a definite program for the improvement of tees, greens and fairways of your course, or do you as some clubs do, order tee mixture, fairway mixture and greens mixture without regard to the suitability of the seed mixture to your conditions? Find out what type of a green you wish, what seed mixture is best for your soil and what is the mixture which is best for tees. Lay out a long time program and stick to it.

The purchase of grass seed should be considered early in the year. The time to buy is not a day or two, or a week or two before it is used. Prices should be obtained several months ahead, the purity and germination noted, and the actual value of the seed worked out. After a selection has been made it should be tested. If the seed is as represented, well and good—if not, it should be returned. It is well to begin in January to figure your seed requirements for spring use. If it is necessary to purchase seed on short notice buy your seed from a reliable seed dealer in whom you have confidence.

In the purchase of grass seed the highest priced seed in most cases is the cheapest. In figuring the value of seed from the current price list, the purity, germination and selling price are the three items of prime importance. Divide the selling price of the seed by the purity multiplied by the germination. For example: An 80 x 78 lot of South German Mixed Bent selling at a quoted price of \$1.15 a pound. Multiplying 80 times 78 gives a percentage of 62.4 of viable seed contained in this lot. Dividing the price per pound of \$1.15 by the 62.4% equals \$1.84 as the actual cost of one pound of viable seed. A 70 x 70 lot containing only 49% of viable seed offered at \$1.00 a pound, actually costs \$2.04. Take Red Top from the same list—98.5 x 96 at twenty-eight cents a pound actually costs twenty-nine cents. Take a 92-94 x 92 at twenty-six cents costs thirty-one to thirty-two cents per pound. Or a 90 x 90 at twenty-four cents, costs twenty-nine cents per pound. The first

Red Top and the last are of equal cost but not of equal value, the first containing 94.5% of viable seed while the last has only 81%.

In the purchase of cheap seed of low purity there is also the danger of noxious weeds which cost a great deal to get rid of. Also seed of low germination, even if the price is low is not an economy. To go back to the bents mentioned above, it is obvious that it is necessary to sow more seed when using a 70 x 70 seed of 49% viable seed, than an 80 x 78, 62.4% of viable seed. Actually it is necessary to sow 2.04 pounds of 70 x 70 and 1.6 pounds of 80 x 78 to get a pound of viable seed into the ground. The labor of preparing a piece of land may be completely wasted by sowing an inferior grade of seed, and the opportune time for seeding may be lost by the failure of the seed to grow satisfactorily.

Take care of the seed when it arrives. Much good seed can be wasted by improper storage in a warm damp place. It soon loses its vitality, and real good seed when bought may be very poor seed when sown for this reason. The purchase of a few waste paper (galvanized) barrels with a tight cover to keep out mice is a good investment. Store the seed in a cool dry place, stir it well before using from the barrel, the light seed gradually works to the top. Finally—label each barrel conspicuously so that a workman will not make a disastrous mistake by taking or using the wrong seed.

—from a Bulletin of the Service
Section of the M. G. A.

MEETING AT FRANKLIN

At a meeting held at the Franklin Country Club, Franklin, Mass., on October 29th, prizes were won as follows in the regular 18 hole medal handicap tournament:

- G. West, 94-22-72.
 - M. McDonough, 88-16-72.
 - P. Hayden, 94-21-73.
 - S. Braio, 101-28-73.
 - E. Ohlson, 92-17-75.
 - P. Cassidy, 93-18-75.
 - H. Farrant, 99-24-75.
- Guest prize won by C. Howe.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Greenkeepers' Short Course

R. I. State College

It is with sincere regrets that the college administration has to announce that, due to the conditions brought about by the new building program at the college, it will be impossible to schedule the Greenkeepers' Short Course this year. The classrooms are in constant use even now. When the remodeling and buildings programs gets under way it will be necessary to do a considerable amount of shifting of classes from room to room. It will be a difficult situation at best to care for the regular classes.

The college plans to offer this course again as soon as conditions permit. There should be ample facilities when the new buildings have been completed.

T. E. Odland

The following are reprinted from some of the advertising literature in our files. We believe they are of interest.

The development of better turf on putting greens has brought into use pure strains of the finer leaf types of grass in place of mixtures of the coarser leaf grasses. To keep the turf in the acme of playing condition, it has been necessary to make frequent applications of fertilizer and water. This forcing of the grass also provided conditions conducive to the development of a number of diseases which undoubtedly occurred commonly on grasses for many years prior to their intensive culture. These diseases were formerly overlooked or disregarded as it was generally assumed that grasses naturally died out to a certain extent during the summer months; also other grasses covered up the spots left bare by disease.

Now that only one or several varieties of grass are used for the greens, diseases have become of the greatest importance, as often they may almost ruin the playing surface of the green overnight.

The true diseases of grass turf are caused chiefly by parasitic fungi which attack the leaves or blades, and stolons or stems of the grass and, through killing the leaves or plants, usually produce brown-colored areas on the turf that are popularly known as brown

patch. These diseases, with few exceptions, have distinct symptoms by which they may be distinguished from injury due to other causes.

The successful correction of turf injury depends primarily upon the correct diagnosis of the trouble, and secondly, upon the application of the proper remedy.

Snow-Mold

Snow-mold is most prevalent in the northern tier of states, particularly Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and in Canada. It may occur as far south as Virginia under favorable conditions and may appear in the early spring on both greens and fairways.

Snow-mold is caused by the fungus *Fusarium nivale* which lives in most soils. To thrive on turf, it must have a temperature near the freezing point and a supersaturated atmosphere such as is found on greens when snow drifts slowly melt in the spring. High organic matter content of the soil, tender grass, and snow on unfrozen ground encourage its development.

Snow-mold occurs in irregular circular patches, usually less than twelve inches in diameter, which may run together to cover large areas. The spots are a dirty white or gray color, and may have a pinkish cast. Individual plants have a characteristic bleached appearance and when the leaves are wet have a slimy feeling. The fungus attacks mainly the leaves and at times the patch is covered with a cotton-like growth or aerial mycelium. Sometimes this mycelium is so abundant that the leaves are matted together and form a thick layer over the affected area, which usually kills the grass making resodding necessary. The dried spots somewhat resemble brown patch.

Snow Mold

Snow mold is a fungus disease that makes its appearance in the spring after the snow melts. It attacks bent grass greens in much the same way that brown patch does. The disease can be controlled with Calogreen, Corrosive Sublimate, or Calo-Clor, which should be applied at the rate of 3 ounces per 1,000 square feet of green. It is best to treat in the fall after the first frost, but before heavy snow sets in.

Care of Velvet Bent Turf

Velvet Bent demand less attention than most of the turf grasses. A moder-

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ate application of a complete lawn fertilizer is desirable in early spring and again in early fall on established turf. Likewise, lime should be added approximately once every three years to prevent development of excessive acidity. Otherwise, the only care required is periodic mowing and adequate watering.

Top Dressing

A light top dressing with compost 3 to 4 months after seeding will aid in producing a smooth surface. Further top dressings are unnecessary, unless putting turf is desired. For putting turf, regular mowing at a height of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, combined with light top dressings in the spring and fall, is all the additional attention required.

Avoiding Disease

In common with all other bents, **Velvet Bent** may occasionally suffer from attacks of brown patch disease in hot humid weather, particularly if closely cut. Outbreaks are most apt to occur on grass which has been over-stimulated by heavy watering and feeding. Watering in the evening should be avoided,

early morning or daytime watering being preferable. Where "Brown Patch" occurs, merely apply Semesan or Nu-Green or another reliable product, in accordance with the directions for control of the disorder. Brown Patch is rarely, if ever, serious on turf cut at lawn length, provided the simple instructions pertaining to fertilization and watering outlined above are followed.

The Right Way to Water Greens

"Slow, long sprinkling over rolling parts is an absolute necessity if desired results are to be obtained."

Water should be put upon greens only as fast as it will go straight down into the soil. Faster than that means much of the water will flow down to the low parts, carrying top soil and fertilizer with it, resulting in too wet low parts or too dry high parts as well as a considerable waste of water.

ADVERTISERS!—ATTENTION!

All advertising copy for the December issue must be in by December 10.

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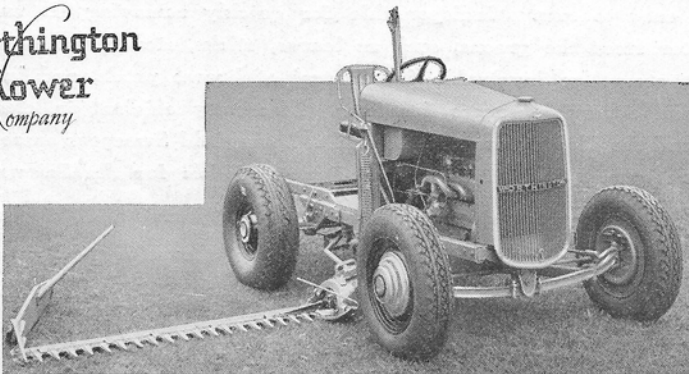
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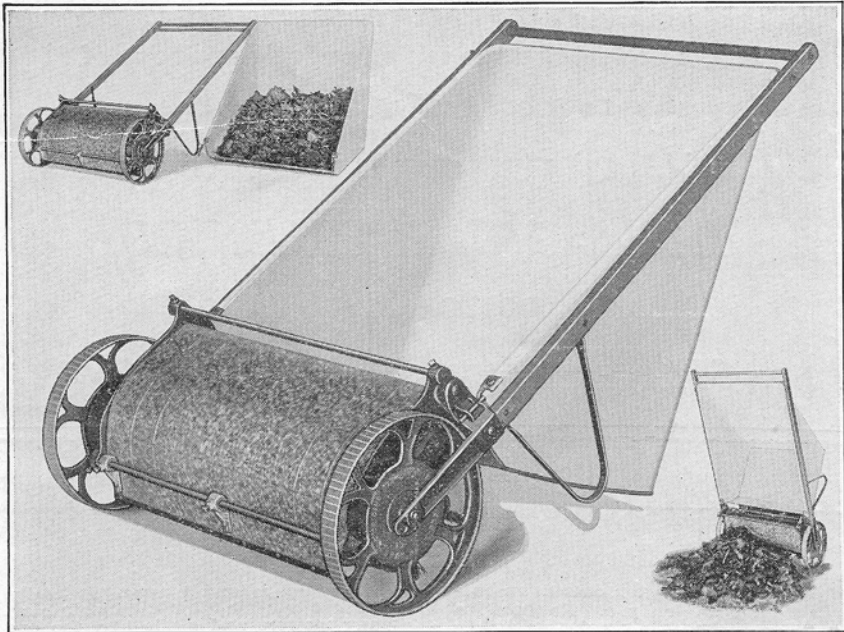
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