



NEWS LETTER

Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own; and from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, is but a succession of changes so gentle and easy that we can scarcely mark their progress.

—Dickens.

OCTOBER

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The Service Section Committee of the M. G. A. is planning to discontinue the experimental plots at the Charles River Country Club, and start a new series. That the new plots may be of the most possible value, a committee is sending a questionnaire to all member clubs of the M. G. A. All greenkeepers who have any ideas as to specific problems which they would like to see come under the experiments conducted at these new plots should communicate such ideas to James McCormack of the committee, 450 William Street, Stoneham, Mass.

We have recently heard, during the recent periods of moist weather, considerable discussion at several clubs concerning the holes made by tractor spuds in the fairways, especially near greens. Possibly these holes are a necessary evil, but we wonder if many more courses could not use some of the new developments in rubber tires, and eliminate another cause of complaint. At present, some courses are using rubber tired tractors; and a few lines from any greenkeeper, whose tractor is so equipped, telling us of the efficiency of such tires, would be of interest.

We have recently heard of a new crab grass rake which can be attached to any hand or power mower. This product seems to merit a demonstration next season.

It will be a good plan not to put off too long buying that new equipment that your club needs. Plan to buy the most essential things first, and start this next Spring. The long Winter is coming in which you will have plenty of time in which to plan just what you need first.

New Equipment will give you a better, a surer, and quicker job than you would have got with the old. Remember it is efficiency to replace any worn-out or obsolete equipment.

A good many sand traps have gone without any fresh sand for some years now. Plan to give them fresh sand in this off season.

Clean up your rough this Winter and you will be well repaid by the smiles of your golfers next season.

Why not plan to attend all the Winter meetings of your club. You will enjoy meeting your fellows, and are bound to carry home some new idea well worth your while. Besides, you need to get out of the rut, and, like the postman who went on a walking trip for his vacation, a trip to a meeting with your fellow greenkeepers will refresh you.

Plans are already underway for the next recreation conference to be held at the Mass. State College next March. We will keep you informed from time to time in future issues of the NEWSLETTER, as to time and programs.

Is your acidity testing kit gathering dust in some out of the way place, or have you been using it lately to get your Fall reading on all greens? What is the pH of the compost you are using?

How does the physical inventory of your course compare this Fall with the inventory of last Fall? If your budget was cut this year, how much did the standard of maintenance fall with the cut?

We still see red when we see anyone mark a fine putting green to show the location of a ball. We have not heard much recently concerning the device which Mr. Lawson of Woodland demonstrated last Spring, but we firmly believe that something should be done about such golfers, and also about those who try to slide along with their spikes, or throw lighted cigarettes around freely.

Why not write us an article?

The Good Old Days Were Not So Good For The Golf Superintendent

By Somer Park

(Reprinted from Pacific Greenkeeper)

Whenever a few superintendents get together for a chat, a considerable portion of their talk is in relation to their various troubles on their respective courses. A harrowing tale of brown patch it may be, or a poor irrigation system, and so on; some older member of the profession winds up the discussion with the weighty remark that in the good old days things were different.

I got to thinking the other night while sitting in a comfortable chair with a good pipe in my teeth about the alleged "good old days." I use the word alleged with evil intent, as I intend to show that the "good old days" were, to say the least, not so good. In defense of this attack on the aforesaid wonderful days of old, I'll repeat that I thought this out with the aid of a good pipe of tobacco, which is a great aid to the contemplative mind, and if you don't agree with the following, you had better change your brand of pipe comfort.

Cast your minds back, some of you older men, about—say ten years; it's a fine warm day in July; the Bermuda is making altitude records every minute; everyone is on the job; over on fourteen fairway you hear the tractor as it pulls or pushes five thirty-inchers. Yes, everything is going fine; isn't that a wonderful picture of the good old days?

Well, I'm now going to smear that picture with the muddy brush of trouble. The sound of the tractor is stilled; you see a figure in greasy overalls heading in your direction; you feel a mental chill; you have an instant dislike for that approaching figure, for too well you know that he is a bearer of bad news.

You ponder what it will be this time; you childishly hope that it is only a new adjusting screw that is needed, or at worst a broken bed knife back; but deep down inside you feel it's a smashed main gear, and, misery on misery, you know you haven't a spare gear left as casualties in gears have been heavy, and back East is far, far away. Not to lacerate your feelings unduly we will

finish this picture a la Briggs, "and so the day is utterly ruined."

Again it is July, but 1929, and again warm, even warmer, I'd say; the Bermuda grass is still striving for records; the tractor is again purring away on any old fairway you like; but here I'll have to ask you to use your imagination a bit as what I'll picture seldom happens nowadays. Imagine you see the tractor man approaching you as of yore; now for the brush of an artist, with the warm colors of confidence and an easy mind; no chill of depression in this picture; no blighted spirit with the day utterly ruined. You await him almost with indifference, as you know that no matter what the trouble may be, any part wanted is only as far as a phone call to your service man who will be right out with it.

Do either of the pictures exaggerate? Well, hardly. It is amazing how smoothly the biggest single operation of course maintenance runs on through the season without serious trouble. As regards the other picture of the transition period from horse to tractor mowing, well, I'm good at drawing a long tale, but I couldn't exaggerate the troubles of that if I did my very best.

I'll admit that the experiences of those trying times were helpful to the men who were right up against them, as they are more able men for those experiences and can appreciate the wonderful saving in mental stress alone through the steady improvements in mowing equipment. The point I wish to make is that today we are reaping those benefits through the fine co-operation of the manufacturers, especially through their local agents, with the man on the job, the superintendent. The exchange of ideas between the two, right out on the field where defects of equipment show, is where the credit lies for the trouble-free dependability of our present-day mowing equipment.

And now a word to the more recent recruits to an old profession will finish this article, as I think I've given something to the worshippers of "the good old days" to chew over.

The young superintendent—I mean in experience only—has a wonderful opportunity nowadays to learn considerable more, and learn it faster, than his fellows of ten or fifteen years ago, simply because he has more time to devote to his grass problems.

GREENKEEPER-PRO TOURNAMENT

The third annual greenkeeper-pro tournament was held on October 1st at the Braeburn Country Club with forty-six teams entered. First gross was won by Walter and Tom Howe of the Wellesley Country Club with a best ball of 75. Second gross went to Emil Masciocchi and Alec Briggs of Oak Hill with 77. First net was won by Howard Farrant of the Country Club and Gene Anderson of Colonial with net of 74, and second net by James O'Malley and Carl Nettelblatt of Runaway Brook.

Best ball of all the teams was 3-4-4-4-5-2-3-3-4—32, 4-4-2-4-5-3-3-3-4—32, 64. And was that golf course stretched and was it tough!

We heard of *one* individual score under 80, and that was 79.

We missed John Shanahan, who was too ill to be around as usual greeting the boys.

RHODE ISLAND ASSOCIATION MEETING

The October meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers Assoc. was held at the Rhode Island C. C., West Barrington on October 18th. An eighteen hole golf tournament brought prizes to J. Conway, H. Cottelle, M. Travers, W. Peckham, E. Pyle, and G. West, also guest prizes to Dr. Monteith and Mr. Dawson.

Following a business meeting, at which Frank Lovett was elected to membership, Dr. John Monteith of the Green Section discussed, "Fertilization of Fairways to Control Weeds and Clover".

Dr. Monteith pointed out that the theoretical question differed from the practical, because of limited budgets, and fertilizer does cost money. However, proper fertilization with an adequate supply of Nitrogen, will check clover and other weeds. The nitrogen, not the acidity is the factor which controls clover. In a poor soil, other factors being correct, clover will get N. from the air and the grass cannot, hence clover will grow, and grass will not; when N. is added grass can grow and crowd out the clover. It is possible to get soils so

acid that grasses will grow and clover will not; good growth of grass on such acid soils will be confined to Spring and Fall and the grass will die out during the Summer.

The speaker discussed experiments being conducted at the Experimental garden in the Chicago district, where experiments on both green and fairway plots show very good control of clover by fertilization. This year, when lack of funds prevented continuing the fertilization, the apparent holdover from the past years gives clover control.

The fertilization that seems to be required is that which will give a good strong growth of grass. Sometimes the fertilization is not the factor which governs the control, as it may be lack of drainage or a soil condition unfavorable to grass growth, possibly a packed soil which is unfavorable to the grass. Under such conditions an application of N. does not give the desired results for the reason that the lack of N. is not the limiting factor.

The amount of fertilizer needed will vary with the soil. An experiment on poor soil with 700 pounds of 12-6-4 per acre did not control, but 1400 pounds and 2800 pounds did give results. With a small amount of money available, it is best to concentrate on the principal areas. Time is important, as Fall fertilization will encourage the growth of blue grass, and Spring fertilization will encourage the growth of crab grass.

There is still plenty to learn upon this subject.

This method also has its disadvantages, giving a lush growth, need cutting more often, possibly more susceptible to disease.

Considerable work has been done with the use of chemicals for controlling weeds, but this work had to be discontinued because of lack of money, although some work is still going on. Results are on the way, but no recommendations can be made as yet.

Prof. Lawrence Dickinson of the Mass. State College and family recently returned from a vacation trip of some twelve thousand miles, visiting Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Banff, Canadian Rockies, Vancouver, White Horse, Yukon Territory, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Yellowstone, etc. Prof. Dickinson gave eight lectures while on his trip.

NEW BULLETIN

A new bulletin of interest is "Putting Green Grasses and Their Management" by H. F. A. North and T. E. Odland, Bulletin 245 from the Rhode Island Experiment Station.

The following abstract from this bulletin gives an idea of its contents:

Golf courses represent a large capital investment in Rhode Island. Their maintenance and management is a growing industry which is highly essential in the recreational business of the state.

The growing of the type of putting green turf which is desired today requires as much skill and experience as does the successful production of other agricultural crops.

The experiments which are reported were begun as a study of a large number of grasses to determine their value for golf greens in this region. Some of the vegetative strains have been propagated with stolons in comparison with seed. The turf from colonials and seaside creeping bents have been tested from original lots and from seed produced in Rhode Island from the same lots.

The bulletin is designed primarily to furnish information which will aid those

concerned with the growing of fine turf in choosing the most satisfactory grass for special conditions. The quality of the turfs has been determined by rating important factors individually and collectively.

Tests have shown that the fertilizer treatments used and the soil reactions maintained have been generally satisfactory for most of the bent grasses. A deficiency of lime resulted in serious damage to the plats of creeping bent during one of the seasons of the test.

The velvet bents as a class have been rated higher in quality than the colonial bents. Rather wide variation was found among the former in this regard and only the exceptional strain was rated higher than the average of the colonial bents.

The three types of colonial bent under test were found to differ in the prevalence of rhizomes, color of foliage, and production of nap. Differences in the quality and susceptibility to brownpatch of the turf were found in the different strains of the common type of colonial bent.

The creeping bents have been rated lower in putting green qualities than the colonial bents. The stolon creeping bents as a group were found of nearly the same value as the lots of seaside

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creeping bents tested. Wider variations in quality were found among the stolon strains such as Washington and Virginia than among the seaside creeping bents.

The turf of velvet and creeping bents grown from seed was found similar in quality to that produced from stolons of the same strain. Likewise the turf of colonial bent and seaside creeping bent from seed grown in Rhode Island one generation produced turf very similar to that of the parent grasses. As a rule the seeded turf was found more susceptible to disease than the parent stolon turf.

Velvet bents were rather generally susceptible to dollarspot, and colonial bent to brownpatch, while creeping bents were mildly susceptible to both diseases. Snowmold was found in creeping bent turf.

Bluegrass, fescues, redbtop and a few poor strains of creeping bents were found unadapted for greens in this region when clipped as close as one-fourth inch.

The most troublesome weed in the plats has been crabgrass. Clover and other weed pests have been rather successfully controlled by the applications of sulfate of ammonia. Equipment is described for steam sterilizing soil and compost.

The control of disease obtained with mercurial fungicides is tabulated for each species of the bent grasses. General directions are given for the control of dollarspot, brownpatch, snowmold, and scald.

Measures for the control of insects are given. Experiments have shown that a spray of 1 to 2 pounds of arsenate of lead in 10 to 20 gallons of water gave good control of the bluegrass webworm.

A system is suggested for the general maintenance of the putting green in this region.

Many leading golf clubs today owe their fine greens and fairways to a rigid policy of grub, beetle and earthworm control with lead arsenate. In the manufacture of Lead Arsenate, arsenic, a deadly killing agent, is combined with lead by a careful process. This results in a most practical insecticide for the control of chewing insects, worms and bugs. While this combination produces a Lead Arsenate of great toxic effect, it contains a minimum of soluble arsenic and, consequently, will not prove harmful to turf.

Grubs consume a certain amount of soil with the grass roots they eat. If the soil is impregnated with lead arsenate, the poison kills them. The method of getting the lead arsenate into the soil is important.

Mixing with Moist Sand Most Practical

Experience has proved that mixing the lead arsenate with moist sand, or top dressing, is the most practical method, as the weight of these materials will carry the lead arsenate down to the soil. Rains and heavy dew will soak it into the soil where the grubs will get it. Apply five pounds of Lead Arsenate mixed with about one bushel of moist sand to 1,000 square feet of turf for grub and earthworm control. Even distribution is essential.

Dusting and Spraying

Dusting and spraying are not recommended. Weather conditions are seldom right for dusting, and if the grass blades are wet, burning may result. The same applies to spraying. Inexperience or uneven distribution of the spray may result in burning the grass blades. The place for the lead arsenate is right in the soil where the grubs will get it. That's why mixing with sand is recommended.

When To Apply

Mixed with sand, Lead Arsenate may be applied at any time insect conditions demand. The important factor is to treat the turf at the first sign of grubs before they do serious damage. This same principle applies to earthworms.

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Secretary Charles Parker is now located at the Wianno Club, Osterville, Mass., and his address is Box 316, Osterville, Mass.

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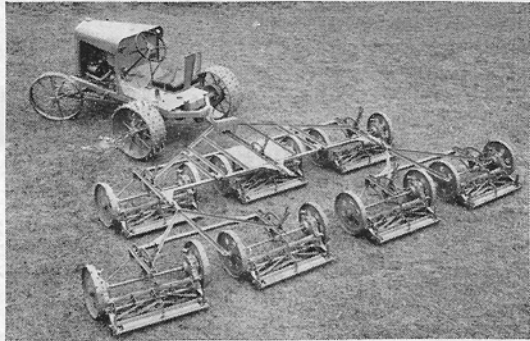
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