

Not gold, but only man, can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast, and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare with others fly.
They build a nation's pillars deep,
And lift them to the sky.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

NOVEMBER
1938

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Green's Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

GUY C. WEST ..... Editor

Rhode Island Country Club

West Barrington, R. I.

GEORGE J. ROMMELL, JR.

Business Mgr.

28 Granville St., Dorchester, Mass.

November, 1938

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The ideas and opinions expressed in the subject matter of this NEWS-LETTER are not necessarily those of the Editor or the members of the club as a whole.

#### THE THANKFUL SPIRIT

The thankful spirit may make but little noise. It may not flood the world with expressions of gratitude. It may hide behing a rough, repelling manner. It may be buried in inarticulate shyness. Nevertheless, it must exist in all intelligent and imaginative persons. No active mind can pass through this world without an appreciation of the benefits which he or she has actually received. All ambitions may not have been satisfied. All desires may not have been satiated. The evil which we have received from life may have outweighed the good, but there is no one who has not had from it some good, and who does not owe the world some debt of gratitude.

To recognize sorrow one must have experienced joy. To feel disappointment one once must have had hope, and to experience loss one must have had possessions. For joy, hope and what it has been allowed us to have even for a time, we should be grateful to life and join our fellows in this feast of thanksgiving. If all else fails let us be thankful for the misfortunes which did not come to us.

(The Thread of Life).

Your Board of Directors met at the Hotel Statler, Boston, on November 14th. Many affairs of importance to you and to your club were discussed. The Entertainment Committee is planning a busy and profitable schedule for the Winter meetings. A list of speakers will be announced later. Why not get the habit of attending all of our Winter meetings?

A committee is working on plans for the second Greenkeepers Club School. The evening meetings at the Waltham Field Station were so successful last year that it is hoped that this year's program may be even more successful.

You should have some ideas that might help the committee on revision of the by-laws. This committee has been working for some time now, and expects to report soon with several changes, recommended for the good of the club. If you have any ideas, send them to the Secretary.

The Directors are recommending that the annual Frolic be postponed until next February, and then celebrated as the 15th anniversary of the founding of our organization.

The Turf Bill Committee is still working, and we shall again petition the State Legislature of Massachusetts for an appropriation for turf research. Be ready to help.

Flood and hurricane and tidal wave may change our meeting dates, but our club affairs are still progressing. Do your part in this progress!

Our able Business Manager took unto himself a wife on October 16th last, his future boss being the former Miss Gertrude Josephine Cussen of Dorchester. Their honeymoon trip covered a large part of the Eastern United States, mostly by plane. George reports stopping to see Carl Treat and John Anderson in New Jersey, and finding plenty of Japanese beetles on their courses. Control measures being used are applying in the Fall 250 pounds of arsenate of lead to the acre.

At least one golf course supply firm addressed a special letter to their "Flood and Hurricane Stricken Customers", offering to supply them with seeds, fertilizers, tools, etc. as needed

for rehabilitation work on the courses, with payment to be made as possible on a deferred payment plan. Offers such as this are evidence of the high type of service which New England golf course supply houses are giving their customers.

Our advertisers are asked to send in copy for the Christmas issue by December 1st, so that issue may be in the hands of our readers before Christmas.

We recently found the following little story in a trade paper:

Said the bullet, "I do the work." Said the powder, "You would be useless without me." Said the cap to the powder, "You would be useless without me." Said the trigger to the cap, "You would be useless without me." Said the gun to the trigger, "You would be useless without me." Said the man who held the gun, "Hush! I need you all!"

If we are the "man with the gun", we certainly need YOU ALL with YOUR help in sending in material for this, YOUR PAPER.

Now is the time to prepare for feeding the birds this coming Winter. We reprint with pleasure Circular No. 15 of the National Association of Audubon Societies, "Winter Birds as Guests of Golf Clubs"—

During the winter man and birds can cooperate to their mutual advantage more effectively than at any other season. Our hospitality is then not only more welcome but, on occasion, it may actually stand between our guests and starvation. It is not the cold of winter that kills birds, it is the lack of food.

Well-spread tables set near the Club House windows, or even in the windows themselves, will bring birds near enough to be seen definitely, and they thus acquire greater individuality than the bird flitting through the tree-tops or undergrowth. Their presence adds a touch of life and good cheer. We regard them somewhat in the light of a personal possession; and with the satisfaction of one who feels that he has done the right thing by his neighbors.

#### The Guests

Given fairly suitable surroundings and we may certainly expect to number Downy Woodpeckers, Chickadees, and White-breasted Nuthatches among our guests; Brown Creepers, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Hairy Woodpeckers may honor us, and, in the more southern parts of the state, there is always the possibility of entertaining a Cardinal. English Sparrows and Starlings will come without an invitation. The former are primarily ground-feeders and by scattering some grain on the ground beneath the feeding-stand they may leave more welcome guests undisturbed.

In the rough, where seeds have ripened, we may look for Tree Sparrows, Juncos, Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and an occasional Meadow-lark; and where there is sufficient cover there may be Quail and Pheasants. Always there is a possibility that we may be visited by such distinguished travelers from the north as Crossbills, Siskins, and Butcherbirds, and even Longspurs, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks.

#### The Tables

Any place not accessible to cats may serve as a feeding-place for birds, but since no small part of the pleasure of feeding them is the fun of seeing them feed, this end can, as a rule, be attained most readily by building stands and placing them near the Club House. A platform three feet square centered on a single upright, four or five feet high, is the simplest form of feedingstand. It should have a rim or border and cross-pieces, all of which may be of rustic design and which will retain the food as well as serve as perches. A high, peaked roof set on corner posts with an open space of at least 8 inches between its lower rim and the table will protect the food from snow and rain, but this shelter is not necessary if the table is kept clear, and birds can be seen better without it.

The most satisfactory feeding-stand is one that brings birds to our windows where we may see them at arm's length. A rustic-bordered shelf will serve this purpose and a branch of some evergreen or part of an unthreshed sheaf of grain at either end will make it more attractive to birds and man.

After heavy snowfalls, and particularly sleet storms that render natural food supplies inaccessible, Tree Spar-

rows, Shore-larks, Snow Buntings and other birds that frequent the course but do not come to the Club House feeding-stands, should be remembered. Chick-feed may be scattered on the tees or on other places from which the snow has been cleared and where the birds may be seen. If there is sufficient growth on the course to afford cover for Quail and Pheasants, they may be fed beneath slightly raised brush-heaps which will give them both shelter and protection.

#### The Bill-of-Fare

In arranging a menu for our prospective guests we should remember that they will include both seed and insecteaters. For the former a good all-round food is chick-feed with its mixture of various grains and cracked corn. To it may be added hemp, canary, and sunflower seeds, bread-crumbs and broken dog-biscuit.

The insect-eaters will eagerly accept suet. To prevent the larger birds from helping themselves too generously this should be enclosed in a holder of wire mesh which may be attached to the feeding-stand or to the trunks of trees.

#### FOURTEEN POINTS IN ORNA-MENTAL TREE PLANTING

- A piece of burlap or canvas should be spread over the grass, so that the dirt from the holes may be thrown upon it, or use a wheelbarrow from which it is easy to shovel the dirt.
- Holes must be made large enough so that the roots may be spread out naturally without cramping. See also No. 6.
- Be sure the holes are well drained, especially when dug in a clay subsoil.
- Good, fertile top soil must be used about the roots. If the planting location is in impoverished ground, good soil should be provided about the roots.
- Plant the tree about the same depth it stood at the nursery (easily determined by the dirt ring on the trunk). This is very important.

- 6. Lay the roots out naturally and cut off smoothly all the broken or bruised parts. See also No. 2.
- 7. Press the earth down firmly, embedding all parts of roots and working.
- 8. With small trees the dirt will settle about the roots if the plant is moved gently up and down and the earth firmed as the hole is filled. Be careful not to break the rootlets. With large trees use tamping stick.
- 9. Pour in water to top of hole after filling three-quarters full with earth. When this is settled complete filling-in process, leaving top soil loose. Do not hill up the earth about the base of the tree.
- Trim broken or bruised branches, also small branches and limbs back to the next largest stem.
- Do not cut back the leader or central stem, as a forked tree may result. Hardwood trees, oak and beech especially should not have their central leader cut off.
- 12. Large trees or trees in exposed places should usually be staked. To prevent chafing, protect the tree with old rubber hose or with burlap. A stake driven in the ground along side the tree with a rubber or burlap covered wire attached to the tree is a good support. Until the tree becomes firmly established see to it in the spring that the earth is closely packed about the trunk.
- 13. After planting, it is better to leave a cultivated area about the tree than to sod close to it. The cultivated area should be from 3 to 5 feet in diameter.
- 14. Fertilizer or well rotted manure or compost may be used either thoroughly mixed with the soil in the bottom of the hole or as a surface mulch, or both.
  - —(from a Bulletin of the American Tree Association)

"A fat man is seldom good at golf. If the ball lies where he can see it, he can't hit it; and if it is where he can hit it, he can't see it."

#### PREMIER BRAND PULVERIZED POULTRY MANURE FOR FINER FAIRWAYS

When mixed with compost material intended for late Fall topdressing, or applied on FAIRWAYS at the rate of 500 to 750 pounds per acre will produce a fine healthy turf. On very heavy clay soils a similar application in the late Fall will give the Fairways a quick start the following Spring. Where possible it should be drilled into the soil.

#### Greener Greens

For late Fall and early Spring, dressing of Putting Greens, use about five pounds of Premier Poultry Manure per 100 square feet of surface.

#### Guaranteed Analysis:

Nitrogen-5.00%; Total Phosphoric Acid-2.75%; Potash-1.30%

## BRECK'S

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#### GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE

by Tom P. Newlove Syracuse Yacht Country Club Clay, New York (A Winter School Paper)

The proper drainage for golf courses can best be accomplished by utilizing accepted engineering practices to fit each peculiar condition. By using common sense in arranging your problem and doing the job, the simplest way will prove more satisfactory than the more complicated methods.

Surface water is probably the biggest difficulty builders and greenkeepers are confronted with in drainage problems. Practically every soil will retain a certain percentage of water regardless of how well it is drained. The capillary water which remains is sufficient to take care of plant life. If water is present in large amounts, it fills the air spaces and stops plant roots from getting the proper amount of food. Then also, when there is a drought, it is hard

for the plant to adjust itself when moisture is not available. Soil will also become compacted eventually and cause puddling.

One of the main reasons for surplus water in certain areas may be due largely to type of soil. A very tight and compacted soil like clay or a soil with an impervious layer of shale will not allow water to work through. Water running off from the slopes to flatter land areas will usually cause a soggy, wet condition. The conditions mentioned above will cause most of the problems on a golf course except for creeks, rivers and lakes overflowing their banks in the spring.

The important step is to find out the cause for drainage, then decide on the type of drainage to use. A ditch alone is only a temporary way of draining. This method will take water away but a wet condition still remains to a great extent. Then again surface water when in excess will fill ditches to their banks, and water remains for a long period. The maintenance for open ditches is a big factor in both labor and costs to the club—bridges have to be built in order for tractors and other equipment

to be taken about the course. Grass banks of the ditch are costly to maintain.

The most satisfactory way to drain is by the use of tile. Tile may be had in any size and made of any suitable material for your particular work. One thing to remember in the laying of tile is that water cannot run through the walls, so do not place them too closely together to prevent the water getting into the drain. A good practice is to put some sort of building paper over the top of each joint to prevent soil from getting into the line and causing stoppage. A line placed this way is permanent and will drain the area much better with much less cost compared with the open ditch over a period of years.

A few suggestions at this time should be mentioned about the depth of tile. The depth will vary from 18 inches to 6 feet, with 3 feet about an average. Heavy tractors and other equipment moving about on the course are apt to break tile placed less than 18 ins. deep. When rapid drainage of the surface is needed, a tile depth of about 2 feet will be sufficient. In draining clay or other compacted soils, 2 feet should be the maximum. Always bear in mind that proper drainage will give the soil needed air and will induce stronger and deeper root systems of plants—therefore healthier plants.

In sandy or ligher soils, a tile depth can be as much as 6 feet, but try to stay around the 3-foot depth as it gives better results. When hardpan is struck at shallow depths, break through, then lay tile below. Tile laid on hardpan will not drain properly.

Parts of golf courses such as greens and traps are usually rather difficult to drain correctly. Where to put the outlet is the big question in a number of cases. Here can be used the system of dry well. This dry well consists of a hole about 6 feet in diameter and deep enough to be below the outlet of the tile. In constructing the dry well, fill to the outlet of the tile with stone or gravel. About a foot from the top, place tar paper or some material to prevent soil from working into the stone and gravel, then finish by covering with ordinary soil.

In placing drainage tile in traps, caution should be exercised in making sure that you cover tile with at least 6 inches of soil. Tile should never be placed on top of the sand in traps as this will eventually cause the tile to become clogged with sand and stop drainage.

To accomplish a more accurate tile line, a profile survey of the proposed ditch line should be made and worked out on cross section paper, thus enabling you to give correct ditch depth and fall or rise. This procedure is not only more accurate but will eliminate many costs in labor later on when tile may have to be dug up to make corrections.

It would be well to mention how necessary it is to select the proper system. In general, if the fairway or slope of any kind slopes towards the center, the main line should run through the depression and the laterals running out on either side so as to take in the whole area. Such a system is called herring-bone. Where the field slopes to a side or to an end, the system called gridiron should be used. A third system called random is made of lines run with no particular regularity of pat-tern, but run into low spots. Such a system is used where the ground is very The fourth system, called irregular. intercepting, is used as the base of slopes to intercept hillside flow of water before it gets to a flatter area. Special care should be taken to be sure that you are deep enough with the ditch to determine depth of water. Tile lines aboue this strata will do very little good. This method is very useful as well as inexpensive, as it very often eliminates the necessity of installing more tile lines in low areas. Intercepting lines are being used a lot to prevent water running onto greens, traps and tees on hillsides, rather than tiling them separately.

#### Less Accident Liability

"Lady, I've come to make those repairs."

"Well, come in, but please take care in going about your work. All my floors are waxed and polished and in perfect condition."

"Oh, don't worry about me slippin', ma'am. I've got spikes in my workin' shoes."

-Anon.

"There is simply no telling what big shots we might be now, if we had followed the good advice we gave others."

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The November meeting of the club was held at the Waltham Field Station on November 21st. John D. Lyon of Belmont spoke on various aspects of grass as affecting the greenkeeper, illustrating his talk with lantern slides. Mr. Lyon told of the conditions under which South German mixed bent is harvested, and advised using a mixture of domestic colonial and velvet bents instead of South German mixed bent. He also said that the germination of Chewings fescue is much better than it was a few years ago, and mentioned that a small quantity of Chewings fescue is being grown in Oregon.

Several important matters were discussed at the business meeting, including the Turf Bill for research at the Waltham Field Station, to be introduced again this year before the Mass. Legislature, and several changes in the constitution as proposed by the By-Laws Committee.

An interesting bulletin which has recently come to our attention is the Mass. Agri. Exp. Station bulletin—No. 353, "Leaf-feeding Insects of Shade Trees" by W. B. Becker, with a part devoted to the subject "Tree Injury by Squirrels", by E. M. Mills. A large number of insects are discussed, with their life cycles and control measures being given. This bulletin was issued last July, and so contains the up-to-date information which we all need in regard to the insects which attack our shade trees.

## THE COMPOST PILE — ARTIFICIAL MANURE

(A circular issued by Waltham Field Station, Massachusetts State College)

The amount of organic material or humus in the soil is recognized as being of the utmost importance to the gardener. Organic material has the peculiar ability to improve the condition of most of our soils:—it lightens and aerates heavy soil, it provides body for light soil, it prevents plant food from leaching out, it holds water to tide the plants over periods of drought, and provides a better medium for root growth. Fresh or rotted barnyard

manure is not only difficult to obtain but is expensive for the average gardener. By the use of a chemical mixture, and a little attention, considerable waste material can be easily converted into satisfactory humus. Leaves, hay, straw, grass clippings, and plant refuse of any kind that is not diseased, will prove valuable in building up your soil. Select a secluded corner of your lot,—some dig a hole for the purpose while others use a large wooden crate. As water is essential, the pile should be near enough to receive the necessary attention. Keep the pile moist.

Bacteria, which are minute forms of plant life, cause the breaking down and rotting of the material placed in the compost pile. Conditions must be congenial for the growth. They must have plenty of moisture. Their food is nitrogen which is given them in the form of Sulphate of Ammonia. Congenial conditions are provided for them by the Lime and Superphosphate. The Potash is to make the resulting material a complete plant food.

Use the chemical mixture if you can but if separate materials are unobtainable at a fair price the complete fertilizer is quite satisfactory.

Chemical Mixture

Sulfate of Ammonia	6 lbs.
Superphosphate	3 lbs.
Muriate of Potash	2 ½ lbs.
Ground Limestone	5 lbs.
or any Complete	Fertlizer
such as 5-8-7	10 lbs.
Ground Limestone	5 lbs.

Be sure that the lime you use is **Ground Limestone** and not hydrated lime. These materials may be obtained from your local seed, feed, or fertilizer dealer.

The waste material should be arranged in layers,—coarse material 8 to 10 inches, and fine material 4 to 6 inches deep. A layer of loam about ½ inch deep should be applied between each layer of refuse. As new material is added to the pile it should be sprinkled with the chemicals at the rate of about 1 pound of the mixture to each bushel,—or 1 pound to each 10 pounds of material, and 1 pound to each 20 pounds of heavy waste matter. Then thoroughly saturate with water. As more material is available, add to the pile until a height of 3 to 4 feet is reached; then start a new pile. If a composted soil is desired, cover each layer with 4 inches of garden loam.

Do not expect immediate results because it takes from three to six months of warm weather to break down the refuse. Coarse material takes 6 to 12 months. For best results the pile should be turned over after three months, and again six weeks later. Keep the pile moist but not wet. Very little action takes place in the pile from November 15 to April 15, so do not reckon any time between these dates.

March 1, 1937.

Homer Darling of the Juniper Hill Golf Club, Northboro, Mass. had some fine booklets printed this year, entitled "Follow thru—a guide to good Golfing", and distributed them to his players. This seems a fine idea for a public course.

Some excerpts from this booklet are: Follow Thru—

(continued from last issue)

#### Golf Etiquette

A golf course is no better than the sportsmanship of the players who use it. One can always tell a true golfer by his or her adherance to the simple rules of etiquette of the game.

Most violations of golf etiquette are due to oversight. Very few players deliberately set out to disregard the rules. More often than not, the underlying reason is found to be either a lack of knowledge or a misunderstanding in the part of the violater.

In the belief that everyone has a genuine wish to do the proper thing on the course, and with the sincere desire to help our patrons make Juniper Hill Golf Course noted for the courtesy of its players, we have listed here some of the fundamental points observed by all good golf players.

- 1. Wherever you are on the course, never act in any manner that might affect adversely another player's game. When you are in the act of playing a shot, you know how easy it is to have your game affected if someone shouts, stands too close to you, drops their golf bag, or in any one of many ways distracts your attention just at the crucial moment. Avoid anything that will tend to spoil another's game.
- 2. Replace all turf, and press it down firmly with the foot. This helps us to keep the course in good condition. It also means more enjoyment and better scores for you.

- 3. When entering or leaving a sand trap, use the entrance provided so not to dislodge the sod surrounding the trap. Never climb over the side of the trap. Smooth out all foot prints or club marks before leaving.
- 4. The breaks of the game are the same for everyone, so keep your temper, and don't complain about your tough luck. Be A Sport.

#### Important "Dont's" For The Beginner

Don't stand near a player when he or she is about to make a shot, and make sure when you drive no one is near you.

Don't forget to replace turf.

Don't drop or leave your bag on the green.

Don't forget to be patient and tolerant of yourself and others on the golf course.

A great man under the shadow of defeat learns his lesson of the uses of adversity; and as an oak tree's roots are strengthened by its shadow, so all defeats in a good cause are but resting places on the road to victory.

-Henry Ward Beecher.

"I once steered a raft down the Mississippi River," observed Abraham Lincoln.

"It went along delightfully with the current. But I did not meet any rafts going upstream. They were all Steamboats."

"No matter how small your lot in life, there's enough room on it for a service station."

"The easiest way to get a great deal of work done is to be continually doing a little."

"The person who brags about what he is going to do tomorrow, was probably doing the same thing yesterday." WINTER HARDY—ACCLIMATED

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#### FURTHER HURRICANE NEWS

At this date, considerable repairing of the damage done to New England courses by storm, tidal wave, and flood, has already been accomplished. Many courses have been able to repair their damage with their regular crews, but many others have been forced to engage extra men because of the large amount of extra work necessary.

Here at Rhode Island, we were fortunate in securing a large gang of W. P. A. workers to help clean in the woods, and this gang cut up trees which had been felled by the storm, piled the cut wood, and also piled brush ready for burning. This work was done as storm clearance, and also because of the fire hazard presented by this mass of fallen trees with the leaves and small branches in large quantities. Although this gang was called off before finishing the work, it seems that this angle should be investigated by any club which has the same conditions.

Fairways and other areas which were covered by the tidal wave are showing some green in many cases, but in others have come back little as yet from the brown which they have been since damaged by the salt. It seems logical, however, to think from present indications, that most of these areas will come back in the Spring, after the Winter storms wash out the salt remaining.

Weather since the storm has been very favorable for renovation, and areas which were reseeded following the storm have now a good catch of grass in most instances.

We are looking forward with a great deal of interest to the next season to see just what permanent damage has been done, how the methods of repairing damage are going to prove themselves or otherwise, and to the many more stories which we shall hear of what has been done, with their interesting points of comparison and contrast with our own story.

#### OFFICERS' DIRECTORY

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NEWSLETTER officers, see page two.

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fall? Of course, you know that good seed is cheapest in the long run. But Woodruff can give you even more than that. Woodruff, the largest supplier of Colonial Bent, is an expert in the grasses native to this section of New England. Woodruff is intimately familiar with local soils, and is able to give you unusual assistance in developing the best mixture for your particular land. When you buy from Woodruff you buy more than seed. Enjoy this extra value by ordering Woodruff seed.

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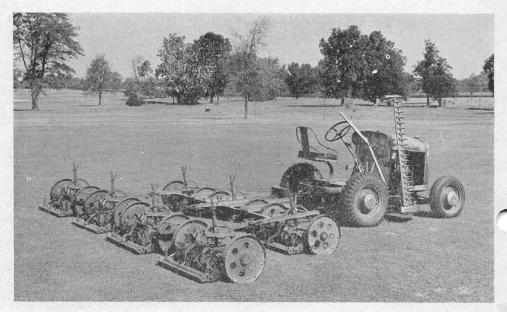
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