



NEWS LETTER

*Surmounted difficulties not only teach
but hearten us in our future struggles.*

—Sharp.

FEBRUARY

1939

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.

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54 Eddy St., West Newton, Mass.

February, 1939 Vol. 11, No. 2

Contributing Editors

Homer Darling R. A. Mitchell
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Frank Wilson

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

FEBRUARY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting was held at the Waltham Field Station on the 6th. The speaker for this meeting was Mr. James R. Simmons, Timber Salvage Supervisor of District No. 5 of the N. E. Salvage Administration. Mr. Simmons told of the work which is being done in salvaging timber felled by the hurricane. At present most of the time is being devoted to white pine salvage with hard woods salvage to come later. Mr. Simmons said that there had been estimated to be a billion and a half board feet of salvagable white pine felled by the hurricane in New England. Three grades have been established, with prices for each. (As much of the information given by Mr. Simmons is printed elsewhere in this issue, we will not repeat it here.)

Dues are payable to the Treasurer, Frank H. Wilson, NOW.

"Mother, I know what snow is?"
"What is it, dear?"
"Popped hailstones."

THE USE OF WATER IN TURF CULTURE

by Henry C. Mitchell
Greenkeeper, Walpole C. C.

The use of water is perhaps the least understood part of turf culture. The most common questions discussed are, "How much water should be used?" and "How often should it be applied?" The answer to these questions depends upon the individual set of circumstances.

In answer to the question, "How much water should be used", it is necessary to know how much can be absorbed. We are not interested so much in how much water was applied to turf as in how long it was applied. Water should be applied only as fast as it can be absorbed. Any excess of this amount is wasted. Yet the question of how much to use is still unanswered. This depends on what I call the reservoir of available water, which is dependent upon the water holding capacity of the soil, the wilting point, and the depth of soil in which water can be stored and brought back to the plant by capillarity. It would be difficult to measure it in gallons per thousand ft. All water which passes through it is wasted along with some plant food. Enough water should be used to keep the soil moist, but not wet.

In answer to the question, "How often should water be applied," the following should be considered:

There are those who believe that daily watering produces shallow root systems. If the water is correctly applied this is not so. Shallow roots can be caused by a lack of water below the surface. However, if the correct amount of water is applied daily the soil under the surface will never get dry and the turf will never be shallow rooted. In some cases on certain soils, after certain types of root damage have occurred, it may be necessary to water almost constantly to prevent "scald". I would say water should be applied as often as is necessary to keep the surface in a moist condition, whether this be every fifteen minutes or every fifteen days.

Under perfect conditions normal rains would be sufficient for our needs but because of poor capillarity, poor penetration, and an inadequate reservoir of available water, it is necessary to resort to artificial means.

In perfect soil, capillarity should be fast enough to keep the surface moist even in hot weather. Capillarity is faster in sandy soils and is speeded up by the addition of sand to the soil. It is sometimes destroyed by layers of sand or organic matter beneath the surface. Such a condition can be partially corrected by the use of forks, spikers or drills. Capillarity is also affected by the type and the state of decomposition of the organic matter in the soil. Organic matter used in top-dressing should be well composted and lacking in oily greasy or resinous substances. The judicious use of lime or charcoal is effective in increasing bacterial action which breaks down harmful organic matter. I have observed that different varieties of grass produce different amounts of harmful organic matter which makes it necessary to use different amounts of lime on each variety to get best results.

If penetration is good and water is applied as fast as the soil will absorb it, about four hours watering per week including rain should be sufficient. This figure of course would vary, according to the water evaporating from the turf. Lush growing turf uses more water than harder turf. The density and height of cut of the turf also effect the water requirements. Soil absorbs some water by capillarity and some by gravitation. Gravitational penetration is improved by spiking, discing, etc. and by lessening contours, where reconstruction is resorted to as a means of improvement. It is improved by the correct use of water. Too much water on heavy soils may spoil soil structure and seal the surface. Close cutting may allow the surface to dry, causing poor penetration.

In perfect soil the reservoir of available water should be sufficient to last through any period of drought. Few greenkeepers expect it to last more than two or three days. Most of us apply water to keep the poor spots wet and have no idea how little water is required for the few perfect spots on our greens. The available water can be increased by building a deeper soil or by the incorporation of organic matter. Use of fertilizer where clippings are not removed increases the organic matter and water holding capacity. Heavy soils have a higher water holding capacity than light soils. Improvement of the reservoir of available water does not

decrease the amount of water which we must apply.

When attempting to improve one condition the effect of the treatment on other conditions should not be disregarded. The addition of sand to improve capillarity and penetration may reduce water holding capacity. The addition of organic matter and clay or silt may decrease penetration and capillarity. The ideal set of conditions are those which require the least number of applications of water. However, capillarity and penetration are probably the most important because they make it possible to utilize more natural rainfall.

If the gallons per minute applied to an area can be reduced through the use of smaller nozzles, water holding capacity can be improved at the expense of penetration. If penetration can be improved the rate of application can be increased reducing the amount of time the sprinklers must run and the percentage of rainfall utilized will be increased.

BULLETIN

SERVICE SECTION

of

The Massachusetts Golf Association

101 Milk Street, Boston, Mass.

To: MEMBER CLUBS

Subject: "Hurricane Damage To Trees"

Winter is now here and spring is just around the corner. This means that those with white pine timber blown down during the hurricane of September 21st which they desire to salvage must immediately get into action. Many storage centers have been established by the Forest Service in the Government program for accepting logs. Get in touch immediately with the Forest Service Headquarters in your section and sign a contract if you desire to market your logs in this manner.

The following offices have been established in Massachusetts as central points in the administration of the Government Timber Salvage Program.

Boston:

Mr. Miller, U. S. Forest Service
209 Washington Street, Suite 911
Boston, Massachusetts.

Athol:

Mr. B. E. Parson
First National Bank Building
Athol, Massachusetts.

Worcester:

Mr. W. V. Jones
Federal Building
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Framingham:

Mr. James R. Simmons
Room 19, 24 Union Avenue
Framingham, Massachusetts.

Concord:

Mr. H. O. Trask
19 Everett Street
Concord, Massachusetts.

Get in touch with these men and sign a contract, which includes a rough estimate of the amount of timber that you have to dispose of. Ninety percent of the announced price is being paid. Payment being made within ten days or two weeks after the logs are delivered to designated point. The specifications call for grading logs into three grades and the announced prices are: \$18.00 for the first grade: \$14.00 for the second grade: and \$12.40 for the third grade. Ninety percent of these prices means that the present payments are: \$16.20 for the first grade: \$12.60 for second and \$11.16 for third grade.

For hardwoods there will only be one or two places established in each county for delivery. For pine timber practically every town in Middlesex and Worcester counties, at least, have a pond or dry storage where the logs can be delivered.

Another part of the Government Timber Salvage Program may be of interest to you. This comes under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. For cleaning up brush in down timber areas a payment of \$4.00 per acre for a maximum of fifteen acres or \$60.00 will be made. All that is necessary for you to do is to notify the County Supervisor and have your area approved.

The following Supervisors for Massachusetts for this part of the program.

- V. J. Riley, Bristol County Agricultural School, Segregansett, Mass.
Edwin C. Martin, Essex County Agricultural School, Athorne, Mass.
L. C. Kimball, Hamden County Improvement League, 1499 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, Mass.
W. F. Buck, Agricultural Conservation Office, 15 Gothic St., Northampton, Mass.

L. A. Wetherbee, Agricultural Conservation Office, 19 Everett St., Concord, Mass.

E. L. Hayes, Agricultural Conservation Office, 224 Main St., Brockton, Mass.

H. S. Vaughn, Agricultural Conservation Office, 403 Federal Building, Worcester, Mass.

If you are interested in the names of contractors who are available to help salvage down timber the Forest Service has submitted the following contractors who desire to be listed as available for this work:

Charles Ingalls, Topsfield Rd.,
Topsfield, Mass.

Harold B. Rogers, Ward Hill,
Haverhill, Mass.

Leslie L. Ingalls, Topsfield Rd.,
Boxford, Mass.

Lester L. Wood, 14 Limirrok Rd.,
Ipswich, Mass.

Albert E. Jenkins, 38 Came Ave.,
Haverhill, Mass.

Herbert S. William, 399 Great Plain
Ave., Needham, Mass.

Harry L. Chase,
Whitefield, Maine.

Roger A. Brown, 36 Outlook Drive,
Lexington, Mass.

Kenneth L. Small, 1890 Washington St.,
Walpole, Mass.

Bernard J. Hoffman, 1054 Bay St.,
Taunton, Mass.

Golden and Aucoin,
Bangor, Maine

H. M. Laurila, Route 1304,
Thomaston, Maine.

Albert R. Janks, R. F. D.,
West Acton, Mass.

Please note that the Northeastern Timber Salvage Administration only accepts down timber.

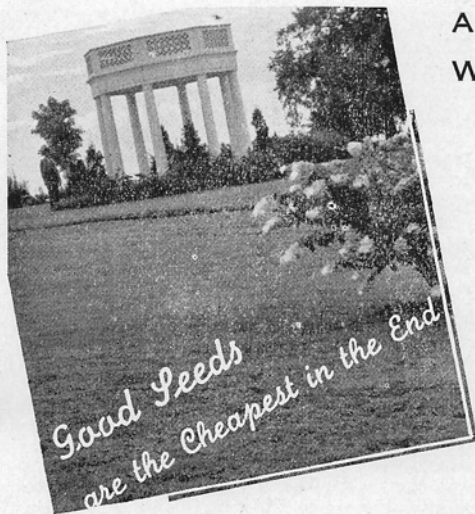
Frank H. Wilson.

SENATE BILL NO. 38

An act authorizing certain expenditures at the Waltham Field Station of the Massachusetts State College.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

For the purpose of constructing and originally equipping adequate laboratories at the Waltham field station of the Massachusetts state college, and to provide the personal service necessary to promote research relative to the culture of fine turf and lawn grasses, and to



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—Say you saw it in the NEWSLETTER—

conduct studies as to the maintenance of such turf and grasses, there be expended under the direction of the trustees of the Massachusetts State College such sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars, as may hereafter be appropriated.

To establish and maintain suitable turf for specific purposes requires a knowledge of technique much beyond the realization of the average laymen. The basis of this knowledge is scientific research, much of which needs yet to be done.

In the last few years garden clubs have sprung up everywhere, not for the sole purpose of growing flowers, but for the improvement of the home grounds. The state has spent an immense amount of money on roadside beautification. Cemetery superintendents associations are seeking knowledge in order to improve cemetery grounds. Park superintendents' work has widened in scope to playgrounds, baseball and football fields, golf courses and grass areas for general recreation.

In all these projects the growing of grass satisfactorily spells success or failure. What species of grasses should be grown on filled land; a strip of grass along a highway where mowing is practised and with no water other than that provided by nature; for a home lawn where trees compete; on banks; what to do for insects and disease, weeds, when should lime be used? Are fertilizers suitable for growing flowers, the right ones to apply to turf?

The greenkeeper can answer some of these questions, most home owners very few. The park and cemetery men admit they need help.

Grass growing for special purposes has reached its highest degree of perfection on our golf courses. Yet not a growing season goes by without a multitude of problems with which the greenkeeper would like help.

It is difficult to estimate the areas of grass on public school grounds, athletic fields, in parks, cemeteries, home lawns, and along highways. But it is certain that the pathetic attempts to perpetuate good turf in these locations too frequently result in disappointment through lack of knowledge as to proper practices.

In Massachusetts there are 230 golf courses, 160 of which are in the location of Worcester and east of Worcester, which leaves 70 courses west of

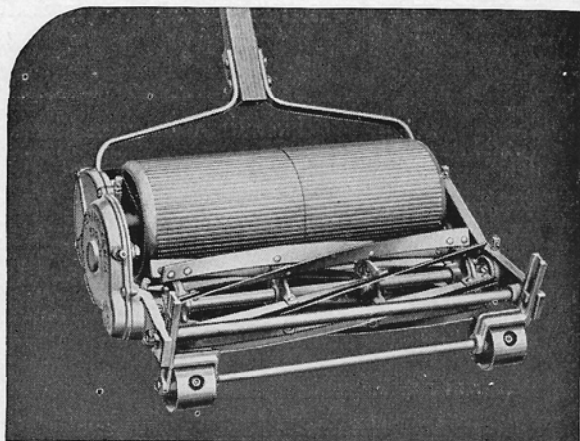
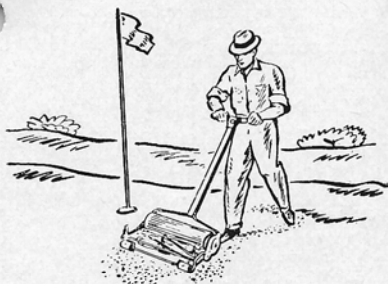
Worcester. These 160 courses occupy over 23,000 acres of land. Their assessed valuation is approximately \$25,000,000.00; they pay in taxes about \$600,000.00; wages and salaries paid by these clubs in 1936 was close to \$3,000,000.00; and caddies who worked on these courses carrying bags received in the neighborhood of \$800,000.00. These clubs have invested in golf course equipment about \$900,000.00 and their replacement bill each year is about \$125,000.00. They purchase each year in the neighborhood of \$75,000.00 worth of fertilizer, \$15,000.00 in seed, and \$15,000.00 in sundry supplies. Compare these figures with those of other agricultural industries that have obtained funds for research work. Add to this, money spent and taxes paid on homes. From the Home Owner's Magazine we obtain figures that show that 600,000 people own their own homes or are in the process of paying for them. This year new homes which will be built or old ones improved will be 6500. The New England Council informs us that \$172,000,000.00 was spent in this state in a single year on recreation.

Last year the Waltham Field Station made 5,064 soil determinations for highway beautification, Metropolitan district commission, home owners, cemeteries, and greenkeepers. The money at the Field Station is definitely allocated for special work for market gardeners, florists and nurserymen. The increasing demand of the home owner, park, cemetery, highway, Metropolitan district commission, and greenkeeper make it imperative that funds be provided for their use.

The Massachusetts General Court meets once in two years. If our bill fails this year, we must wait for another two years. Your Senator and Representatives must be seen at once. Ask members and officers of your club to help. The bill has been passed on favorably by the Committee on Agriculture. Do not fail to attend the hearing before the Ways and Means Committee. But most of all **work** and **work** at once. Ways and Means must be convinced, ask your Senator and Representatives to speak to them. Don't forget that you spent \$300.00 out of your own pocket to start some research work at Waltham, and if the bill fails we lose our investment.

FRANK H. WILSON,
Chairman Research Committee.

TO MAKE "MAGIC CARPETS"
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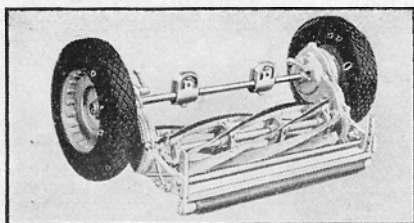
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Every one of your greens is a custom built job; therefore, nothing takes the place of hand work in keeping them in "tournament condition." Quality hand mowers are used on all the finer courses, for, they never tear the sod on the turns. They are free from vibrations which pound and pack the delicate turf. They are clean—free from grease or oil drippings. AND—equally important—they have been proved *faster* under actual test. For greens that bring members back to the clubhouse smiling and happy, use a quality hand mower.

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ANNUAL RECREATION CONFERENCE PROGRAM

(from Prof. L. S. Dickinson)

GOLF SECTION

Thirteenth Annual Golf Course Maintenance Conference

We are pleased to note that the following Golf Course Maintenance Organizations are taking an active part in this Thirteenth Conference:

The Greenkeeping Superintendents Association.
 The Greenkeepers Club of New England.
 The New Jersey Association of Golf Course Superintendents.
 The Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.
 The Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association.
 The Northeastern New York Greenkeepers Association.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Second Floor — Memorial Hall

Morning Session—10:30 A. M.

Graduation Exercises, 1939 Winter School for Greenkeepers

Introduction

Two Short Papers: Prepared and presented by member of the 1939 class.

Address to Graduates: Fred J. Sievers, Director of the Massachusetts
 Agricultural Experiment Station.

Presentation of Certificates: Roland H. Verbeck, Director of Short Courses,
 Massachusetts State College.

Afternoon Session—1:30 P. M.

“Fertilizers, Particularly the Newer Ingredients”

Myron W. Hazen, Manager, Service Division,
 American Agricultural Chemical Company.

“The Greenkeeper and his Club”

Joseph Ryan, President Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association.

Address by Representative of the Northeastern New York Greenkeepers Association

“What You Are Going To Do To Golfing Turf in 1939?”

Lawrence S. Dickinson, Massachusetts State College.

Evening Session—7:30 P. M.

“Factors Affecting Root Development of Grasses”—Illustrated

Dr. O. J. Noer, Agronomist, Milwaukee Sewage Commission.

“The Role of Potash in Golf Grass Fertilization”

L. D. Gray, Manager, American Potash Institute.

Address by Representative of Connecticut Association of
 Golf Course Superintendents

Showing of Golf Course Maintenance Pictures taken during the past summer,
 movies and colored slides.

Lawrence S. Dickinson, Massachusetts State College.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Second Floor — Memorial Hall

Morning Session—10:00 A. M.

“Observations on the Influence of Soils and Climatic Conditions upon the Suitability of Grasses for Golfing Areas”

Dr. James Tyson, Agronomy Department, Michigan State College.

“Cheering Prospects”

Dr. Hugh P. Baker, President, Massachusetts State College.

Address by Representative of the New Jersey Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Afternoon Session—2.00 P. M.

Program arranged by the Greenkeepers Club of New England

John Counsell, President.

Address by Representative of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers Association

Evening Session—6.30 P. M.

Pacific Hall, Amherst

Fourth Annual Old-Fashioned New England Banquet

followed by an enjoyable evening of fun and entertainment.

Program too varied to print and too interesting to preview.

Come and see for yourself.

Tickets may be purchased at the Registration Booth in the Cage. Price—\$1.25.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Stockbridge Hall — Room 114

9:00 A. M. Annual Meeting of M. S. C. G. A. Alumni of the Winter School for Greenkeepers.

Stockbridge Hall, Room 20 (Basement)

10:00 A. M. Annual “Experts on Trial”

Chief “Justice” Tyson and “eight” old men.

This is when your particular golf course problem will receive special consideration.

PARK SECTION

Sponsored by The New England Park Association

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Stockbridge Hall — Room 114

2:00 P. M.

“Various Types of Gardens Suitable for Park Use” (Illustrated)

Dr. F. A. Waugh, Massachusetts State College.

“Human Uses of Park Areas”

F. S. Mathewson, Superintendent of Recreation, Union County Park Commission, New Jersey.

Annual Meeting of New England Park Association

Mr. Arthur E. Gardner, President.

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You can grow NATURE'S OWN INSURANCE into your turf by using FRESH, VIABLE seed which grows in YOUR latitude in YOUR country.

SAVE for your club: Buy your seed direct from the grower.

A. N. PECKHAM

KINGSTON RHODE ISLAND

President Counsell has appointed the following committees:

Welfare: Edwin Hansen, chairman, Edward Phinney, N. J Sperandio.

Employment: Arthur Anderson, chairman, Guilford Johnson, John Latvis.

Mass. Educational and Inter-relation: Homer Darling, chairman, Charles W. Parker, T. W. Swanson.

R. I. Educational and Inter-relation: Guy C. West, chairman, R. W. Peckham, Martin Greene.

Also a Publicity Committee of Lloyd Stott, chairman, George Rommell, Samuel Mitchell.

We have been criticized in some quarters and praised in others for printing in the last issue the quoted opinions of various greenkeepers at a New Jersey meeting. Although it was clearly stated in this write-up that the contents of the article were opinions of individuals as expressed by them, some readers have taken the stand that the Editor of the NEWSLETTER and the Greenkeepers Club of New England believe in all the opinions as expressed. We had hoped that our readers would appreciate that these opinions were given as of interest to our readers, as they expressed certain opinions, false or true, about matters which are rather vital to our profession. Any reader who does not believe in any expression of opinion in this write-up should write us his opinion, and out of the pros and cons of the subject we might get some valuable information.

President Ed. B. Cale has written us and asked that we again inform our readers that the opinions as expressed in this article were not official with the N. J. Association of Golf Course Superintendents, in other words, this article was not officially sanctioned by the N. J. organization. We are pleased to so state this request for Pres. Cale.

An Indication of Rank

Sir, I have neither pencil nor paper with me."

"Well! What would you think of a soldier who went into battle without rifle or ammunition?"

"I should think he was an officer, sir."

—Ex.

Teacher: "Now we find that X is equal to zero."

Student: "Gosh! All that work done for nothing!"

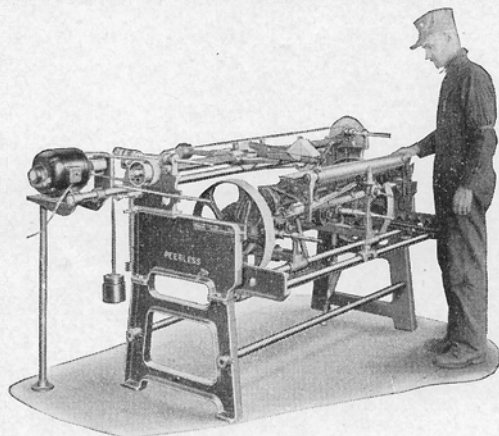
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NEWSLETTER officers, see page two.

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Clean-cut fairways, velvety greens and smooth, well-kept lawns require sharp mowers and cutting units. Mowing with dull, hard-running mowers tears the grass—often pulling it out by the roots—or leaving unsightly patches. Most of the trouble lies in the sharpening process.

The Peerless Mower Sharpener not only **saves money** by sharpening all makes of Power and Hand Mowers and Cutting Units in one-half the time, but it produces a razor-like edge with just the right clearance or bevel. Mowers run easily—they **CLIP** off the grass like a pair of shears—no more tearing or pulling of turf. Result—a smooth, velvety turf.

New Features on the 1939 Model Peerless Sharpener—

A permanent guide bar above the grinding wheel, with a New Departure Ball Bearing which rides on the accurate guide bar.

This new design counterbalances the sliding arm, removing practically all dead weight of the sliding arm on the main shaft, thus greatly increasing the life of the bearings, which are renewable.

New mower supporting members now have a horizontal screw adjustment and increased vertical adjustment, together with heavier supporting tubes.

The grinding wheel has been increased from 5" to 6" for heavy grinding at less wheel cost.

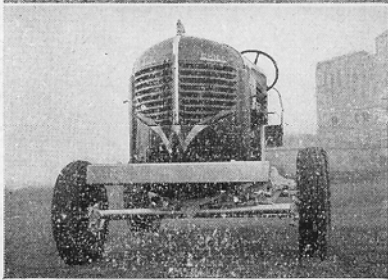
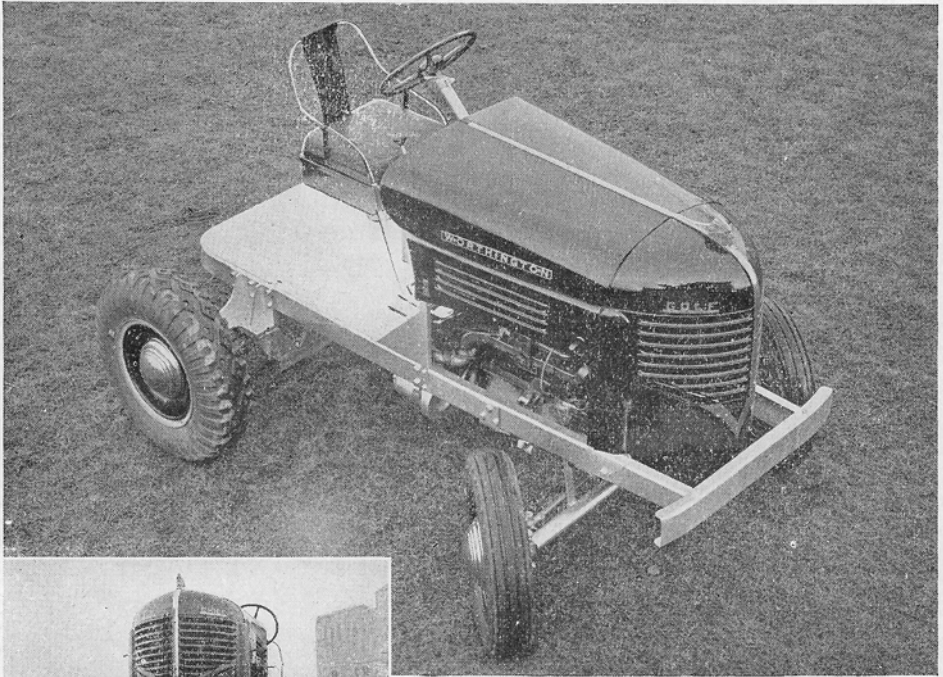
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Ground clearance of 10½ inches—a more than ample safety factor for rough work.
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Streamlined for utility and appearance.

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