



NEWS LETTER

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"MANY WORRY ABOUT ZERO WEATHER
WHO NEVER FRET
ABOUT ZERO ACCOMPLISHMENT."

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JANUARY
1940

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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January, 1940 Vol. 12, No. 1

Contributing Editors

Homer Darling R. A. Mitchell
Howard Farrant Charles Parker
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.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU. . . . How's the Winter work coming? . . . There's plenty to do if the budget will allow it. . . . Get your equipment in shape now before the season starts. . . . Now is the time for the Short Courses. . . . The Twelfth Annual One-Week Course in Turf Management will be held at Rutgers on Feb. 19 - 23. . . . These Short Courses do not make greenkeepers, but they do make good greenkeepers much better, how much better will depend on the individual. . . . Congratulations to Pres. Jack Counsell on his re-election. . . . Headquarters of the newly organized Connecticut Toro Company, with Philip Kylanter as manager, are 77 Wellington St., Hartford, Conn. . . . It was too bad if you missed the fellowship and fine entertainment, not to mention the reports of officers and committees at the annual meeting. . . . Bouquets to Sam Mitchell and his hard working Entertainment Committee. . . . Are you going to the New York Convention and Conference next month? The dates are Feb. 6, 7, 8 and 9, and it is to be held at the Hotel New Yorker. . . . Congratulations indeed to Mr. Harold Pierce of The Country Club, recently elected President of the United States Golf Association. Mr. Pierce is well known to most of us as not only a vice president and treasurer of the U. S. G. A. the past

few years, but also as green committee chairman at the Country Club for the past several years, and a frequent visitor and speaker at our meetings. . . . Winter sports are now in full swing at most of the country clubs of this area. . . . We are hoping for big things for the NEWSLETTER in 1940. Are you planning to do your part?

We have been greatly inconvenienced in editing this issue by the fact that copy for one advertisement and two main articles were lost in the mail enroute to the printer. We hope to secure copies of the articles for the next issue. So, please blame Uncle Sam for the few days delay!

ANNUAL MEETING

The regular annual meeting was held at the Hotel Bradford, Boston, on January 8th. Dinner was followed by the regular business meeting, at which officers and committees reported on their activities for the year. Officers elected for 1940 are:

President:

John L. Counsell

1st Vice President:

Homer C. Darling

2nd Vice President:

Arthur Anderson

3rd Vice President:

Samuel S. Mitchell

Secretary:

Philip I. Cassidy

Treasurer:

Frank H. Wilson

Trustee 3 years:

Howard D. Farrant

Trustee 2 years:

Lloyd G. Stott

Entertainment Committee Chairman:

N. J. Sperandio

Golf Committee Chairman:

Paul F. Hayden

Auditing Committee:

Joseph Oldfield

Edward Hanson

Following the business meeting, a fine entertainment was presented under the direction of Cleon B. White, formerly of Keith Circuit.

 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

January 8, 1940.

To the Members of the Greenkeepers' Club of New England:

It is customary at this time for your President to review the events and activities of our Club during the past year.

A year ago most of us were busy cleaning up the damage caused by the hurricane and there are still a large number of golf courses where this work is not completed.

On February 25th the 15th Anniversary of the Greenkeepers' Club of New England was celebrated with a Ladies' Night Program at the Ashmont Country Club. The Past Presidents of the Club were presented with suitably engraved gavels in appreciation of their services while in office.

At the Annual Recreational Conference held at Amherst last March the Club was represented by three of our members taking part in the speaking program.

During the latter part of March our Club with the cooperation of the Waltham Field Station presented a series of evening classes in greenkeeping that was a decided success.

Our Constitution and By-Laws were discussed quite thoroughly at several of our meetings and a number of amendments were voted.

The annual dinner meeting of the Service Section of the Massachusetts Golf Association and the Greenkeepers' Club of New England was held at the Brae Burn Country Club in April.

At our outdoor meetings we had the privilege of playing some very fine golf courses and we appreciate the courtesies extended to us by the officials of those clubs.

I would like to see our organization receive more of the right kind of publicity in the future. We should make an earnest and sincere effort to sell ourselves and our club so that the golfing public will become conscious of the fact that we are organized to educate the greenkeeper, advance greenkeeping and provide improved playing conditions on the golf course. Let us be cooperative and progressive and discharge our duties to the best of our ability. We should equip ourselves from every angle to deal with our employer's requirements—golf

clubs are interested in a greenkeeper only in proportion to what he can produce or contribute to their work.

I would like to see more of our members take an active interest in the affairs of our club. Let us cooperate with the Editor of the Newsletter and provide him with some interesting articles.

We suffered a great loss this past year in the death of Dennis Crowley. Mr. Crowley, one of our old members, was known and respected as a capable greenkeeper and a gentleman.

In conclusion I wish to thank the directors, all committees and fellow members for their cooperation and support during the past year.

Please accept my thanks for the honor and the privilege of serving as your president.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN L. COUNSELL,
President.

We appreciate greatly having the following statement from President Harold W. Pierce of the United States Golf Association. Believing as we do that all golf clubs in the United States should belong to the U. S. G. A., we are glad to be of what service we can in passing the good word along, in any endeavor to boost the U. S. G. A. membership.

"There are approximately 2400 regularly organized golf clubs in this country, of which only 822 belong to our Association which at the rate of \$30 per year returns us \$24,660. We are this year allotting our Green Section work \$27,300, from which figure you can see if it were not for the income from our tournaments we would not be able to do it, especially as it costs us about \$18,000 to run our New York Office.

"I do not know how many regularly organized clubs there are in New England, but in these states we have the following membership:

Maine	5
New Hampshire	7
Vermont	2
Massachusetts	73
Rhode Island	9
Connecticut	22
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"Last year thirteen Massachusetts clubs resigned from our Association due to the fact that the Massachusetts Golf Association removed the requirement that a club to be a member of their Association must also be a member of the U. S. G. A.

"If on the basis of 100 members per club the cost per member would be only 30 cents or the price of two packages of cigarettes or one cocktail. I think the reason that most clubs do not belong to our Association is because they do not realize the tremendous amount of work we do for them; that our entire Executive Committee is unpaid and that it costs each individual a great deal of money each year to serve. Furthermore, if there was not a governing body what would happen in the Tri-State matches between Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island if the balls, clubs and the rules were not regulated. Of course it would be a chaotic condition.

"Now, I think what your organization can do is to take this data and the data in the memorandum which I am having sent to you from New York and get it across to each one of your members and try to get him to get more member clubs for our Association. In other words, if we can not get more member clubs, and if our income from tournaments should fall off materially, the Green Section appropriation certainly will have to be cut down.

"I feel strongly that the U. S. G. A. alone can not sell itself to non-member clubs and to the public without the help of everybody which includes organizations similar to yours and the Press."

THE UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION

In 1894 there were two so-called "Amateur Golf Championships of the United States," one conducted by the Newport Golf Club of Newport, R. I., at stroke play, the other by the St. Andrew's Golf Club of Yonkers, N. Y., at match play. Different winners emerged.

To avoid similar confusion in future, and to make the game of golf uniform and regulate it in all aspects so as to promote better the spirit it represents, five clubs with mutual interests united in December of 1894 to form a national association.

Although more than forty-five years have wrought growth and amazing outward change in the game, the impulses felt in 1894 have remained constant. The reason for the existence of the United States Golf Association still is the need for a national governing body. The purpose of the Association still is to promote the fair play and sportsmanship which golf calls forth in those who play the game.

The Association, as trustee for the member clubs which compose it and for golf generally, endeavors to fulfill its purpose, first, by forming and administering uniform and equitable rules for playing the game, for amateur and professional status, for determining par, for implements and the ball, and for every other factor in which uniformity is desirable. The Association interprets those rules and gives information and advice on many other subjects to those who inquire. It collaborates with governing bodies of other nations so as to keep the game the same the world over.

Secondly, the Association conducts four Championships annually, Open, Amateur, Women's Amateur and Amateur Public Links; assists in conducting the National Collegiate Championship, and sponsors two international team competitions biennially, the Walker Cup Match (in cooperation with The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland) and the Curtis Cup Match (in cooperation with the Ladies' Golf Union, a British organization). Qualified members of clubs belonging to the Association are eligible for the Cup teams and for the Amateur and the Women's Amateur Championships. The four Championships draw players from all sections of the country into fellowship and understanding. The international competitions likewise strengthen ties, confirming the friendship of nations. All these events are natural and wholesome outlets for man's competitive urge. They provide splendid sport, leaders to look up to, incentives to strive for goals. They develop in the contestants self-reliance, self-control and consideration for others--qualities of sportsmanship which make good citizens. Those qualities are as evident in the little-skilled player as in the champion, and so are constantly at work in the world.

Thirdly, the Association serves golf through its Green Section, which for many years has engaged in scientific work in turf maintenance. Its discov-

eries have been of value to all golf courses and are in every-day use. In the thirteen fiscal years from 1927 to 1939, inclusive, the Association's net dis-

bursements for Green Section activity represented 91.22 per cent. of total revenue from membership dues, as the following statement shows:

Fiscal Year	U.S.G.A. Dues	Green Section Receipts	Green Section	Green Section	Percentage Net Disbursement to Dues
			Disbursements Gross	Disbursements Net	
1927	\$ 29,450.00	\$ 3,627.53	\$ 24,301.14	\$ 20,673.61	70.2
1928	31,350.00	3,565.19	27,099.41	23,534.22	75.1
1929	32,130.00	3,885.79	36,879.26	32,993.47	102.7
1930	32,520.00	3,265.44	41,918.58	38,653.14	118.8
1931	31,770.00	1,802.68	47,032.82	45,230.14	142.3
1932	26,685.00	2,695.63	37,449.36	34,753.73	130.2
1933	23,085.00	3,098.32	29,354.13	26,255.81	113.7
1934	21,760.00	2,410.83	14,396.45	11,985.62	55.1
1935	21,455.00	1,775.04	12,864.41	11,089.37	51.7
1936	23,295.00	1,516.99	14,935.19	13,418.20	57.6
1937	23,175.00	1,182.77	15,977.04	14,794.27	63.8
1938	22,740.00	1,215.12	17,693.00	16,477.88	72.4
1939	24,030.00	1,854.81	25,307.66	23,452.85	97.6
Totals	\$343,445.00	\$31,896.14	\$345,208.45	\$313,312.31	91.22

Results of most of the Green Section's experiments to the end of 1933 were published in "The Bulletin", whose thirteen volumes constitute a valuable reference work on turf culture and copies of which still are available.

Now the Green Section issues a serial publication entitled "Turf Culture", through which information derived from current research is circulated among the membership of the Association. In addition, the Green Section gives advisory service on any particular matter to any member club that inquires, as, for example, regarding seed, fertilizer, or specific turf disease. The Green Section has available a large fund of information which it distributes impartially. It is free from commercial connection and its opinions are unbiased. The Green Section's educational work has raised the standards of greenkeeping throughout the country and has helped clubs to increase the efficiency of expenditures. This has had a fortunate effect on the quality of golf courses and on individual dues and playing charges, which now are more nearly in accord than formerly with the spirit which fathered golf in its Scottish cradles.

There are several points of similarity between the United States Golf Association and an individual club. The Association's officers and Executive Committee serve voluntarily, for love of the game, and defray their own expenses to

Championships and Committee meetings. The aim of the Association, like that of clubs, is service, not profit-making. The interests of clubs and the Association dovetail, as is natural since the member clubs are the Association.

Every regularly organized club is eligible for membership.

Every club has benefited from the Association's services, whether consciously or not, from the administration of rules by which the game is played on through to the Green Section's counsel. It is hoped that every club will claim its place in golf's national government and actively cooperate with the Association.

From the fact and the character of its own organization, every club recognizes the need for a national organization to govern golf, and to promote and conserve the game's best interests and the true spirit of fair play.

Mother—"Which of the naughty boys hit you?"

Sonny—"The one with the cut lip and black eye."
—*Ex.*"

Student—"What's the idea of wearing my raincoat?"

Roommate—"You wouldn't want your new spring suit to get soaking wet, would you?"

Did you know that the Greenkeeping Superintendents Society had recently run a Qualifications Contest, in which members were asked to submit a set of questions which would serve as an examination in greenkeeping, as a test of fitness for membership? The winner is Robert L. Mitchell of the Edison Club, Rexford, N. Y. and well known to our members as the son of Robert A., and brother of Sam, Bill, and Henry.

We are pleased to reprint the Winning Questionnaire from the November issue of the GREENKEEPERS' REPORTER.

THE WINNING QUESTIONNAIRE

by Robert L. Mitchell — Edison Club, Rexford, N. Y.

QUESTION 1.

- a—List six of the chemical elements necessary for plant growth.
- b—What are the three elements that most soils are deficient in?
- c—Tell briefly how a plant gets its food from the soil.
- d—What things or conditions besides chemicals are necessary for plant growth?

QUESTION 2.

- a—Describe the ideal soil for putting greens.
- b—What effect would the addition of each of the following have to a soil: clay, sand, organic matter?
- c—Explain the meaning of pH when used in reference to a soil.
- d—Of what value are rapid method soil tests to a greenkeeper?

QUESTION 3.

- a—What does the term "a complete fertilizer" mean?
- b—What is the difference between organic and inorganic fertilizers?
- c—Name six common materials used as fertilizer—tell whether each is organic or inorganic, what plant food each contains and the approximate percentage of each plant food.

QUESTION 4.

- a—What effect on turf would a poorly drained soil have?
- b—What advantage does the use of tile for drainage have over the use of open ditches?
- c—Give the approximate depth, spacing, grade and size of tile to use in drainage work.
- d—Describe three conditions that call for tile drains.

QUESTION 5.

List six varieties of grass commonly used on golf courses. Tell what section of the course they are suited to, what kind of soil they prefer, and as light, medium or heavy their fertilizer and their water requirements.

QUESTION 6.

- a—Name three common diseases of turf and briefly describe their appearance, tell what causes them, and give the methods of controlling them.
- b—Name three insects or animals that injure turf—describe the injury and give the methods of controlling them.
- c—Name four weeds that are troublesome in turf—tell in what part of the course they are most troublesome, and give the methods of controlling them.

QUESTION 7.

- a—What are the reasons that you topdress greens?
- b—What methods and materials do you use in preparing compost for top-dressing?
- c—What are the advantages and the disadvantages of sterilizing compost?

QUESTION 8.

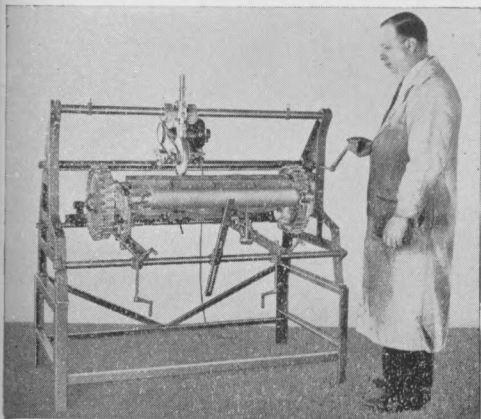
- a—Approximately how often and at what rates should fairways be fertilized?
- b—What are the advantages and the disadvantages of a fairway watering system?

QUESTION 9.

Write, briefly as possible, an outline of greens maintenance for an entire year.

QUESTION 10.

List the major equipment needed for an 18-hole golf course.



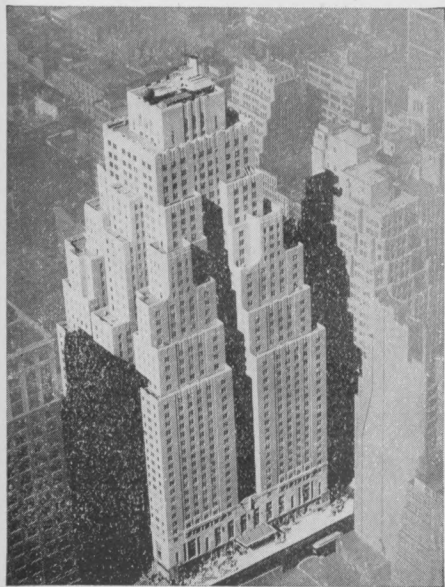
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QUESTION 11.

- a—How many men are needed (approximately) for an 18-hole golf course?
 b—Show approximately how the jobs on the course would be divided among these men.

QUESTION 12.

If called to a strange course to diagnose trouble they were having with their turf, tell how you would determine what the trouble might be.

QUESTION 13.

- a—List six trees suitable for planting on a golf course and tell the kind of soil they prefer.
 b—List six flowers suitable for cut flowers and tell the kind of soil they prefer.

QUESTION 14.

- a—Should a greenkeeper keep cost accounts? Why?
 b—Should a greenkeeper make written reports to his chairman? Why?

QUESTION 15.

- a—What are the duties of a greenkeeper?
 b—What are the duties of a greens committee chairman?

LANDSCAPE WORK ON A GOLF COURSE

(A Winter School for Greenkeepers Paper)

The main attraction of a golf course is its appearance. When a person gets through work, he likes to leave his office and go out to see nature's work. The landscape work on a golf course consists mainly of trees and shrubbery. In order to plant trees and shrubbery, there are a few rules one must go by in order to arrange them as nature does. First, the trees must grow together naturally; that is, require the same soil condition and be adapted to local conditions. You should attend more to groups than to individuals. The majority must harmonize, especially in groups as to color, form, texture, and habit of growth. In small groups the center should be the highest. In a group of three trees two of them should be the same and planted close together. You should not arrange three trees of different heights so that their tops form in ascending line, and be sure to always put your striking trees in the center of your group. You should consider the whole as a plantation, not as a collection of plants.

There are many different kinds of trees you can plant on your golf course. The following are a list of trees that can be used. First, the maple trees. The reason I named maple trees is because of their beautiful color in the fall. There are seventy species in North America which range from small shrubs to a tree one hundred and twenty feet high. The most common ones are:—silver maple, red maple, Norway maple, and sugar maple. These trees prefer a

moist rich soil. The birch trees are very attractive to have on a golf course. There are four different kinds of birches. Another attractive tree is the flowering dogwood. There are two types—the white dogwood and the red dogwood.

One of the most prominent trees on a golf course today is the evergreen. Some of the most common evergreens are—the white fir, Nikko fir, red fir, white spruce, Norway spruce, and pines. These trees will grow in almost any soil but prefer rich, moist soil.

Top Grafting of Trees on Golf Courses

When may top grafting be done?

Top grafting should be done about the time growth starts in the spring. There is a period of perhaps a month when it may be done with good chances of success, although the scions will be in best condition and will suffer less from drying if the operation is completed just about the time the buds are beginning to open.

Planning the new top:

When doing a job of top grafting, a person should try to visualize the tree as it will appear when the new top is complete. Often it is possible to develop a tree of better framework than the original by eliminating a few unnecessary branches. In case the tree is under five years of age the problem is simple, for then it is often advisable to graft in the trunk. In an older tree there are likely to be too many main branches.

If so, graft only part of them. Select dominant branches, not secondary branches. The tree may have a weak crotch formation. That should be corrected by eliminating part of the crotch entirely. It is never advisable to graft two limbs which are close together and

growing in the same direction. Also it is desirable that the leader be grafted at a somewhat higher level, instead of grafting all branches at the same level.

Grafting equipment:

Successful top grafting presupposes good equipment. First of all good wax must be used. Two kinds are described below. Necessary tools include a sharp knife, hand saw, pruning shears, grafting chisel, mallet, small hammer, and No. 20 gauge nails. For liquid wax, a grafting pot and brush should be provided.

Soft Wax:

An excellent grade of wax for top grafting may be made by heating together four pounds of rosin, two pounds bees-wax, and one pint linseed oil. When thoroughly dissolved, pour carefully into a pail of water and when cool enough, pull like taffy. Store in oiled paper in a cool place. This wax has the advantage of being easy to apply and, if a few drops of linseed oil are used to grease the hands, will not stick to the fingers. On cold days the wax may be kept soft by placing in a pail of warm water. It has some tendency to run when the weather becomes warm, which necessitates looking over the graft once or twice during the summer and re-waxing if necessary or covering with cloth or paper.

Liquid or Brush Wax:

Wax for use with a brush may be made as follows: Melt together six pounds rosin, one pound bees-wax, and one pint linseed oil. A grafting pot is required to keep this wax in liquid form. Care must be taken to avoid applying when too hot. If the temperature is much above the melting point, the cambium layer will be injured.

How To Prune

One general rule may be offered, observation of which would go toward making a revolutionary improvement in the pruning of shrubbery. This is to prune at the bottom, not at the top.

Any young vigorous healthy shrub keeps throwing up new shoots from the base. But if each stool is left alone year after year without thinning, the time soon comes when there is no more room for young sprouts; and since the entire stool is shaded and choked by the old stems, young growth ceases. If, on the other hand, the oldest stems are cut out bodily from time to time, their places will be quickly filled by young fresh shoots. In this way the entire plant can be constantly renewed. The whole

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shrub thus remains indefinitely young, clean, and thrifty, whereas by common method of pruning at the top the shrub soon becomes old, decrepit, leggy and unattractive, with a maximum of old gnarled wood bearing a minimum of flowers and foliage.

At each annual pruning, therefore, one should remove the oldest stems, and these should be cut out clean down to the level of the ground, or as nearly to that point as possible. From one-fifth to one-third of the entire shrub should usually be taken out each year.

The customary style of pruning, consisting of snipping off the tips of all branches and making each shrub look like a boy's hair cut pompadour, is bad horticulture and bad landscape gardening. It should be practiced only on hedges or on formal shrubs like the evergreen boxes.

Pruning Time and Tools

Shrubs of most species may be pruned with excellent results either in midsummer or early spring. If the summer is to be chosen, the work should be done soon after the year's growth is completed, and this point is reached earlier than most persons think. Usually, June 15 or July 15 may be taken as the most favorable time for summer pruning.

Most persons, however, and especially those who are not expert horticulturists, will find winter pruning safer. Moreover, it is a commoner practice.

A popular mistake consists of delaying this pruning until too late in the season. It is looked upon as a spring operation, when instead it should be assigned to the winter. Pruning may be safely done at any time during an open winter, but usually February is the best month. Should the weather be severe during February, the work may be carried over into March. As soon as the snow begins to disappear, and preferably before it is all gone, during the very first warm and sunny days, the annual pruning should be given. Putting this work off until the buds are bursting, the birds singing, and spring activities are everywhere in full blast is dangerous to every shrub, and may even be fatal.

A pair of ordinary hand pruning shears is very useful in taking care of shrubs and may possibly answer every need. In a majority of cases, however, a larger and much stronger tool will prove more effective as well as easier to operate. The best implement of this kind is a large pair of two-hand shears

with short curved blades and with handles about 2½ feet long. These are much more powerful than the common hand pruning shears and are capable of cutting out the large old stems as recommended below.

Kinds of Plants for Planting

The kinds of plants to use in any planting are determined by the soil, exposure, elevation, and climate of the region.

Woody plants may be divided into two main groups—deciduous and evergreen. Deciduous plants are those whose leaves die on the approach of cold weather; they grow practically everywhere and constitute the principal plant growth in most parts of the country. Evergreens are those holding their leaves during the winter or until after one or two new crops of leaves have grown, thus affording an abundance of green foliage throughout the year. Often these leaves take the form of slender needles of close scales, as, for example in the cone-bearing trees that we call coniferous evergreen, such as pines, firs, and cedars. In contrast there are those that have leaves with a broad blade, spoken of as broadleaf evergreens, such as American holly, southern magnolia, mountain laurel, rhododendrons, and gums or eucalypts. Comparatively few evergreens can be successfully grown in the dry parts of the central and western United States especially where unprotected by buildings or other trees, owing to the excessive evaporation caused by dry winds. There are some kinds, however, that may be grown even under these severe conditions. Primarily, evergreens are plants of moist climates, the cone-bearing trees being best adapted to the north and the broadleaf palms thriving in dry, hot regions.

Because of the demand of the foliage for a continuous and abundant supply of moisture on the part of the evergreens, both broad-leaf and coniferous, the care required in moving them is greater than in moving deciduous plants.

Taking care of turf is not the only thing a greenkeeper should do. There are many people who come out and play on a golf course just to be out-of-doors. With the help of landscaping, a greenkeeper can make the trees and grass on his course look beautiful, thus pleasing everybody.

Lloyd Russell,
Woodbridge Hills Country Club,
Woodbridge, Connecticut.

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Give your members those luxuriant, green, and thickly-matted fairways, greens, and tees they love to see and play on. MILORGANITE will help you arrive at this desirable combination.

Easy to apply, safe to use, MILORGANITE, the all-organic nitrogen fertilizer, is the leader when it comes to use by golf courses. You know the excellent results from past performance.

300 tons more MILORGANITE were used in New England during 1939 than ever before.



PROTECTION

We are not attempting to rush or scare anyone into placing orders now. However, we might say orders are being accepted by us at present low prices. This will insure you against any possible price increase as none of us knows what might happen between now and spring.

Inquire for details on carload shipments.

New England Toro Co.

DISTRIBUTORS FOR NEW ENGLAND

1121 Washington St., West Newton

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