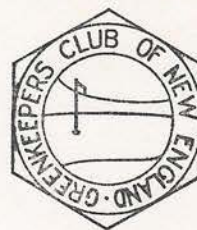


NEWSLETTER

APRIL
~~MARCH~~, 1953



Who forgot to shut off the sprinklers? The watering demonstration has gone on long enough. Let there be sunshine. Little did ye editor anticipate when writing the last Newsletter on a bright, warm March day that the April troubles would be wet ones. And we had an expert come all the way from Texas to tell us about moisture.

Seriously, it was a pleasure to welcome and to hear a newcomer in this neck of the woods, on turf problems. Every scientifically trained turf specialist becoming more closely associated with our greenkeeping questions is another crutch of aid in our profession. Congratulations to the Toro Company for their far sightedness in obtaining the services of Dr. James Watson. He is a graduate of Texas A. & M. and obtained his Doctors degree at Penn. State working with H. B. Musser. He is a most genial, sincere young man who we hope to see more often.

Dr. Watson gave an excellent talk on Turf Moisture at our April 6 meeting at the Waltham Field Station. Here are a few brief notes. Plants contain 69% water. Great amounts of water are lost through the pores of the plant, called transpiration. The higher the temperature and wind the greater the loss in water. Often times there is plenty of moisture in the soil but transpiration at the surface is so great syringing is necessary to save the grass. When foot prints are showing or a blue tinge appears you better syringe in a hurry to prevent loss. There is less transpiration in a fertile soil. Physical condition of soil is a major factor in water use. Increased amounts of water will often increase bent and drive out other grasses such as fescue and blue grass. Water and nutrients are taken in to the plant on the outer edge of roots through the root hairs. Compaction of the soil occurs in the top one-quarter or half inch. When 1.4 inches of water per hour was applied to a compact soil the plant intake per hour was .67 inches. When double this amount was applied or 2.4 inches per hour the intake dropped to .60 inches per hour. One inch of water applied per hour is nearer the ideal.

A valuable question and answer period followed this talk. Some members thought we all lost something in not prolonging the question period. It does not pay to be bashful in asking questions when an expert is present. The subject of soil moisture and watering, needs more exploration. There are so many related factors, direct and indirect, even the old time greenkeeper experienced in watering has much to learn. How about getting all the sprinkler manu-

facturers' experts together at one meeting to thrash out defects, requirements, etc. Not just a demonstration of what the sprinklers are supposed to do but a frank exchange of ideas on requirements of application. This could be a summer meeting when the water systems are in operation.

NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST. The door prize winners at Waltham April 6 were: Chet Irwin, John Latvis, and Mort Fisher. (Ross Bros.) Ralph Roberts of Scituate was married Easter Sunday. May your marriage Ralph, be as happy as this eventful day represents.

Dr. DeFrance has announced that the 1953 Kingston Field Day has been set for Wednesday and Thursday, August 19 and 20. The dormitory will be available as usual for an overnight stay. The chicken barbecue may be a feature again. However, the results of a vote taken at our meeting indicated that there were nine in favor of a shore dinner and five for a chicken barbecue. Doc, please take note.

The Tournament Committee announces the following tentative meeting places for the summer.

Franklin C. C.	May
Vespers C. C. (Chairman)	June
Mettacommet C. C.	July
Kernwood C. C. (Champ)	August
Framingham C. C.	September
Brae Burn C. C. (Pro-Green)	October
Miami, National Open ...	January

Have you started your Miami savings account? This is your opportunity to see Florida during the National Turf Conference in January. For details about travel, living costs, accommodations, see some of the members who have been to Florida—Herb Johnson, Guy Tedesco, Sim Briao, H. Darling. Make it your vacation.

An application as an associate member has been received from Daniel Silver, Oak Hill C. C. It will be voted on at the coming meeting. May 4 is the date of our next meeting. At 11 A.M. Sawtelle is to demonstrate new Jacobson greens mower, and Clapper is to demonstrate new Acto greens mower. Also Mr. R. N. McClellan will speak on Hyper Humus. THE PLACE—Franklin C. C., Franklin, Mass, on Route 140 South of Franklin. Jovial Bill Ash, the host greenkeeper, will be expecting you. We'll see you there.

H. DARLING, Editor