

## Greenkeeping Notes

**C**LOVERS are undesirable on putting greens, so take care that you do not manure the greens with manure containing phosphates in excess. A green apparently without clovers will often produce a large crop of clovers when manured with manures containing phosphates in excess.

Artificial manures do not act equally upon all soils and usually give better results on heavy soils. In any case, but particularly on light soils, they are not to be relied upon alone. Light soils are usually deficient in Humus and artificial manures add no Humus to the soil. Humus in the soil is a very great necessity for the growth of healthy grass and strong artificial manures are apt to destroy it especially in light soil. Humus should be obtained from farm yard manure, Rex Humus, or from a good compost containing plenty of either of these two sources.

Do not use farm fertilizers for growing grass unless you are sure of what you are doing. While very good for their intended purpose they are apt to be very ill balanced for use on grass. Farm yard manure made in a covered water-tight box or pit is half again as valuable as manure made in the open. If placed in uncovered heaps it loses a large percentage of ammonia by volatilisation. If necessary to keep it in the open it should be covered with two or three inches of soil. The soil will fix and retain the ammonia.

Fall is the best time to use ground limestone.

Very frequently freshly dug land and imported soil will produce a strong crop of weeds, both annual and perennial. How the weed seeds get into the soil, and how long they will retain their germinating power, is a debatable matter into which it is not necessary for us to enter. Darwin tells us that seeds which germinated freely have been found in the little chamber at the end of a worm hole, at a depth of 8 feet. In his opinion these seeds were taken down the holes by the worms, with the

object of lining the little chamber in which they winter in a dormant condition, so as to prevent their skins, through which they breathe, from coming into contact with the cold, damp soil.

There are a multitude of different ways in which weed seeds get into the ground, and the only way of making a good lawn upon foul ground is to allow it to lay fallow, and clean it by frequently disturbing the surface with a hoe for a small plot, and a harrow for a large area.

The work should be done during still, dry, bright weather, either in the fall or in the spring.

To free a lawn from tap-rooted weeds, divide the lawn into strips about 3 feet wide, take a basket to hold the weeds and a border fork with four flat prongs. Now, to remove the weed successfully, it is necessary to guess the depth of the root. Well-grown dandelions and docks will go down over a foot, the smaller ones and the rib grass about 6 inches. In the first case, force the fork into the turf as deep as it will go, and as far from the weed as the length of the prongs. By depressing the handle of the fork the turf will be forced up like a mole hill. If the distance has been guessed correctly it will crack on either side of the weed, which can then be removed easily. In the case of the smaller weeds, force the fork into the soil about 6 inches from the weed and about 6 inches deep, and go on as before. After a little practice it is possible to take out weed after weed without breaking or leaving behind any of the root, which if left might grow again. It is best to weed in this fashion when the soil is damp. Before rolling down the "mole hills" drop a pinch of seed into the hole left by the weed. Forking up the turf in this way tends to improve it. Removing the crown of a tap-rooted weed with a knife does more harm than good, as in most cases the weed will throw out several crowns to replace the one cut off. Always burn weeds, then you know for certain that they cannot give any more trouble.