

Snow

IT may be a hard winter, but it is an established fact that soil conditions in the Spring would be a great deal worse were it not for snow. Nature invariably provides a means to neutralize the ravages of climate. Snow is the friend of the Green Committee, even though its beneficial results may not be noted until it has passed.

Snow is a poor conductor of heat. Rain is three times more effective. As a consequence, during the winter, snow upon the grass keeps in the natural warmth of the earth and excludes much of the intense cold. It has also some fertilizing value. Agricultural experts agree that land under cultivation suffers through lack of proper enrichment when a winter passes with the snowfall below normal.

Growing things—particularly grasses—can stand a much greater drop in temperature if protected by snow. An open winter, with low temperatures alternating with rains instead of snow, complicates the problem of the Green Committee in the Spring. Rain enriches the soil by bringing to the ground azote in the form of ammonia or nitric acid, but snow is an even more powerful fertilizing agent because the fertilizing material contained in the water of an inch of melting snow is of much greater value than that found in a like quantity of rain water.

Snow has so many admirable features that lack of space forbids a consideration of all of them. The main point to be emphasized here is its value as a neutralizer of temperature. Combined with these qualities is its fertilizing qualities, which cannot be denied. The poet who first referred to snow as a

"blanket" uttered a truth which he could not appreciate unless he were also a greenkeeper.

Wherefore, golfers, do not wring your hands and curse the blanket on the earth. The more that you are deprived of your game by snow, the more you will appreciate its benefits with the return of Spring.

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