Taming The Dandelion
After Long Battle

BY JOHN MACGREGOR
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YEARS ago an energetic truck gardener wished to have a complete assortment of vegetables. He thought it was not complete without the dandelion, and to give his countrymen their much loved greens, he imported several pounds of seed from Italy, and "Oh, Gawd, how we love him for his foresight." From his importation we have what you see around us in the spring, a golden sheet, as far as the eye can see; when the gold has waned, a beautiful sheet of white as of snow takes its place, and many a golfer has looked in vain under this sheet for his ball.

When this snow or seed has matured, the air becomes filled with it. Wherever they eventually stop, they germinate and fill any small space which has not already been occupied. Being a deep rooted plant, I have in the early spring pulled them out with roots three and a half feet long, so that extermination seems an impossible feat.

I have tried every device and method which I thought might combat them. First I tried cutting them under the ground, and I found they had increased instead of decreased in number; where one was, six or seven showed up from the same plant, so the pest was multiplied a thousand fold. Then I tried gasoline. I took an ordinary oilcan and soldered a spike with a sharp point to the spout. The spike extending an inch and a half beyond the end of the spout, this was pushed into the heart of the dandelion and a small amount of the gasoline deposited in the wound, which was very effective, but an expensive cure. Then there was the danger of poisoning the soil.

During this period we wrote to the Department of Agriculture at Washington for information on the eradication of dandelions. When the information came, I immediately set to work on this new system. We bought a power sprayer of 200 gallons capacity, also a potato sprayer attachment, which was attached behind the outfit. The formula was one and a half pounds iron sulphate (copperas) to one gallon of water, the solution to be applied with 150 pounds' pressure. I followed the instructions, choosing one of the worst infested areas I could find. The day following the application I looked over the result of the...
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experiment and was disappointed. All that
could be noticed was the leaves of the
dandelions were spotted with rust. Then I
noticed that where the wheels of the sprayer
had traveled the leaves were entirely
black. I decided we had the correct
formula, but the method of application
would not give the desired results, so de-
cided, after being satisfied the foliage was
destroyed where the wheels had bruised
the leaves, I must devise some means of
bruising the leaves so the iron could pen-
trate, and hit on the idea of using a chain
drag which had been used during con-
struction of the course. I am glad to say
this has proven to be the death knell of
the dandelion, although success was not to
come just yet.

At this time we still had horses and they
were the only means by which this sprayer
could be navigated. Anyone who has had
anything to do with horses knows that
hauling a 200-gallon sprayer, loaded, is real
work, and that they must be given a breathing
spell quite frequently to enable you to
have them the following day, especially in
hot weather. The result was, before I had
covered half of the rough, the first dan-
delions I sprayed were just as strong as they
were before I started, having completely
recovered and growing as healthily as be-
fore. During this period I was trying to
device ways and means whereby this solu-
tion could be handled and applied with
dispatch.

When we got the first few shipments of
iron sulphate it was coarse and hard to
dissolve. Upon investigation I found we
could purchase granulated or sugar iron
sulphate. This I found could be dissolved
in less than half the time. Then I pro-
hired six 50-gallon barrels and knocked the beads out and used them for dissolving, putting 100 pounds of iron sulphate in each, dissolving with sufficient water. Three of the barrels are enough for a load in a 200-gallon tank. The other three barrels are dissolving while the load is being emptied on the course; when the men return, these three are pumped into the tank. Every time three barrels are emptied, the material is put in for the next load. I use a portable double-action suction pump for pumping the solution into the tank, using a 2-inch suction and a 2-inch outlet hose.

After two years’ experimenting we purchased a Fordson tractor. This was the first time results really began to show, as I found the rough could be sprayed in a week, and that five successive sprayings two weeks apart would kill 98 per cent of the dandelions. The only ones left were some of the very largest, which were very easily destroyed with a weed stinger and gasoline.

The success of this treatment is evidenced by the fact that the treated areas are free from dandelions.

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**Good Fairways Need Correct Initial Construction**

By C. M. MELVILLE

For the benefit of those who may wish some general instructions concerning the establishment of fairways, it should be stated that high culture is as necessary in the construction of golf courses as it is in any professional line.

It is the fine pulverizing of the top two inches of the soil that counts most. Whether to plough deep or shallow must be controlled entirely by the type and condition of the soil—as far as fertility is concerned. Drainage and tillage are indispensable.

The next important item to be taken into consideration is the proper mechanical condition of the soil. Possibly this is the most important of all in the attainment of future success. It is not necessary in this article to indicate in detail the peculiarities of soil of different types, but to point out that grass needs, for its most perfect development, nitrogenous fertilizers from natural sources, organic products like humus, stable or sheep manure.

There is a valuable quality peculiar to stable manure of the right kind in its full