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Massachusetts Greensmen Ask State for Research Fund

GREENKEEPERS in Massachusetts have had introduced into the commonwealth's legislature a bill to appropriate $15,000 for turf research. The bill, if passed, undoubtedly will influence other sectional greenkeeper associations to work on state governments for similar measures.

The Massachusetts bill is: "For the purpose of constructing and originally equipping certain buildings at the Waltham Field station of the Massachusetts State college, and of research relative to fine turf and lawn grasses and a study as to the maintenance of such grasses, there may be expended under the direction of the trustees of said college such sum, not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars, as may hereafter be appropriated."

It was introduced by a petition of "Howard D. Farrant and others," and is being campaigned for energetically by a Massachusetts greenkeepers committee on which are Frank H. Wilson, T. W. Swanson, John Counsell and James C. Sullivan.

Letter Sent Turf Owners

The committee has sent to home owners, park superintendents, cemetery superintendents, gardeners, greenkeepers and others interested in growing fine turf and lawn grasses, the following letter:

"The Massachusetts Association of Greenkeepers is introducing in the legislature a bill asking for an appropriation of $15,000.00 for experiment work and scientific research in fine turf and lawn grasses and a study as to the maintenance of such grasses, and the construction and originally equipping of buildings to carry on this work at the Waltham Field station of the Massachusetts State college.

"There are in Massachusetts 600,000 persons who either own their own homes or are in the process of paying for them. New homes being built by owners or old homes being bought by owners will total about 6,500 this year. Practically all these homes have lawns. There are more than 155 golf courses east of Worcester paying a huge amount of money in taxes and wages and giving employment to an army of boys who caddie on these courses. Cities and towns are maintaining parks, playgrounds, football fields, baseball diamonds and in a great many cases, golf"
courses. The state maintains two golf courses for public recreation. All of these involve the maintenance of lawns and special purpose turf. Highways are being beautified everywhere by cities, towns and the state. Immense areas of lawn turf are being grown for this purpose.

"The cemetery superintendents have an organization which should be, and we think is, vitally concerned with the problems of maintaining fine turf. It is hardly necessary to call to your attention the beauty of a cemetery where fine turf is maintained, against one where the effort has not been successful.

"The success of any landscape scheme is the lawn. Home owners and gardeners are struggling with this problem. The same problem besets the owners of the baseball parks, the college football fields, the tennis clubs. The beauty of a city or town largely depends on the successful growing of lawn grasses.

"The Waltham Field station can save the people of eastern Massachusetts (seventy-five percent of the people of the State live east of Worcester) an immense amount of money by diagnosing soil conditions, recommending seed mixtures to fit these conditions, directions for the proper fertilizing of lawns, advice on weed control, disease control, insect control and by growing demonstration plots.

"To get this bill passed it will be necessary for everyone concerned to do his part. It is your bill; get behind it. While the Massachusetts Association of Greenkeepers is doing everything in its power, we need your help. See the senator and representative from your district, and explain the need for this work. Get all the influence to work that you can contact."

Among the many bulletins of value issued by state agricultural colleges and bureaus, bulletin 172 on Pruning and Care of Ornamental Trees and Shrubs published by Michigan State college, at Lansing, is one that will be read with timely interest by Michigan greenkeepers.

Greenkeepers can get much practical material for their working libraries by watching their state bulletins.

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