Faithful Work and Common Sense

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Your request to write an article for the greenkeeper's magazine came like one from my old Captain in the 10th Infantry when he ordered me to take care of his infant child, when the baby's nurse was sick and the Captain and his wife wanted to play golf.

In other words, I know as much about writing an article as I did at that time about taking care of the Captain's offspring. Being the father of three lusty youngsters now, I have improved a lot in that direction, but writing articles is still a mystery.

Of course, if it comes to nursing Agrostis Stolonifera, it is a different matter and I am glad to say that my greens as well as nursery show the effect of good faithful work and common sense.

Green Section Bulletin
I have been a faithful student of the Bulletin of the Green Section Committee of the U. S. G. A. (formerly Green Section of the U. S. G. A.) and such knowledge as I possess of chemical treatments, top-dressing, etc., I owe to the Bulletin, which advice with slight variations as to amount of chemicals I have followed consistently.

Washington Strain
We have eight creeping bent greens in play and one is to be planted late in August or early in September. Of the three strains of bent we have planted, the Washington is by far the best. And, if I can take the word of some of our members, as well as some strangers, our Washington strain greens are among the best in Hoosierland.

Putting Green Mowers
We believe that the Toro is the best putting green mower available, but think that even this could make more cuts per inch to give a really first-class job. We have used a mower which cuts much more often than the Toro, and it gives a beautiful job of cutting, but is faulty in other respects. This mower was a special job and is not now being manufactured, but it is my hope that some of the standard makes will increase their reel speed, thus giving a better job on the Washington strain.

Routine Care of Greens
The greens are watered every morning beginning at five o'clock and we use the "Lark" sprinkler and one inch hose and as we have an abundance of pressure and large pipe, the job is done quickly and if any mycelium is on the grass it is washed off. Moreover, this causes no interference with play and our greens keep in splendid condition throughout the day. As soon as the greens are dry enough, they are cut, and, if necessary, a second cutting is given in the afternoon. The greens are top-dressed every three to four weeks and ammonium phosphate is applied after the top-dressing is put on and also at least once in between top-dressings. During the brown-patch season, we are trying to apply calomel at least every ten days as a preventive measure, and if conditions are especially favorable to brown-patch, we apply it every four or five days. Last year we used corrosive sublimate with fair success, but, from present indications, believe that the calomel will prove infinitely more desirable. We are using about one-fifth of a pound to one thousand square feet. We have had no brown-patch since we started using calomel, although neighboring courses have had it, and we have had no burning from the calomel. Incidentally, at the suggestion of our Chairman, I have set aside a green to test out in competition the different compounds of mercury, such as chlorophenol mercury, corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride), and calomel (mercurous chloride). There is little doubt in our minds but that the mercurous chloride or calomel will prove greatly superior to all of the others.

Application of Chemicals
This is one job I do not yet entrust to anyone else. At first I had a few bad burns. In fact, last year with corrosive sublimate, some of the greens were burned in very small spots. At first I was at a loss to understand this, but I finally realized the cause. I had been using about six to seven ounces of corrosive sublimate mixed in about two buckets of top-dressing for six thousand square feet of green. In scattering the mixture, small amounts dropped out of my hand near the little finger before I made the sweeping motion. I am now able to guard against this with the result that I no longer get burns of this character. In fact, I have not had a severe burn of any kind this year. I had one light burn due to the fact that in one green the surface drainage concentrates the water in a sort of bottle neck and in using a little more water than should have been used, a large part of the chemical was washed upon this part of the green. By using the proper amount of water and sprinkling this area last, this also is avoided. In applying ammonium phosphate, I prefer to apply it dry and alone, as, by mixing it with soil and other chemicals, it seems to me that it draws moisture, especially if allowed to stand over night, so that it is more difficult to distribute evenly.

Creeping Bent Versus Blue Grass Tees
We are building some fairly good-sized tees.

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Grass Seeds
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thick compact turf. During the growing season it should be top dressed frequently with a clay-like compost. Bermuda Grass turns brown with the first frost. When this happens, Italian Ryegrass or Redtop may be sown on top of the Bermuda Grass. This will produce a beautiful green turf over the winter. Late in the spring or early summer, the Ryegrass will gradually disappear and Bermuda Grass will take its place.

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them measuring about 2200 square feet and we are trying out blue grass in competition with the Washington strain of creeping bent. We have not had sufficient experience to warrant a definite conclusion, but, so far, we are by no means certain that creeping bent is as satisfactory as blue grass for this purpose, where the play is heavy. Our course has no “rest periods” and the tees receive exceptionally severe usage. I would be very glad to know the experience of other Greenkeepers with creeping bent for tees where the usage is severe.

Weeding

The article in the last issue of the Green Section Committee Bulletin on weeding by Mr. Sherrill Sherman is, I think, very fine. We are spending a little more than $50.00 per green per year for weeding and we start early in the Spring and keep it up until late in the Fall and in our Washington strain we treat clover as a weed. Eventually we will have nothing but the Washington strain.

Co-operation of Green Committee Chairman

In closing, I want to pay a tribute to our Chairman, who most certainly knows his creeping bent and is always willing to co-operate. In my opinion, the sincere and hearty co-operation of the Chairman of the Green committee is the best and greatest help the greenkeeper can have.