



*Upper, Number 3 at Greenville Country Club, Greenville, Michigan, taken May 15, 1927. Lower, same Green on July 15, showing what two months of growing weather will do for bent*



# The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

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## Re-Building Greens at Greenville

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**A**LTHOUGH I do not consider my advice of much importance to older and more experienced greenkeepers than myself, I am anxious to contribute something to THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER in support of our association.

We all know the old saying, "in union there is strength," and so it is with the greenkeepers. With such men as O. J. Noer of the Soils Department, University of Wisconsin; John Monteith, Jr., Associate Pathologist of the United States Department of Agriculture; C. M. Scherer, expert on trees, greenkeepers who are keen observers with a life-long experience, and all others who contribute to the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER—the magazine sure is of much value to the greenkeeping profession.

### *Planting Flossmoor Stolons*

We started in August, 1926 to rebuild our greens and tees and prepare to plant Flossmoor bent stolons. Here I must say I found I had quite a job on my hands to direct the construction and planting of these greens at the time of the year when labor is scarce and hard to keep in this locality. Our Number 3 green is now growing where we had at that time a pine forest.

We have a deposit of muck on the club grounds. This was used about 50-50 with good medium loam top soil to make up the top 4 or 5 inches of the stolon bed. After a thorough discing to pulverize the soil I sowed about 20 pounds per thousand square feet of green grower and raked it in.

We cleared a patch in the pine woods when we removed the fertile top soil and passed it through a one-quarter inch screen. This was used with compost which was three years old to cover the stolons, the compost being made up of muck and stockyard manure and a



Gustave Hansen

small amount of lime, about two parts top soil and one part compost. Our tees were enlarged and the sod was lifted from the old greens and laid on the tees. This sod is mostly red top with some red fescue and white clover.

We planted about fifty-five thousand square feet of bent stolons and did not lose one bit with the exception of a strip about 8 feet wide across the approach to Number 3 green and this was caused by the spring water washing it out and carrying it away. The approaches were planted to Washington bent.

### *Ammonium Sulphate After Growth Starts*

I find the Flossmoor Strain is fine leaved, a bright green color and makes a fine putting green. It grows very slowly during the cool weather of spring, but when the temperature reaches 75 degrees or more it makes a mat of turf very rapidly. My idea is to apply am-



New number 1 bent green at Greenville. Background shows one of the many natural groves on this course



monium sulphate on newly planted stolons as soon as growth is well started in the spring and every two or three weeks thereafter until the greens begin to mat. Then watch out—don't wait too long before you top dress with sand or some fine loam that is not too highly fertilized. Use the ammonium sulphate sparingly and by all means keep it cut closely every day.

I have found that close cutting and top dressing often will check a lot of weeds; although I have not eliminated them I have checked a very heavy growth of weeds as the top soil I used was very full of weed seed.

### *Alkaline and Acid Top Dressings*

Two kinds of top dressing material have been used—a 50-50 mixture of compost very rich in humus, and a sandy loam, the compost testing alkaline, and the loam



*The Greenville Country Club "gang" working up a good supply of top dressing*

strongly acid. After the first few days of vigorous growth from sulphate of ammonia I noticed a sort of reddish brown stain of the leaves. I have been unable to account for this so would be pleased to hear from anyone regarding it. However, it disappeared some time ago.

### *Fertilizer Experiments*

I have applied a small amount of Milorganite which I received as a sample and also a small amount of Premier brand poultry manure to different portions of a green and have found that the turf developed faster and maintains a healthy appearance where each fertilizer was applied, but I find it maintains a healthy color and vigorous growth longer from the Milorganite and I also have less weeds.

### *White Clover Better Than Sand Burrs*

For four years I have nursed along a very thin stand of June grass and white clover on the fairways. We

now have very fair fairway turf in the place of blow sand and sand burrs by top dressing with muck in late fall and applying lime during the summer. About four years ago I succeeded in getting a lot of white clover started. I have kept seeding the last three years with red top, blue grass and yarrow. Of course we have plenty of white clover now but when kept mowed short the objection to it is not great and it beats sand burrs any time. We have a sort of sticky soil which crumbles when it dries. I have applied this heavily to the sand and it now supports a fine stand of yarrow. We applied poultry manure at the rate of 600 pounds per acre last spring and I noticed a remarkable improvement soon after.

### *No Trouble With Worms or Brown-Patch*

Getting back to the greens I must say I have not had any trouble from worms or brown-patch yet, although I have two greens on which I expect trouble with brown-patch on account of the "dead air" location of them. These greens are all doing fine, but I am not satisfied with the surface yet as to being true enough to cut the grass at a uniform length and cut it short. I would like to hear what tools are used.

I have a small turf bed which I have used to sod in bare spots on the greens and this fall we plan to take stolons from a portion of this bed to plant a practice putting green near the clubhouse.

### *Sand Greens Hard to Maintain*

In regard to sand greens I do not care to say much. Although I have maintained them several years, I have never found any treatment that will maintain sand greens every day in the playing season. It takes a lot of labor and time after each heavy rain and wind to bring them back, thus they are out of play too much of the time.

### *Do Your Bit for the Association*

I wish to express my appreciation of what the men who brought into existence the National Association have done, and I hope that we will be able and willing to contribute the support that will fulfill the objects set forth by President John Morley in his address delivered at the first annual convention in Chicago last March. No greenkeeper in America can afford to overlook the just recognition of the greenkeeping profession which this association and magazine offers him. I am very proud of the charter membership card I keep in my vest pocket.