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
Re-Building Greens at Greenville

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ALTHOUGH 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 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 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-
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
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.