

Dandelion and Plantain Eradication

By E. A. CROMBIE, *Greenkeeper*
Edgewood Country Club, Pittsburgh, Penna.

DUE to the farms in the immediate vicinity of the Edgewood Country Club being abandoned and no effort made to cultivate the land, the dandelion and plantain situation got so bad that drastic action had to be taken to eliminate it. In the early spring, during blossom time, the rough next to the fairways was yellow with dandelion blossoms. Each of these coming to seed means an extra crop not only in the immediate vicinity, but they may be carried by the wind an indefinite distance.

We tried to eliminate these weeds by the use of cad-dies. The quantity removed by them was enormous, but it was an extremely expensive proposition. Later, however, we found that the fairways on which we had spent so much time and money were in practically the same condition as they were prior to the time that these weeds were removed. This forced us to find some other solution.

Later, I read an article in one of the United States Department of Agriculture bulletins in which they stated that they had been very successful in some ex-



FRIEND POWER SPRAYER WITH MOTOR ATTACHMENT

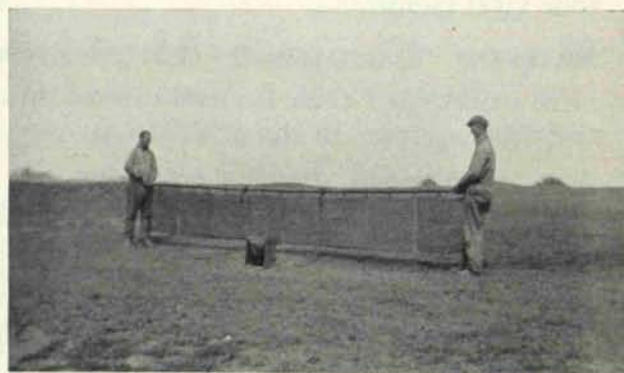
perimental work on dandelion eradication. After seven (7) applications of "Sulphate of Iron" solution they had eliminated practically 98 per cent of the dandelion. Also, that it did not affect the grass in any way, but there was a possibility that it may retard, to a small extent, some of the bent grasses on the greens.

SULPHATE OF IRON SOLUTION

OUR condition was such that it was imperative that we do something at once, so it was decided to try this "Sulphate of Iron" solution. We did not want to run too much risk, so we experimented with the dandelion and plantain in the rough, paralleling the fairways, and after five (5) applications of this solution two weeks apart we feel that our experiment has been very successful. We have had an extremely dry season, which has re-acted against this to a certain extent, and we believe that had we had an average summer rainfall the results would have been very much better.

Our method was as follows:

1. We used the Government formula—that is, 1½ lbs. of Sulphate of Iron in granulated form dissolved in 1 gallon of water, filtering it through 4 thicknesses of cheese cloth.
2. We purchased a "Friend Power Sprayer" of 200 gallon capacity, with motor attachment.



DRAG USED FOR BRUISING THE PLANTS

3. We rigged this up with a drag attachment composed of steel door mats. The object of this attachment was to bruise the fibre in the dandelion leaf before the solution was applied.
 4. The spray nozzles, set about 18 inches apart, were arranged on a frame, set back of the mats, and operated at approximately 150-lb. pressure.
- It is the intention next spring to go over not only the rough, but the fairways as well, and continue this



APPLYING SULPHATE OF IRON SOLUTION FOR WEED ERADICATION AT EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

process until the dandelion and plantain situation is entirely eliminated.

The photographs sent herewith show the apparatus used for bruising the plants, and both a side and rear view of the sprayer in operation.