

FALL MAINTENANCE OF SOUTHERN TURF

LAWNS planted to Bermuda grass or St. Augustine grass should be given a severe raking to loosen the soil, and seeded with Italian rye grass at the rate of from one-half pound to one pound for each one hundred square feet of turf. The rye grass will give body and color to the lawn during the winter months that are too cool for the Bermuda grass. October is the proper month for seeding with Italian rye grass.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

THE only protection that a lawn needs in winter

is against trespassers. A path across a lawn can be made very quickly in the winter if there is little or no snow. Also, if a path is made in the snow on the lawn, the turf under the trodden snow is quickly injured. Paths made during the winter are seldom obliterated before June unless very special care is given them.

A winter mulch of manure, straw, hay, or even tobacco stalks has been found to be unnecessary and in many instances harmful. If one cannot resist the temptation to "protect" the lawn, the mulching should not be done until after the ground has become solidly frozen.

The Greenkeeper's Importance in Golf

A tribute to the hard-working men who make the game worthwhile to those who pay the bills

By GANSON DEPEW, Chairman U. S. G. A. Green Section

Reprinted from address delivered at the Annual Greenkeepers' Educational Conference in Chicago



GANSON DEPEW

A good sport, a gracious host and an efficient executive.

man of the Green Section of the United States Golf association for the past two years and as Chairman of the Green committee of the Country Club of Buffalo for many years, I feel I can speak intelligently.

My duties in the positions I have held, and my observation covering a long period of time have convinced me that there is nothing in golf which is more important or vital than greenkeeping. It has had more to do with the development of the game and the amazing strides it has made than anything else, until today there are more than two million players in this country, not to speak of those in Great Britain, Canada, and other parts of the world.

Golf has become our National game when the actual number of players are considered and which

I APPRECIATE very much your gracious invitation to address you on "The Greenkeeper's Vital Importance in Golf," which is a subject on which I have long wanted to speak, so that I could add my tribute to the fine men who have and are doing so much for the golf courses of the country. As Chair-

far outnumber the total of those playing baseball, football, tennis, and other sports. Very few play for exercise, and were it not for the pleasure connected with the game, it never would have attained its present popularity which is rapidly increasing every year. To the greenkeeper is primarily due the responsibility of making courses playable and attractive. The more he makes them so, the more players the game attracts and the greater the appeal to all classes of people.

If links are in a condition which leads only to complaint and irritation, some other means of recreation will be sought as players today not only want, but demand, almost perfect putting greens, and fairways. When links which receive little attention or are neglected, are contrasted with those in charge of a competent greenkeeper, then his great value to the game is realized. His work has led to more than 5000 links and clubhouses in this country. The municipal courses which are being constructed everywhere, the daily fee courses which are becoming so popular, besides the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the supplies and accessories of the game. It is no exaggeration to say that over one billion dollars is invested in some way in the playing of golf.

The greenkeeper however, has not I fear, received the appreciation and gratitude from golfers to

which he is entitled. They keep in touch with the professional through lessons or the buying of supplies, but they seldom see or have any contact with the greenkeeper. It is very much like a general in command of a battle; the soldiers do the fighting and are visible to onlookers, but the commanding officer is behind the lines often unseen but it is his thought, experience, initiative, and planning which directs the battle and wins victories.

We see men working on a golf course; we play over fine turf; we have a pleasant afternoon, but how often do our thoughts turn to the greenkeeper whose ability, experience and direction has made all this possible. If he is interested in his work, which with many is his very life and soul, he is often on the links very early in the morning and late at night. Few realize his anxiety when owing to some climatic condition or something else, brown patch or some disease strikes the grass, and how he strives to effect a cure so that the players may enjoy their game. He is to golf what the mainspring is to a watch.

I am convinced that the part the greenkeeper plays in bringing elderly men out of their poorly ventilated offices, clubs, and homes, into the open and with the exercise they obtain, has done more for the preservation of health than tens of thousands of doctors could ever do. He has been the means of prolonging and saving many lives, and if he has done nothing else it is something well worthwhile.

GREENKEEPING IS A PROFESSION

GREENKEEPING today is more or less a profession, requiring technical and scientific knowledge, and it is to the credit of greenkeepers that they are anxious to obtain it. One of the ways is membership in an outstanding greenkeepers' association, which among other things is doing such splendid work in arranging the instructive addresses you hear at your conventions and the articles of value which appear in your official publication, the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER AND TURF CULTURE, so ably edited by Robert E. Power.

Your success is due to the many years of service and loyalty of your officers, among whom the most credit must be given to the founder of your organization, whose devotion to its interests should never be forgotten, Colonel John Morley. In his resignation as President, he carries with him the affection and gratitude of us all, but we rejoice that in his

successor, John MacGregor, you have a man who is splendidly equipped to go on with the work.

In referring to the educational side of greenkeeping, I feel in fairness I should speak of the benefits greenkeepers have received in the instructive articles appearing in *Golfdom*, sponsored by its able editor, Herb Graffis. With Mr. Robert E. Power, these men have in their publications earned the gratitude of all greenkeepers in the dissemination of information regarding better turf conditions which have been invaluable.

GREEN SECTION HAS HELPED

ANOTHER way in which greenkeepers have been helped is in the results obtained by the Green Section, U. S. G. A., in its experimental and research work, and I wish to take this opportunity to express to the greenkeepers our hearty appreciation of the cordial support they have given our efforts for many years past. The U. S. G. A. maintains no golf links of its own, so that the work of the section is entirely devoted to the interests of clubs and primarily to help the greenkeeper.

Years ago, I fear, there was a feeling by some greenkeepers that we were usurping their privileges and treading on forbidden ground. We were and are only desirous of being helpful to those who know very little about the conditioning and proper maintenance of new golf courses continually springing up, and giving to greenkeepers of experience valuable information obtained from experimental and research work. There has been absolutely no thought or intention of forcing this on greenkeepers or clubs, and they have been entirely free to use or discard it as they think best.

We request and encourage greenkeepers to undertake their own experiments in order that the general interests of turf culture may be promoted. I think it is now realized that at our large experimental plots at Arlington and Chicago and at our sixteen demonstration gardens throughout the country, we have been in a position with funds to conduct experiments and research work which is impossible by greenkeepers at clubs having only limited means. This is shown by the increasing attendance at our annual meetings at Arlington, Chicago, and the demonstration gardens where it is possible to observe and discuss in detail the way different grasses, fertilizers and other treatments have acted and in the innumerable letters daily received

from greenkeepers and Green chairmen requesting advice.

We do not claim infallibility for sometimes extended experience with fertilizers and grasses show some problems are as yet unsolved. Much depends upon certain soils in widely different localities and climatic conditions, which often makes a dogmatic or widespread procedure impossible to obtain the best results. All that you and we can do is to keep on experimenting and I think we are all agreed that great progress has been made in the past 15 years. Just compare the condition of putting greens and fairways of today with those of the past to realize the truth of this statement.

There is still much to be learned, and in this the greenkeepers can in their own experimentation and experience be of the greatest help. We still have the problems of leaf spot disease, turf insect control, and fairway improvement, and as we learn from continued experiments and research, the great waste of money now going on will be materially lessened in the knowledge of the best methods to follow.

INSECTS ARE GREATEST SOURCE OF TROUBLE

INSECTS still continue to be the greatest source of trouble on many golf courses such as the mole cricket in the south, ants, grubs, earth, army, and grass webworms, and many other and until adequate information is obtained, a large sum of money is spent each year on golf courses without results.

At Arlington some opportunity was afforded for study of cut worm and sod webworm control, and it is now felt that these pests may be satisfactorily controlled on fine turf by any of several poisons. Earthworms were particularly troublesome, as elsewhere in the country, and remained so in spite of repeated trials of remedies hitherto effective. More work is needed on this problem.

Most of the experimental work thus far has been in the growth and treatment of putting greens, but the condition of fairways is just as important, and few clubs have perfect ones. This brings to the front problems which in most cases have been unsolved, such as the best methods of preparing fertilizing and seeding various soils in different degrees of climate, time of application of the fertilizers, and their rotation; best use of water, particularly in view of the sprinkling systems which many clubs

have installed, best height to cut, control of weeds, particularly clover which too great use of water promotes, the renovation of poor, weedy turf, the perpetuation of good Bermuda grass, and the treatment of brown patch, concerning which we have learned much in the past two years.

A systematic study and experimentation is necessary to enable us to solve and successfully meet these problems. In all of them the greenkeeper can be of the greatest assistance and in our combined efforts, success will be finally attained.

U. S. G. A. MUST ECONOMIZE

THE U. S. G. A. regrets the necessity of the strictest economy which will materially curtail the activities of the Green Section, but I am glad to tell you that it has decided to continue the mid-west turf garden near Chicago in the interest of the many clubs in this district and adjacent states.

As I said in my address two years ago at your Columbus convention, only in a hearty and cordial cooperation among us all can the best results be obtained. We are all interested in producing perfect fairways and putting greens.

An honest difference of opinion will, of course, prevail at times, as to the best methods to follow, but in working together we can make golf which we all love, the most enjoyable of games with better conditions of turf at a minimum expense, as our ultimate goal.

GREENKEEPER IS VITAL FACTOR IN GOLF

IN CONCLUSION, I desire to strongly emphasize again that the greenkeeper is the most vital factor in golf. To his work is due its ever-increasing popularity, the construction of thousands of the links of the private clubs, the erection of the splendid club houses on them, the spread of municipal and daily fee courses, and the growth of one of our nation's largest industries in the supplies and accessories of the game. Upon his efforts depend the success of any club or golf course in attractive and well-kept putting greens and fairways, and to him the golfer is indebted for the pleasure of playing on well-conditioned turf. He is richly entitled to the thanks and appreciation of the millions who play the game, and when the history of golf is written the greenkeeper should and will receive the recognition which he has so deservedly earned.