

Ask Us What To Do

A page for the discussion of intimate problems on turf culture and plant growth. We are an international authority on these subjects. Send in your questions—your name will not be used.

Fescues and blue grass are said not to be indigenous to the soils of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. Should no attempt be made to seed grasses of this type in these sections?

The soils of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio are not the natural homes for grasses growing best under neutral or slightly alkaline conditions. Shale clays are largely responsible for these acid conditions and are best corrected by heavy phosphorus feedings. Bone meal as a source of phosphorus, would act too slowly. They will thrive if properly cared for in this manner. (Penn.)

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I have seen rhododendrons growing wild in the mountains of the South and always among limestone boulders. This seems to indicate lime is needed for their healthy growth rather than acid conditions. Am I right?

Rhododendrons on mountain sides grow in pockets in which debris, washed from the slopes, has collected. The debris would be largely leaves, twigs and decaying wood, and the greater part of the year this pocket would be filled with water. This makes a characteristic undrained peat deposit in the process of putrification and is necessarily acid. Hardwood peat in the earliest stages of decay, producing an abundance of potash, is the ideal medium in which to grow rhododendrons. (Ohio)

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We have put great dependence in ammonium sulphate when needing quick recovery on our greens. If its use is continued for too long a time, it loses its effect. Why?

You have but a limited amount of lime in your soil and this will eventually be taken up by the sulphuric acid, freed from such a feeding. When this occurs, there will possibly be no alkaline base with which the nitric acid formed by the soil bacteria can combine to make the soluble nitrate feeding required by the turf. If lime water is then applied in liberal quantities, recovery should be imme-

diately. This should be applied while the water still holds a small amount of lime in suspension. (Ohio)

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I have moved my sweet pea bed each year but have found no place where they will do well. Some of my friends have no such trouble.

Stop moving them. Before planting next season, spread a small amount of complete fertilizer in the trench, thoroughly mixing with the soil. Borrow a quart can of soil from your friend's sweet pea bed, spreading it through the trench before planting. Your friend's soil is well supplied with the particular nodule producing bacteria the sweet peas require. Inoculation in this manner, is probably what you have needed. (Ohio)

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Our fairways were made on virgin blue grass sod in a very productive farming section but they have not produced good blue grass turf. Should they be topdressed?

Your fairways have probably been blue grass pasture land and pastured close for many years. It is very likely a case of taking off much and putting back but little to replace lost feedings. Most lands of this description, rarely show more than ten pounds of phosphorus to the acre. (Truog.) An application of complete fertilizer, heavy in phosphorus, should be made, followed by a topdressing of well-rotted manure. (West Virginia)

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What is now considered the best and most economical method of producing topdressing?

The great majority of golf clubs still stir their compost heaps by hand. Many clubs are doing without topdressings because of the expense incurred in preparing in this manner.

Undoubtedly the most economical and best method is to take one-half acre of ground in an out-of-the-way location on the course which should be plowed deeply, disced and harrowed until fine. Upon this area should be spread 45 tons of good

humus or its equivalent in well-rotted stable manure. This should be disced in deep and whenever the tractor has a spare hour, it can spend it profitably in stirring this ground. When well mixed, it should then be again stirred with a plow to the original depth of plowing with subsequent stirrings when the tractor is available.

One man and a tractor, working at odd times, can prepare 500 cubic yards of perfectly mixed top-dressing, free from weed seed, at a total cost of not to exceed \$1.00 per cubic yard. During dry weather and preferably in July when the nitrate content of the soil is at its peak, it may be stored in a dry place for future use. (Indiana)

Golf Course News

CLEVELAND DISTRICT ESTABLISHES BUYING BUREAU

By FRANK W. ERMER, *President*

The Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers

JUST a few lines to let you know that the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers are still on the map. There are times when we have to lay aside our pencils, but at the same time we have always at heart to try and do something for the benefit of golf.

The past winter months when the greenkeeper has just a little more time to ease his mind from his summer worries, we promoted an educational program whereby we had several well-known speakers on various subjects on golf course maintenance for the benefit of its members, which also benefited the clubs whom they represented.

In the past months the directors of the Association have been working on a plan to save the clubs who have a greenkeeper representing the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers money on their maintenance cost.

In order to do this we had to establish a Buying Bureau, whereby the clubs representing the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers can buy the best materials at the cheapest prices. This Buying Bureau is solely supported and directed by the Greenkeepers' Association and there will be absolutely no charge to any club who has a greenkeeper belonging to our Association.

The discounts allotted to the Association through the Buying Bureau go directly to the club that has purchased through it. Not one penny goes to the Association and as I have said before it is solely supported by the Association.

Now in closing I will say any greenkeeper representing the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers should give our Buying Bureau a trial and compare prices received otherwise.

New England Notes

By GUY C. WEST

THE July meeting of the Greenkeepers' Club of New England was held at the Tatnuck Country club, Worcester, Mass., on July 10. There was a demonstration of Locke power mowers, including the power putting green mower, also a golf tournament.

The August meeting was held at the Belmont Spring Country club, Waverly, Mass., on August 7. At this meeting a feature was the demonstration of the loam baker which the greenkeeper, Charles Parker, uses to "cook" his compost to kill weed seed. This baker consists of a pipe with a screw conveyor, enclosed with brick, and with two Hauck burners supplying the heat. Two men can operate this baker efficiently, and it works well to kill the weed seed. A discussion on "ants" also took place at this meeting, and a golf tournament in the afternoon.

The Rhode Island Greenkeepers' Association held its July meeting at the Gloucester Country Club, Harmony, R. I., on July 17, and its August meeting on August 17 at the Barrington Country club, Barrington, R. I. The regular annual clambake was the special feature at this latter meeting.

July was very dry in most sections of New England, but August brought much rain, and as a result most of the fairways, brown in July, are now green again. Work is progressing at the Charles River Country Club with its hoseless system for fairway watering, the first nine having been already completed.

Trade News About Turf Culture

AMES, IOWA

Athletes and other sport enthusiasts returning to Iowa State College this fall will see under construction facilities that will both improve and beautify the Cyclone athletic fields.

Improvements on the stadium and gridiron of State Field are being rushed to completion for the opening football game with Central College, September 23. Work has been begun on a five-year program which will completely refinish the west stadium. Extensive sodding and watering has repaired the damage inflicted upon the gridiron when scrapers were used to remove the snow for the Oklahoma game last year.

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LOUDONVILLE, OHIO

A proposed 1,000-acre addition to the scenic Clearfork state park at Loudonville in Ashland county was discussed at a recent meeting.

Edmund Secrist, state forester, met with representatives of the Ashland County Wild Life Conservation league in Loudonville.

The Loudonville park at present consists of about 1,500 acres extending along the Clearfork creek. The proposed addition would take in forest lands west of the present park acreage, it was learned.