

CHAPTER XXIII

WATER

Watering—When and How to Water.

Watering

It is idle to think that turf devoted to games can be kept in good condition without an adequate supply of water. Although our seasons are variable in the extreme, and we all too frequently experience wet summers, a season seldom passes without a period when water is urgently needed, either for the purpose of destroying worms or for the direct benefit of the turf.

Periodically great droughts occur such as those of 1911 and 1921, both of which did an enormous amount of damage in cases where water was not available.

It is simply heart-breaking to see a beautiful stretch of turf upon which years of patient labour have been expended slowly but surely destroyed by a drought, and then be faced with the proposition of reconditioning it with the full knowledge that it is liable to be damaged again at almost any moment.

The effect of the last great drought is still fresh in our memory, and as there may be a recurrence any year it is wise to insure by laying on water.

When and How to Water

Do not allow the surface to dry out, because if once the soil gets quite dry it is difficult to saturate it thoroughly or evenly. The water will penetrate in places and not in others, with the result that patches of turf will weaken and die out.

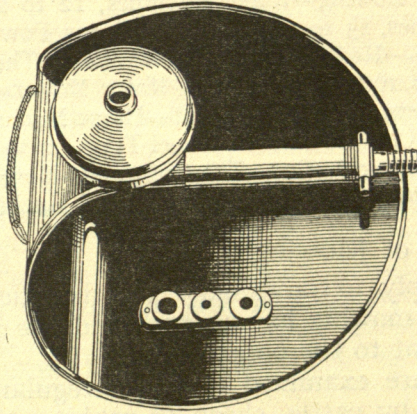
The weather should be carefully watched, particularly in the Spring. Should it be dry, water should be applied in sufficient quantity to keep the soil moist.

If by chance it has dried out and the water will not penetrate readily, puncture the turf by means of a Sarel Spike Roller, and so allow the water to enter.

Watering should be done towards the evening with a view of reducing evaporation as much as possible, and so

get the deepest penetration and the fullest value from the quantity used.

The best means of applying water is by the use of a Carter Sprinkler, or a hose with a high-pressure rose, see Supplement. The Sprinkler has no moving parts and can be pulled about without damage to the surface by means of a cord, and without turning off the water.



It throws up an immense quantity of water in a mist-like spray, and thoroughly drenches an area up to 30 ft. in diameter in a few minutes.

In order to allow for different water pressures it is fitted with four interchangeable spray adapters.