

MERION BLUEGRASS AROUND THE GREEN

At this time of the year it becomes a scramble to "hold" the Poa Annua, and this applies especially around greens on the approaches and "collars". It is a well known fact that the continuous turning of mowers just off the edge of the green bruises the grass, which in a great number of cases is almost straight Poa Annua. Just as soon as we get some hot, humid weather after about the 10th of July in this Chicago area, anyway, the Poa starts to wilt and right away becomes a headache, for it seems when it starts to go, no matter what we do, it thins out and looks bad.

Several of the Superintendents in the Chicago district have resodded the collars of greens with Merion blue grass and results, in our humble opinion, have been spectacular. The Merion has a deep green color and even during drought periods, still retains its color when ordinary Kentucky blue grass has turned brown. This dark green color sets off the lighter green of the bent on the green and gives a very pleasing effect, but, even more important to the superintendent, it is very tough and does not easily bruise with traffic and the turning of mowers. Many times this collar of the green becomes the neglected area on the course due to insufficient watering because maybe the sprinkler doesn't reach far enough.

In our experience, Merion, closely clipped, has thrived and seems to be an ideal answer to one of our maintenance jobs "watering approaches and collars of greens" which is one of our important jobs during July and August.

Just for fun, we measured the amount of sod needed to go around a medium sized green, and only a narrow strip at that, and it took 100 square yards of sod. So, if you are interested, make your nursery big enough.

SPREADING IT THIN

The weather was so bad the last week in July and first week in August that Jock MacIntosh lost his No. 6 green in two days.

Al Hintz's daughter Nancy is getting married September 3rd at Mohawk C. C.

Emil Cassier of the Sycamore Park District reported that during the first three weeks in July 16,000 kids enjoyed the pool at Sycamore.

The Mole had a chance to see all the silverware Harry Drafke's daughter Lois has won the last two summers. It would break Harry to put a sirloin steak on each of the platters the same day.

One of Harry Drafke's better employees is a man named Elmer Murphy who came to work with Harry in 1942. Harry calls Elmer "Pat" and rejoiced with Pat on celebrating Pat's 99th birthday July 31st. Pat still out works anyone on the course and is still working every day. Hope I can do as well, Pat.

There were 51 golfers on August 8th at Oak Hills G. C. 51 who were able to forget their worries and enjoy a very fine afternoon on a good course with excellent hosts. Scores were good too.

The common complaint of the expanding waist line was heard no more during the last summer. Tightened belts and baggy pants were the rule all summer. The low was reached by Don Strand who got down to 112 when things were tough but who bounced back up to 120 by the middle of August. Everyone had punched new holes in their belts.

When we arrived at Oak Hills for our meeting on August 8, we discovered it was Ladies Day also. Some of the non-golfers who usually retire to the club house for a card game decided to sit on the lawn and enjoy the scenery instead.

The 2 inch rain of the night of August 29 and the accompanying cool weather was a welcome relief and many a superintendent enjoyed a good night's sleep for a change.

Our many thanks to Elmer Lempke, Tam O Shanter Superintendent, who so graciously passed around the complimentary tickets to the big show at Tam.

It seems to us that the most popular of our national holidays as far as the golf course superintendent is concerned is Labor Day. It must be, we are always looking forward to it.

Warren Roseman entertained a number of North side superintendents at lunch recently and demonstrated the new Roseman fairway mower, at one of the courses.

Refreshments on the course at Oak Hills was by courtesy of Illinois Lawn Equipment, Inc, represented at our meeting by Bob Johnson. Many thanks, Bob.

THE MOLE

INSECTICIDE ONCE JUST FISH BAIT

The Peruvian Indians were the first to use rotenone. But they didn't use it as an insecticide. They tossed the roots of this plant into water. The fish present became stunned and floated to the top, where they were picked up by the Indians.

Rotenone later became one of the most widely used insecticides in the world. It is harmless to man and other warm-blooded animals, but is death to insects and to fish.

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