

## Methods That Work O. K. On My Course

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**B**EFORE I took to greenkeeping I was a fairly successful farmer with a high school education and was versed somewhat along other lines; enough I believe, to cope with almost any proposition on a golf course, with the aid of the *Green Section's Bulletin* which I think is one of the best things put before the greenkeepers.

### Where Chairman Helped

If it had not been for the good chairman of the greens committee, at my first club, I don't suppose I would be in the profession today. A farmer is sort of an independent chap who has been used to running his own business and goes out to work a day at a time without seeing any one. On a golf course here comes fellows who never did anything but work in an office and try to tell you that the work is not being done right and at the same time you are figuring two years ahead of him. Golf courses are not planned successfully a day ahead. Here is where a good chairman comes in. He tells you to go ahead and do your own way and he will take care of the other fellows. Thanks to my chairman, when I left my club not only the officers but nearly all of the 175 members were my hearty well-wishers in my new field.

When I came to the Greenville course, we had four built up greens and the remainder were just turf greens; red top, blue grass and white clover, chick weed, candelion and other species of what not, and at the same time not much water. Some of the greens could not be watered at all. We labored along this way for two years. In the meantime I was preparing myself with compost and other materials and getting myself in a position to argue a little.

### Built Water System

So we got busy and put in a good water system. They have a small stream of water that flows thru the grounds, which is fed by springs the season thru. At the lower end of the grounds we built a lake or reservoir. In the stream we built a

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dam to hold back the water to fill our reservoir.

At the lower side of the lake we built our pump station, using a 5x6 piston or mine pump with 5 H. P. motor. The pump was placed on a level with the water. In this way it was always primed. We pumped into a 3,000 gal. tank made from an old stationary boiler which was given the club. We led off from the tank with a 3 inch line and one 2 inch line.

The 3 inch line extended half way thru the grounds and the remainder for three greens was 2 inch, with 1¼ inch laterals to the greens from 3 inch line.

A 2 inch line ran from the tank to No. 1 green and garden which was on a hill. We also filled the swimming pool from this. The pump was controlled automatically and with this system I could sprinkle all my greens at one time and would not take over two hours. In the last two years, we had our greens built up so good that in the dry weather I did not wet them more than three times a week.

The top of a green should be built with enough compost and sand with the soil to let the water get to the roots quickly and this also saves the green from baking and becoming hard from excessive tramping.

At the time of putting in the water system we wished to get started into the bent grasses, so we built No. 1 and No. 9 greens and purchased enough bent to plant them. At the same time we received from Washington a square foot of Metropolitan and one of Washington bent. From this we started a small nursery.

### Using the Nursery

In the meantime we planted No. 9 green in the month of May and No. 1 in July. They did fine. We were playing on both greens within 60 days' time. The next season these greens went back on us. They would not stand the hot weather, so in the fall I replanted No. 9 with Metropolitan from our nursery and No. 1. I just set in runners and plugs from the Washington and we got real success from this bent. We also increased our nursery stock from the first nursery. The next green we built up and planted was No. 6. This one was lying just along the branch of water. We put this one in Washington and Metropolitan half and half, but I would not advise any one to do this because it makes an unsightly green in spring and fall. The Metropolitan is affected by frost much more than the Washington.

We kept changing over to bent until we had all greens planted. I have planted bent in the following months and had good success: April, May, June, July, August, September, October and as late as November.

If I had a green that was foul with crab grass and wished to plant it to bent I would cut the sod off before crab goes to seed and throw sod into compost, in this way you are not wasting the good materials you have put on greens. Then I'd replace with enough good soil and compost and sand to take the place of that taken off and then plant to bent. If a green is planted as late as November, it should be closely watched and rolled down whenever it can be done. This keeps the wind away from the roots which are heaved from freezing and thawing weather.

### Comparing Notes

By visiting other golf courses I find that all greenskeepers are not blessed alike. We can not judge the other fellow by his greens until we find out the conditions. He may not have the right kind of water,

his topdressing may be of a very poor soil. He may not be able to get a supply of manure and many other things have to be considered.

At Greenville we had 30 acres of timber along Greenville creek. We pastured this with sheep which we corralled in winter. We saved the manure and also had a couple of cows to get manure from.

We would strip off the sod in the bottom ground for compost and haul the first spade of dirt for top dressing which would likely be free from weed seeds. I had an improvised dirt shed made of poles and rough lumber with good roof and a power screen so I could prepare enough dirt on a rainy day to topdress all my greens.

I would always haul my supply of topdressing in the dry time of the year. I would use 3 yards of creek bottom soil with two of compost and one load of screened sand, placing them alternating on a pile in the shed. When screening, I would spade down from top to bottom and then have the right mixture to put on greens without any further mixing. The power screen does the work.

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either hose the greens good or brush with fishing pole to get the fungus off. If it should affect the greens it would generally be about three weeks after applying ammonia and topdressing or in other words about the time they were due for another topdressing. I would give them about a yard of my mixture of 3-2-1 of soil, compost and sand to 5,000 square feet of surface with 3 lb. of ammonium sulphate to 1,000 square feet mixed in dirt.

If this failed to bring them back in a few days, I would mix pure compost and sand, equal parts, and give them another light dressing and they would come back green as ever. I think the cause of them not reviving just right from first application was that they were affected with fungus too many mornings successively. We never spent a penny for worm eradicators or any other chemical besides ammonium sulphate and had elegant greens the year around. We never have played temporary greens in the last two years. The cost of running the grounds in these years, 1926-27, was about \$2,500 after the income was taken off of expenses. This was from sheep and greens fees.

### On Dublin Job

And now I will give a little account of what we have done at Dublin Road Golf Course, Columbus, Ohio, since November 1, 1927 and what we expect to do.

This is an eighteen hole course of which one nine is three years old with fairly good blue grass having some velvet bent mixed in. The fairways are in fair shape with traps and bunkers, but very poor roughs.

### Brown Patch Experience

And now a word from experience with brown patch disease. We had two greens (No. 1 and No. 9) that were bordered on two sides with a thick growth of timber. One was Washington bent and the other Metropolitan. I could always tell when to expect brown patch. When we would have a rain and humid cloudy weather following I would get out before sun up and

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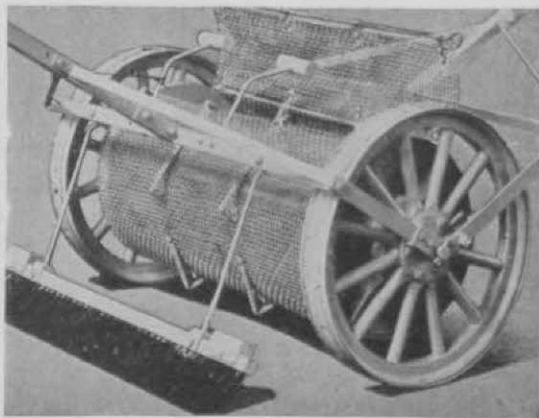
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The other nine is just new. We began playing it this year. It has bent greens consisting of Washington, Metropolitan and Marysville bents. The greens will average about 8,000 square feet to each green.

The mistake that was made was that large greens were built and the course spread all over 140 acres of land without preparing compost or even having an adequate water supply.

So we have started in to overcome some of this. There was a large dairy barn on the premises which was not suitable for golf use. We razed this and built a shed 80 ft. by 36 ft. by 10 ft. with self-supporting roof for dirt and tool shed, also have a work shop in one corner, 12 ft. by 24 ft.

My dirt bins I have fixed up with sliding panels so I can hoist them up and drive into the bin with cart and dump. Then when the dirt is piled up I will hook a block and tackle to the cart and pull up the dirt and let it dump. In this way we can use a lot of space in depth and save shoveling.

We also changed the water system by centralizing the station. We built a building 18 ft. by 18 ft. by 8 ft. with 5 ft. extension eaves for sheltering purposes. In this we have a 3 in. by 3 in. centrifugal pump with 20 horse power motor and 2,000 gal. tank with air compressor. From the tank we are leading off with five lines in all directions. One 3 in. line, one 2½ in. and three 2 in. lines. The large lines run close up to all greens and we also have a gate valve on each line so if we



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