



Rutgers' one-week course in turf management attracted these fifty-four students

TEAM WORK

*of active practical value
to greenkeeping is shown*

by COLLEGES

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL, RUTGERS AND
PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARE LIVE FACTORS

By L. L. DERBY

ANOTHER well-planned and complete exhibition and another profitable session for discussion of greenkeeping problems, was the verdict of visitors to the second annual golf course maintenance exhibition which was held at the Massachusetts Agricultural college at Amherst, March 8 and 9.

The attendance was gratifying. Several hundred visitors viewed the exhibit each day and were introduced to the different phases of golf course maintenance by members of Prof. L. S. Dickinson's class for greenkeepers, who planned and set up the show.

Study Seeding

Seeds, of course, are an important consideration and the display was large and varied. Interest among greenkeepers was whetted up considerably by a seed judging and a seed identification contest open to greenkeepers and for prizes donated by the New England Greenkeepers association. Rates of seeding, depth of seeding, effects

due to different weights of rolling and effects of various fertilizers were shown with growing grass plots. Splendid results were obtained with absolutely no coverage of seeds while the results were increasingly poor as the coverage became one-quarter, one-half, and three-quarters of an inch. The most satisfactory growth of grass seems to be produced with no coverage and medium rolling. The machine type of seed cleaner was demonstrated.

During their course this winter, the greenkeepers have become acquainted with the principles of landscape arrangement as it applies to the course and as it applies to the clubhouse as well. And so there was presented a model clubhouse, constructed to scale with formal garden nearby and appropriate plantings for a part of the course. "A good approach is essential to success in both golf and clubhouse grounds," "Screen your parking space," "Plan before you plant," and "Frame your best views with trees," were some of the worthwhile suggestions regarding landscape arrangement.

Inspect Equipment

But for lack of space the large display of equipment would have been even larger. However, with the idea of a strictly educational rather than a commercial display being emphasized, one machine of a type without regard for the make was exhibited with the working parts bared for close inspection by the visitors.

Pulsation of loads may sound like a dry subject but applied to mowers it becomes quite interesting. The idea is that the fewer the reel knives coming in contact with the bed knife at the same time, the greater the chance for pulsation and consequently, the cutting becomes uneven. On the other hand, with four reel knives striking the bed knife simultaneously, the cutting is well done although of course the pull is bound to be harder.

Enlightening facts were brought out in respect to watering and water systems. It was only necessary to use a small amount of soil, a piece of filter paper, and some water to demonstrate how, following the point where the saturation point of the soil is reached, water leaches through and takes along with it the valuable plant food. And how easy it is to almost drown a green! A good average rate per minute for a sprinkler to throw is five gallons and a sprinkler of this type playing for six hours on a green would approximate one-half inch of rainfall. This amount of water in this short space of time may be compared with the four inches which is a normal month's rainfall in Massachusetts.

Two important points were demonstrated by the soils division. Humus is looked upon by some as excellent for the growth of grass but a plot of grass in poor condition proved what is true in this case, namely, that humus lacks food value and also has a toxic effect on the plants. The notion that nitrate of soda becomes quickly available to promote growth was also shown to be incorrect, while super-phosphate, or nitrogen in ammonium form, influenced a luxuriant growth of grass.

Consider Construction

One of the centers of interest was the model 18-hole course, measuring 12 by 14 feet, designed architecturally by Walter B. Hatch, associate of Donald Ross. From time to time the class during their ten weeks' course built it up bit by bit, attempting to solve the different greenkeeping problems as they arose.

A model drainage system proved instruc-

tive. Lack of proper drainage as an important factor in winter-kill was one of the conclusions reached.

With tremendous amounts being expended on courses each year it is meet and proper that this be done in a business-like way. Visitors received worthwhile hints and information at the cost-keeping and analysis booth.

A program was presented in connection with the exhibition which included an open forum on both days for the threshing out of greenkeeping problems, an address by Mrs. Patterson of the International Seed Laboratories, and a special meeting for green-chairmen and committee members who listened to a talk by Professor Dickinson.

Coincident with the meeting, the New England Greenkeepers held their annual meeting.

Rutgers' One-Week Course Well Attended

FIFTY-FOUR enrolled in the one-week course in turf management held at Rutgers University, College of Agriculture, New Brunswick, N. J., February 25-March 1. While the majority of the students were from New Jersey, there were representatives from New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and one, Mrs. E. B. Whitman, the only woman in the class, came from Houston, Texas.

Those who attended during the week were enthusiastic about the course, which was directed by F. G. Helyar of the university's faculty, and at the conclusion of the sessions, presented the Rutgers department of agronomy with a substantial sum for the purchase of laboratory equipment. As a result of the interest shown by this year's class, next year's curriculum will bear down heavier on soil physics, chemistry, drainage and the physiology of plant growth.

The lecture outlines, which will appear in GOLFDOM during the coming months, are excellent as examples of well directed practical study. Among the subjects handled were: summary of fertilizer experiments; climatic adaptation of turf grasses; the weed problem on turf; the form and function of grasses; some pointers in caring for turf; principles of starting new turf; soil acidity and liming; turf grasses for the cool, humid regions of the U. S.; commercial fertilizers; soil