

LAST ACTS ON SEASON'S COURSE PROGRAM MAKE OR BREAK GREENKEEPER

By FRED W. SHERWOOD

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WITH the advent of late summer greenkeepers might take a little breathing space and a general survey of what work has been done since the season opened and what is to be done before the season closes.

To my mind this time is a very trying one for the greenkeeper. He may have, to a certain extent, caught up with the growth of grass. He has bare fairways and very little rough to speak of. He will also find that his greens don't produce the luxuriant crop of grass that has been forthcoming in the previous months. What with the scorching sun, the dry winds and lack of moisture golf courses are passing through a time where the grass has become exhausted.

The constant cutting, the tread of thousands of feet on the hard baked soil are conditions that have brought on a state of collapse. Being in this state it is only natural and quite feasible enough that greens and fairways are more liable to be afflicted with the ills and diseases that are common to all grasses. The constant cutting of grass impoverishes and so does copious watering, therefore it follows the more you take off in crop the more you have got to put on it to feed it.

I don't mean by that that one should resort too strongly to chemical compounds, which have a tendency to force, but rather that top dressings of good compost be used to stimulate and cover up plant life that has become thin. A doctor prescribes nourishment to a weakened and tired body, is it not logical that the same treatment applies to a weak and tired green.

Weeds Pick on Sick Greens

Crab grass generally honors us with its presence this month and an impoverished green will produce the finest crop of this pestilent weed. From now on greenkeepers will be planning or some may have already mapped out the work they contemplate doing in the fall. Pick out

the features of your work which are essential and features that will count for you when spring comes along.

Many of us may have a program that entails the construction of new greens, tees and traps, others that are on a course where there is no planning of new holes, etc., will be able to concentrate and prepare for spring; subject, of course, to conditions and also the budget.

I have known golf clubs where the greenkeeper mistakenly thinks as soon as the season finishes for golf likewise all work on the golf course must of a necessity finish, forgetting for the moment that there are such items as renovating greens and tees, resodding fairways and all places where the machines have scalped, picking out sunken drains, filling in hollow undulations where the machines can't cut. Fill up these spaces, spare your mowers and make the members happy. Take a fairway that has any of the defects so mentioned and it is really astounding what a gang from 6 to 12 men will accomplish in a day.

Advance Work Pays

Another important item is the compost pile. It is advisable to have enough top-dressing screened in the fall, before the heavy rains set in and put under cover in the dry. What a helpful item this is in the spring when you want an early start. Catch the dry days to do your screening, you can always turn your compost over when you can't screen.

A new compost pile may be started. It will always come in useful, no matter what it is made from, so that it decays and rots. Some greenkeepers use all their grass clippings in their compost pile. Other common ingredients that are used are manure, ammonium sulphate tankage, lime, etc., almost anything that will make a good soil. Greenkeepers I find have their own ideas on making a compost pile. If they get results that are good from their

methods they stick to them; results count a great deal in greenkeeping.

Care for Trees

Trees are another important item that ought to claim attention. It is a common saying of men and women, "I love trees." Beyond letting them grow, do they ever do anything else for them? I venture to say not much. These silent, stately landmarks of time that have been buffeted and blown by a thousand winds, whose limbs and branches have been battered and broken, ought to be given a helping hand, by removing all dead and decayed limbs. Help them grow, by pruning them. Some may need spraying. Feed them occasionally and the effect will be manifold. Fall is a good time to dig around shrubs and deciduous trees, replace all vacant places where there are dead trees and take plants out where overcrowded or congested.

It is not wise to leave all this work until spring, for the chances are with all the other work crowding on they will be neglected again and be forgotten.

Pathways from tees or over bunkers may need a little attention, bridges may need strengthening and shelter-houses may need repairing. Take in bird houses, signs and markers. There will be plenty of wet days later on when these can be cleaned and painted. Fences should be looked to in the fall. Roadways and drives can be fixed also.

Any greenkeeper will be able to find work up till Christmas for 2 or 3 men if given a free hand and possibly after that time he will still need a little help for he will have the cleaning and repairing of machinery, painting benches and scores of other little jobs will come along at all times which will need doing. Many of these jobs are never seen by the chairman or members of the Green Committee but they are vital to a properly maintained course.

Weed Control by Use of Iron Sulphate

By JOHN MAC GREGOR
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THE subject of weed control by the use of iron sulphate has been discussed many times, and articles by me on this topic have appeared in GOLFDOM with special reference to the eradication of dandelions. A great many letters of inquiry

regarding eradication of dandelions I have answered. What success has been attained by those advised I do not know, as, I have never heard from them since. If, there are any with whom I have communicated I would be glad to hear from them. Someone may have hit on a better solution. If so, I would like to get in on it.

For the benefit of those who may not have read the articles previously printed; the dandelion was a rarity in this country a great many years before golf was much thought of, but an energetic truck gardener immigrated to this country from Italy and some time after he located, discovered the greens which his countrymen loved so much were very scarce. So he imported from Italy a few pounds of dandelion seed. I must say it must have been a reliable seed house he bought the seed of. The dandelion has become a curse especially to the golfer; it is almost impossible to find a golf ball among the white seed tops. Now we must find ways and means of destroying them, it seems an impossible task, but it is not; I have met with considerable success in combating them.

Washington was the first thought when we, (the Chicago G. C.) thought seriously of fighting the dandelion, so we wrote to the Department of Agriculture, and these are the instructions we received, "Copperas has been found to be the most effective means of eradicating dandelions, formula $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds to one gallon of water, dissolve thoroughly and apply with a pressure sprayer 150 lbs." So we secured a power sprayer of 200 gal. capacity. Iron sulphate was secured. We commenced on the worst infested area. The morning after the application had been made we inspected the result and were disappointed. The iron had only caused rust spots to appear on the foliage.

But where the wheels of the sprayer had travelled the foliage was entirely black. This gave me the thought that the leaves must be bruised before the iron would penetrate. I had a chain drag which had been used during the construction of the course. This I attached behind the sprayer, and found this to be the correct method as the drag bruised the leaves and rubbed the material into the wounds; two hours after the application the entire area sprayed was black. I found it necessary to spray five consecutive times two weeks apart to destroy the entire plant.

The first copperas we bought was very