

# Hypo Syringe and Gasoline Deal Death to Dandelions

By G. A. SKINNER

All greenkeepers know gasoline will kill dandelions, but most of them hesitate to use it because the gasoline is difficult to control; the turf surrounding each dandelion plant is likely to be killed, too.

Col. Skinner, U. S. Army Medical Corps, Omaha, finds that an ordinary \$1.50 glass syringe gives the desired control, while at the same time application is fast enough to be practical.

**I**N OBSERVING work of greenkeepers at various courses where I have played during the past few years, my admiration of their results in keeping greens free from weeds has constantly grown. It has appeared, however, to be a very laborious process, and especially in keeping out dandelions.

I have been fond of keeping up my lawn for a number of years, but up to three years ago almost despaired of ever controlling the dandelions therein. I dug them out by the ton, but they only seemed to thrive on the process, and were taking over the better part of certain portions of the lawn, in spite of fertilization, digging them out, and even digging up the area and reseeding.

Then one day, it occurred to me that gasoline was fatal to vegetation. Methods had been suggested for using gasoline, but an oil can did not control the amount of gasoline applied, so that much grass around each dandelion plant was killed whenever I attempted to use it.

Some instrument that would accurately control the gasoline was essential, and I tried first the ordinary laboratory pipette, which worked admirably and made it possible to put gasoline where I wished to, but was slow and rather cumbersome. In casting about for something better, my eyes happened to note a large glass syringe, such as doctors use for taking blood specimens. This syringe had a long slender needle, and appeared to be the exact thing to fill the bill. I tried it. The results were entirely beyond expectations,

and after using it a few weeks I found I had absolute control over the dandelions, with comparatively little work and no damage to other vegetation.

The method is so extremely simple that most people won't try it, but for two years I have had a lawn practically free from dandelions, and this with so little work that it seems to me the method would be ideal for controlling weeds on greens, approaches and tees.

## Needle Not Injected.

First let me say that there is nothing specific in the syringe itself. The plant is not injected, and anything else that will control gasoline as accurately will work as well. Many persons make the error of thinking it is necessary to inject the



Method of applying gasoline by means of a syringe

plant; this error I wish especially to point out at the beginning. The needle is held over the plant, never injected into it.

All that is necessary is for the gasoline to reach the center of the dandelion and the plant promptly dies. I have dug them up after several days and found the roots completely disintegrated. Three to five drops on the crown of the plant will kill it without fail, if it is not wet at the time. Three or four drops on each developing flower will prevent seed formation, so I always destroy them also.

I use an ounce syringe. It is of glass,

with an accurately ground piston; the needle is long and slender. This gives the necessary control of the gasoline, and is the only advantage in this particular form of instrument. After the syringe is filled I control the plunger by the pressure of my left little finger, which acts as a brake and prevents the dripping of excess gasoline. Placing the needle above the center of the plant, I depress the piston slightly, and a few drops of gasoline run onto the plant. That is all there is to it. One can kill 30 to 40 a minute, and each loading of this ounce syringe will spread over that many or more plants, according to amount used on each. Usually by the second day the plant is brown or black in the center then it withers, and in a week no trace of it can be found.

The method works very satisfactorily also on plantains, but they are more resistant, so I usually put a little at the tip of each leaf, as well as in the center, and they likewise disappear. It is especially valuable in getting weeds out of places where it is next to impossible to dig them, such as between cracks in sidewalks, around stepping stones, on walls, etc. Vegetation of any sort can be killed very promptly in this easy way.

The illustrations will make the method plain. Its simplicity appears to be its greatest obstacle. If one does not wish to bend his back, it would be a very simple matter to fashion a similar instrument with a long handle, but I think it would be difficult to make it as accurate as the method outlined. But if done as suggested, it is very effective, and by going over the turf as often as new weeds start to develop, they may be instantly killed, and without the necessity of disturbing the surface of the turf in the slightest. Anyone can be taught the method in five minutes at the outside. And it does work.

Such a syringe as pictured costs about \$1.50 and may be purchased from any dealer in surgical supplies, under the name of Leur syringe.

## Big Turn-Out for Rhode Island Field Day

**FIFTH** annual greenkeepers' field day, held May 21 at Rhode Island State college agricultural experiment station, Kingston, R. I., drew an attendance of over 70, including a larger percentage of greenkeepers than have attended the four previous field days, according to H. F. A.

North, assistant research professor of agronomy at the station.

A tour was made of lawn, putting green and seed plats. One group of lawn plats is devoted to a study of the resistance of grasses to wear. Much interest was shown in the putting green plats with regard to the quality of different varieties, and the effects of varying proportions of N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>



and K<sub>2</sub>O in the fertilizer applied. Interest was also shown in the habits and control of the bluegrass webworm.

After lunch Dr. John Montieth, Jr., spoke on the subject of economical course maintenance. He stressed the growing tendency of golfers to demand good but not luxurious playing conditions at moderate cost. Some of the ways to achieve this were pointed out.

Annual meeting of the R. I. Greenkeepers' club was held following the speaking program. Exhibits and demonstrations of sprinklers, mowers and spikers formed a very interesting feature of the day.

## Midwest Greenkeepers Hold Equipment Demonstration

**A** WELL-ATTENDED equipment demonstration was conducted at Twin Orchards GC (Chicago district), May 23, under auspices of the Midwest Greenkeepers Assn. Fred Kruger, Fred Ingwerson and Edward B. Dearie, Jr., made up the Midwest committee handling the event.

Demonstrations were divided into following classes: tractors and trucks, power lawn mowers, hand mowers, fertilizer distributors, sickles, green mowers, fairway units and tractors, sprinklers, miscellaneous equipment and supplies.

The show ran from 10 a. m. until 5, with an hour for luncheon.

Income from the demonstration is to be contributed toward the operation of the Midwest turf garden of the USGA Green Section.