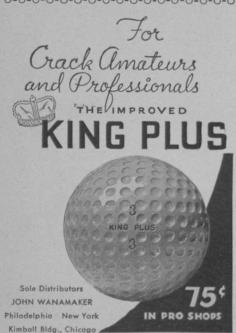
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## Tells of Greenkeeping Advances During Past Decade

By JAMES McCORMACK\*

DURING the past few years many changes have been made in the methods of greenkeeping in an effort to produce fine golf turf. Various educational campaigns have enabled the greenkeeper to keep abreast of the times, by gaining knowledge of the intricate phases of golf course maintenance and construction. New grasses have been developed which are more suitable for golf turf and better adapted to our soil conditions. New fertilizer programs have been established and a more economical and effective control of diseases and insects has been promoted.

The successful greenkeeper of today has made a study of construction phases of golf course work and can take care of any alteration of the course in a manner that satisfies the golfer and at the same time simplifies maintenance problems. He must be a golfer so that he may understand what makes a hole fair for the average golfer or for the expert. He must understand soils, drainage, and irrigation, so as to produce the most satisfactory turf on tees, fairways, and greens. Several years ago practically all purchases for the golf course were made through some one other than the greenkeeper. Today, the chairman of the green committee expects his greenkeeper to be qualified to make purchases of any supplies to be used on the golf course.

## Improvement Details In Courses

Ten years ago we had putting greens of mixed grasses cut at a height of about % of an inch with a wheel-type lawn mower. Today, we have through the demand of the golfer, greens of one strain of grass cut ¼ inch in height and some times less with an eight-bladed roller type high-speed mower. This gives us greens of an even texture and color with a good body of grass which makes an ideal putting surface.

Tees are now a much more important part of the golf course than formerly and they receive considerable more attention than was the case a few years ago. The golfer expects a level tee unmarred by divot holes and giving a firm stance so that he may have an opportunity of getting the best results from his tee shot.

<sup>\*</sup>Address given at Mass. GA Service Section dinner.

Tees have been increased in area so that this condition may be maintained.

Fairways have been changed from ordinary pastures to areas of fine turf which gives a good lie wherever the ball may come to rest. Fairway watering is now considered almost a necessity, so great has been the demand for better conditions.

These improvements have been brought about through the cooperation of various agencies. The Green Section of the United States Golf Assn has furnished a tremendous amount of information through research work at its Arlington Gardens. The Massachusetts Golf Assn. through its Service Section Committee has rendered the clubs and greenkeepers in this district a great deal of service by its active interest in maintenance problems and its experimental work established at Charles River has been the source of much information on local problems.

The Greenkeepers Club of New England through its educational meetings held monthly for the past eleven years has done a great deal to raise the standard of greenkeeping. Its winter meetings have given its members an opportunity to hear the foremost authorities on the different phases of producing fine turf. Its summer meetings have been held on different golf courses throughout New England giving an opportunity to observe conditions on these courses, inspect equipment, and discuss seasonal problems.

Seedmen and manufacturers of golf course equipment have kept pace by providing cleaner seed of better quality and improved machinery which does finer work

at a saving of labor costs.

Not all of the recommendations made by scientists and research workers have been found satisfactory when tried under actual playing conditions and some of them have been later corrected. It is therefore important that any new theory offered should be carefully tested before being put into general use.

We certainly have not progressed bevond the point in golf course maintenance where further advancement is not necessary, but with the continued co-operation of these agencies, golfers may be assured of progress for better playing conditions.

TOMMY MIYAMOTO of the visiting Jap pro team gives an average of 160 lessons a month at his home club. Lesson fee is one yen.

A lot of members in this country who have a yen to play better golf ought to be taking from their pros.



It takes a lot of "nursing" to keep turf healthy in summer. So, when you start brown patch treatment, be sure you don't use any fungicide which may retard grass growth!

Treating with SPECIAL SEME-SAN, a new low-cost organic mercury fungicide, you're safe. It destroys brown patch fungi but lets the turf thrive. Costs less than other organic mercuries, goes twice as far. One pound treats 6,000 square feet of turf.

Order from your golf supply house: 5 lbs., \$10.00; 25 lbs., \$42.50; 100 lbs., \$165.00. Start treating turf now!



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