

Simple, Cheap Device Reduces Dandelion Infestation

WALTER H. SCHRADER, manager of the Harlem GC (Chicago district), has developed and used successfully a simple device for reducing dandelions. Schrader's ingenuity was the result of having to speed play on a popular fee course where heavy dandelion bloom either cuts down play or requires so much fairway mowing that turf growth may be retarded.

Schrader's method:

Secure two pieces of 2-inch heavy mesh chicken wire about 30 feet in length, and about 5 feet wide. Lace these together, with a medium heavy galvanized wire, trying to keep the laced sides even, in other words trying to keep out the bulges. Wrap and lace one end of this mat to a 3-inch pipe. Before lacing drill a few holes through this pipe in order to secure a better wrapping when lacing same and to keep the wire from sliding off.

On each end of this pipe secure two swivel wheels, about the size of the old Chadburn Caldwell Mower wheels. These wheels will help to keep the front end of the mat up, near the hitch and also help in turning the mat.

The tail end is kept down by wrapping and lacing the same as the front end with the exception that a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pipe is used. The hitch is made with chains that are heavy enough to withstand the strain of pulling. Hitch this mat behind the truck and take along in high.

In pulling along at normal speed you will notice that the mat has a tendency to creep next to the ground and into the turf, and will snap off the dandelion heads throwing them into the air 5 or 6 feet, providing the turf is dry.

Do not expect to get results with this mat when the turf is wet or heavy with dew, as same will clog up with the clippings left on the fairways by the mowers.

Monteith Says Device Should Work

Commenting on Schrader's device, Dr. John Monteith, Jr., of the USGA Green Section says:

"This looks like an interesting suggestion which might serve a very useful purpose in dry seasons. He points out of course that it would not work when the grass is wet, which unfortunately is likely to be the case during a lot of the time when dandelions are troublesome in normal seasons.

"However it is a gadget that doesn't cost much and if it works elsewhere as it does at Harlem it should reduce the wear and tear on the mowing machinery and at the same time be helpful to the grass because no doubt the greenkeepers are forced to mow the fairways too often during the dandelion season simply to get rid of the blossoms.

"Dandelion flowers and seed heads easily snap off and I can readily understand how this sort of thing would do the trick nicely under a great many conditions. Even though it doesn't destroy the dandelion plants it no doubt would greatly reduce the infestation of dandelions in later years due to cutting off a good proportion of dandelion blossoms before the seed is matured.

"In the past this procedure has not been considered very important due to the belief that dandelion blossoms even when cut off will go ahead and mature viable seed. However recent work by one of the men in the Michigan Agriculture college has indicated this is by no means the case. Therefore if the wire netting can cut off the dandelion blossoms the seed crop will be reduced."

Wardman Park Hotel Is Headquarters for NAGA 1937 Washington Meet

NATIONAL convention of the NAGA for 1937 will be held in Washington, D. C., February 2, 3, 4, and 5, it has been announced. The Wardman Park Hotel has been selected as the official convention headquarters.

The Continental room of the Wardman will serve as the show floor and will provide approximately the same area as the show floor at the convention in Cleveland early this year. Educational conferences will be held at a theater within the hotel, having a seating capacity of 500, and the banquet and exhibitors dinner will be held in the Dragon room of the Wardman Park.

Conn. Greensmen Elect.—At the annual meeting of the Connecticut Greenkeepers' assn., held March 2 at Brooklawn CC, Bridgeport, the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Fred Emenger, Fairfield CC; Vice-pres., Donald McKay, Sunset Ridge CC, East Hartford; Sec.-treas., Chas. Traverse, Mill River CC, Stratford; Asst. Sec.-treas., I. R. Pierson, New Haven Myny Cse; Director, Ed. Hill, Brooklawn CC.