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V-GARDENS

Golf clubs are in perfect position to promote Victory Gardens and national activity has already begun. Here is how one well-known club will carry through its program

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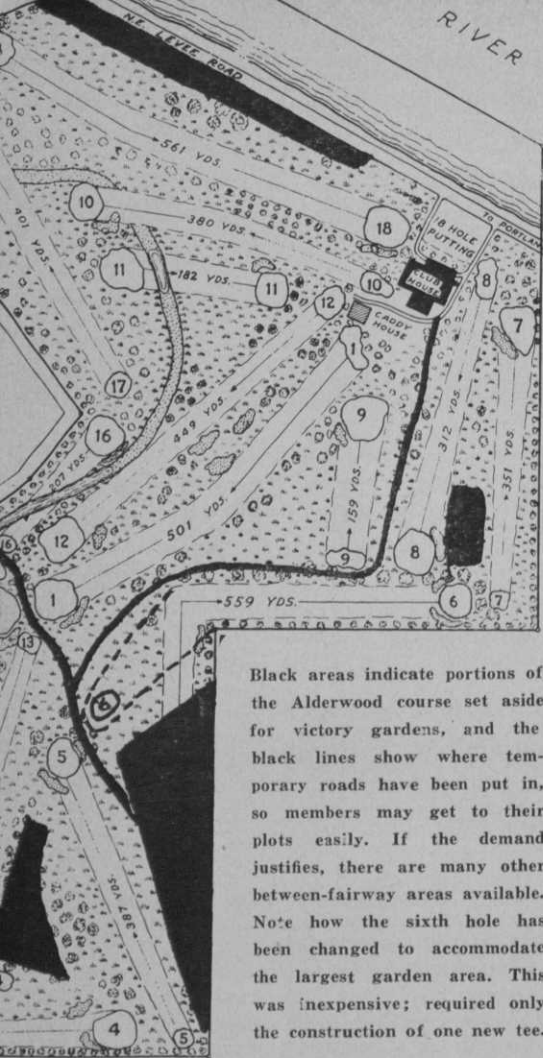
LAST year, a few private clubs here and there through the U. S. set aside acreage for member Victory Gardens. The idea proved sound; not only were soil and growing conditions satisfactory for the projects, but more important, the amateur gardeners had an experienced consultant in the club greenkeeper to advise them on proper cultivation practices and to keep them from ruining their vegetable plots through too much zeal and too little knowledge. At season's end, most club members with Victory Gardens were rewarded with a vegetable harvest beyond their hopes.

Alderwood Country Club of Portland, Ore., promoted the idea of war gardens last year with considerable success—so much so that Alderwood is going all out for V-gardens in 1943. N. R. Hockinson, chairman of the club's War Garden committee, has announced that a plot up to 50 x 100 feet will be made available to any member who will agree to work it. Of course, a member doesn't have to take a 5,000 sq. ft. plot; he can take half that much if he feels he will not have the time to tend a large garden or if he is willing to forego such vegetables as corn and squash, which require a lot of room for

growth. You might say it all depends on how much sweating a member is willing to do this summer.

Alderwood has 85 acres usable for war gardens, but it isn't expected that all of it will be needed. At present, four different areas of unused club property have been set aside for the project, as shown on the accompanying map. Temporary roads skirting the fairways will make it possible for plot owners to reach their gardens from the clubhouse and from the highway. When the time arrives, the club will plow, disc and harrow all plots at no cost to the members, and after that it will be up to them to get in their seed and tend their crops by their own labor. But to make things as easy as possible for the gardeners, water will be made available from the Alderwood irrigation system and there will be plenty of club tools for members who have none. The club has acquired a stock of recommended seed for sale to the V-gardeners. And as a final touch, Alderwood has hot-house space, formerly used for flowers, where members may start early vegetables.

When the idea of war gardens in '43 was first broached to Alderwood's members



Black areas indicate portions of the Alderwood course set aside for victory gardens, and the black lines show where temporary roads have been put in, so members may get to their plots easily. If the demand justifies, there are many other between-fairway areas available. Note how the sixth hole has been changed to accommodate the largest garden area. This was inexpensive; required only the construction of one new tee.

ASSURING A HARVEST

There is no point going ahead with V-gardens if members are not serious about them. To spur lagging ambitions and to make clear that neglect will not be tolerated, Wykagyl CC (Westchester distr., N. Y.) has established the rule that if a member applies for a plot, then neglects it, the club will maintain the garden and add the cost of the labor to his account. This makes sense; all V-garden clubs should adopt a similar regulation.

working it energetically and with the serious purpose of raising vegetables. True, there may be suitable land nearer to town, perhaps in the member's back yard, but there is a whale of a difference between tending a garden in such a spot and working one at the club, where a plot much too large to be spaded and turned by hand can be put in condition for the member and where he can have adequate water, expert supervision and the help and advice of fellow gardeners. Such "conveniences," if you want to call them that, can easily triple the harvest, and this year, every pound of vegetables counts.

As pointed out, the possible argument that these V-gardens are at the club rather than nearer home is more than offset in soundness by the advantages the club sites offer. Likewise, a vegetable garden doesn't mature in a week, or a month; it produces all season. A certain amount of attention will be necessary, but after the crops start their growth, there won't be many days when a plot 50 x 100 feet will demand a full day's work. Maybe weeding or cultivating is in order, maybe the plot needs water; but in any event the member is going to find half a day adequate to meet these demands.

If then, being already at the club, he chooses to play some golf, he is certainly entitled to the relaxation and pleasure the game affords him, and it will be a narrow-minded "patriot" who criticizes such activity.

Alderwood's president, W. Elmer Ramsey, recently declared: "While some clubs have been closed for the duration, we at Alderwood believe we can better serve by keeping up our golf course, afford our members the opportunity to play golf, and at the same time raise vegetables to aid in the nation's food problem." That sentiment is echoed by Alderwood's directors, by the club's veteran manager, Arthur Craig, and by the members.

back in January, they did not warm up very rapidly. But the first sunshine that came along happened to coincide with the OPA's announcement of food rationing. That changed the minds of a lot of members, who saw in the V-garden plan a chance to combine attendance at the club with pretty good assurance that the home larder would have all the vegetables it wanted.

Alderwood's project was started long before gas rationing entered the picture, so the club cannot be accused of installing the gardens to justify members using their cars to get to the club. Nevertheless now that travel restrictions are in force, Alderwood feels that no clear-thinking rationing board is going to protest what little extra gasoline a member will need to get to his victory garden, assuming he is