

## NEW JERSEY'S LEAD IN STATE Turf Research Financing FURNISHES FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**M**ENTION was made in June GOLF-DOM of the New Jersey state legislature's appropriation of \$5,000 for financing turf research at the state agricultural experiment station. Information available at that time inadvertently omitted reference to the work the Greenkeepers' association of New Jersey had done, together with the U. S. G. A. Green Section, various park commissions and cemetery organizations of the state in getting this state appropriation recommended.

Officials of the New Jersey greenkeepers' association, headed by F. J. Roth of Plainfield, president, were prominently instrumental in getting this issue considered and carried through to a successful conclusion, and are to be highly complimented on their pioneering efforts. Other sectional organizations of greenkeepers have shown interest in the New Jersey development so it will not be amiss to set forth some pertinent comments that have been made by greenkeepers, club officials and turf experts.

The first admonition handed out by all of those interviewed is an earnest warning against jumping into the battle with a hastily considered and incomplete plan. The research organization at New Jersey is a "going institution," but the extent of its operations was limited by the common cramping factor in turf research, lack of money. The greenkeepers, as individuals, undoubtedly were responsible for a much larger turf investment, per man, than any of the others who would be benefited by the legislative appropriation, but numerically they were not large enough to rate very high in any solo dip into the state's funds, no matter how sincerely they believed they were entitled to help. But with the park commissions as a certainly representative body answering for a big part of the public, and the individual home owner's lawn interests put into the picture, and with the cemetery organizations allied, the folks concerned with better turf became a group large enough to forcibly present their case, either from the angle of cash value to property or from the not-to-

be-neglected standpoint of voting power.

The U. S. G. A. Green Section had their men on the job with evidence of what the Green Section had been able to do despite its financial restrictions. With the intensely practical men of standing and the acknowledged turf scientists both on the job, there was bound to be weight to the testimony.

### Turf Research Not Cheap

Turf research, to be of practical value, is far from a cheap proposition. The time element, treatment requirements, extensive field work, tedious, persistent and competent investigation and checking, all run up into big money. They are vital or the work will be of such limited good and of such indefinite nature that it could easily be worse than valueless. So in such territories where the greenkeepers' or district golf organizations have an ambition to put into effect turf research like that established in New Jersey the interested organizations might as well set themselves down for an adequate financing program and declare themselves for a sufficient period of time to give the proposition a real chance to make good.

Reference was made by one of the parties interviewed to one state organization's intention to take students out of the state agricultural college, give them a necessarily superficial training at the golf turf plots and send them out to help greenkeepers as the operating details of the organization's field extension work. Without reservation this plan was subjected to criticism because it involved sending insufficiently trained men out to advise practical veterans who were placing a great deal of faith in the value of assistance from laboratory technicians. Not only might heavy investments in turf be imperiled by ill-advised recommendations of the half-baked visitors, but the prevailing trend of whole-hearted co-operation between the advancing practical man and the well qualified turf scientist would suffer a sad set-back.

In many parts of the country state stations are doing work of profound signif-

cance and value to the golf courses of those states. Elsewhere in this issue of GOLFDOM there is an article from the Florida station that, although originally intended for the lawn-owner, is very helpful to the greenkeeper. On every hand there are other indications that the work of the state stations could be extended and made profitable to the golf clubs of the territory were the work organized and financed with this end in view.

The New Jersey legislature's action should be followed by similar activity in other states. Which will be the next to further the cause of better turf with less uncertainty and expenses?

## What to Use for Money?

By DANIEL C. SNOW

*Greenkeeper, Segregansett G. C.*

**A**MONG the illuminating experiences that come to the greenkeeper on a course where work is plenty and dollars few is the remark often made to him by members passing in their play, "I played the Swansdown Course yesterday. It was in wonderful shape—greens like velvet." If the greenkeeper is a wise man, as of course all greenkeepers are, he will smile genially and say, "Yes, I played that two weeks ago. It is a fine course and in top shape."

Perhaps the member will come back with, "They had great piles of black stuff near all the greens. Don't you think some of that would do our greens good?" The greenkeeper, a wise man, as of course all greenkeepers should be, allows it would, but suggests that it costs a lot of money. He knows that the course in question employs three men to his one and spends ten times as much money. Some day he may have a chance to explain this to the interested member, but not now.

It is my job in this round table monologue to speak a word for the greenkeeper on a course where members like to play on velvet greens well mowed and watered, well weeded, well fertilized, but where money is not abundant. Circumstances in the shape of wishes of members and committees often compel him to do the things he ought not to do, and leave undone the things he should have done. He must evolve for himself a working compromise between the desires of the players and the fundamental needs of the course. As he mows, clips, rakes, clears up, patches sod, and busies himself and his men about the

work necessary to make his course presentable to the eye and playable to the ball, he may be often disheartened as he realizes the weeds are invading his greens, his nursery bed is getting away from him, his experimental plots are not receiving the attention they need. That is too bad, particularly so when he knows that from this neglect the course will suffer more the next year than it will this.

Brother greenkeeper, determine for yourself what you consider the most fundamental needs of the course in your care. Spend as much time as possible on those needs, knowing there will be sure and increasing returns with every year. Spend what time is necessary to make the course presentable and playable. Your reward will be an easy mind and sweet sleep o' nights.

Best of all, inconsiderate members and committees are the rare exception. Your efforts will be appreciated and an occasional remark from a member that your greens are the best in the section barring none, will assure you your work is worthwhile.—*From the "Newsletter" of the N. E. Greenkeepers' Club.*

## Long Island G. A. Forms Green Section

**A**BOUT twenty-five greenkeepers and green-chairmen attended the first meeting of the recently organized Green Section of the Long Island Golf Assoc., held July 1, at Wheatley Hills C. C., East Williston, L. I. After an examination of the demonstration turf plots, planted at Wheatley Hills by the U. S. G. A. Green Section in cooperation with the Metropolitan Golf Assoc. Green Section, a dinner was served to which the visiting greenkeepers and green-chairmen were invited as guests of the club. Following dinner, Mr. Kenneth Welton of the U. S. G. A. Green Section spoke briefly on the recent work of that organization, emphasizing the relationship between the parent body, the local green sections and the demonstration turf plots.

Other speakers were Ralph W. Curtis, professor of ornamental horticulture at the N. Y. State College of Agriculture, and H. C. Hallock, associate entomologist, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, who has been assigned to beetle work on Long Island.

It is planned to hold a similar meeting this fall.



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## Complete Plans for Green Section Meetings

SUMMER meetings of the U. S. G. A. Green Section to be held at Arlington station, near Washington, August 19 and 20 and at A. D. Lasker's Mill Road estate at West Lake Forest, Ill., August 26 and 27, promise to be the best attended affairs of this kind ever held. Team-work between the Green Section and the Mid-Atlantic Greenkeepers' Association, handling the Arlington session and between the Green Section and the Mid-West Greenkeepers' Association on the meeting north of Chicago, has resulted in considerable interest among greenkeepers and green-chairmen.

Details of the two day sessions were published in July GOLFDOM.

The session at Mill Road will give many of the mid-westerners their first opportunity to visit the new Green Section experimental station where much work of value has been inaugurated due to the combined financing of the Green Section and Mr. Lasker. The Lasker private course is one of the country's finest private jobs and is to be made available for a golf tournament of green-chairmen and greenkeepers. A prize is to be given the best scoring team of greenkeeper and his own chairman. There also will be prizes for individual scores and a "kickers" event. Alex Pirie, president of the P. G. A., is to be the presiding genius of the tournament.

As the Mill Road course is private and does not have the facilities of a big clubhouse, it is requested that greenkeepers and green-chairmen in the middle states

advise the Green Section at P. O. Box 313, Penna. Ave. station, Washington, D. C., of intention to attend so arrangements for caddies, meals, etc., may be made.

All interested in golf course maintenance problems are invited to attend these sessions whether or not associated with clubs belonging to the U. S. G. A. Green Section.

## Foresight Is Fall "Theme" Song

By ALEX McWHINNIE

*Pro-Greenkeeper, Morrison (Ill.) G. C.*

A GREAT deal has been said and written about the trials and worries of the greenkeeper and the green-chairman. In fact the belief is abroad that theirs is a life of just "one damned thing after another." It may be true unfortunately in some cases, but in most cases it is not so. Cooperation and understanding, with each willing to share the responsibilities and shoulder the blame for things gone wrong, will go a long way towards making it more pleasant for both of them. Where the opposite attitude prevails there will be no peace or contentment for either of them.

At this time of year, when the greenkeeper is planning his fall program of work, the utmost cooperation with his green-chairman is necessary. Seeding, fertilizing, construction work, patching, replenishing traps, getting compost ready, draining the sprinkling system, and all the other jobs that crop up, should be thought over, talked over, and discussed with the green-chairman.

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his budget and who can finish his fall program as planned is indeed fortunate. The one who has overdrawn his budget will have to ask for, and should receive an appropriation in order to carry out his program and complete his work. To refuse him is unwise. To curtail work in the fall is a mistake. Working conditions are ideal in the fall. Play has fallen off and there is very little interference. The damage to the turf from machinery is very slight, whereas in the spring, if you carry the work over you will find the very opposite. Weather conditions are against construction work, the players are "rarin' to go," and the greenkeeper with what little time he has between frosts and showers, is busy in the big race to get his

course in shape for the eager golfers.

Let the fall work go on. The condition of your course next spring depends almost entirely upon whether you do or whether you do not. Overhauling and repairing your equipment, and all of your painting can be done during winter. With this accomplished both greenkeeper and greenchairman can spend what time they have with that feeling of contentment and satisfaction which is theirs, and which they have earned in so far as their golf course is concerned. Early play in the spring over a course in good condition is a good thing for any club, but you must not hope for this unless you carry through your fall program to a finish. It just requires a little "foresight."

## Divots from Leach's Mail-Bag

### When to Water?

Sir:

Will you kindly give us your opinion of watering greens in the morning?

I have just advised that this method be discontinued, but have also just read the article on page 30 of the July issue, and as I am a mere tyro in course management, I would be glad to have your opinion on which is best for this section during the hot spell—morning or evening watering.

W. L.  
(Ohio).

### Answer

The perennial argument anent night versus morning watering of greens is wrapped around the question of brown-patch control. It is my candid opinion that the time of watering is greatly overrated as a measure for the control of this disease. In fact I doubt that it amounts to much.

In watering greens I would keep one point constantly in mind, namely, to get the watering done in ample time so that the turf is entirely drained and firm before the heavy play of the day begins. Tramping on soft turf is a mighty bad business.

B. R. Leach.

### What About Ants?

Sir:

We have been reading your column with great interest and are glad to say that

arsenate of lead and ammonium sulphate have helped largely to give us the finest greens in the Islands.

Arsenate of lead, however, does not seem to improve the ant situation, and numerous little ant hills are a source of continuous trouble to our greensmen. Could you recommend anything, or any treatment that would rid us of these ants?

C. R. F.  
(T. H.)

### Answer

Sir:

In spite of all the research on this subject I know of no specific for this pest. As a subterfuge most greenkeepers simply pole the greens at intervals.

I note in July GOLFDOM an advertisement of an ant exterminator. I understand this is being used with success.

B. R. Leach.

### Crab Grass Control

Sir:

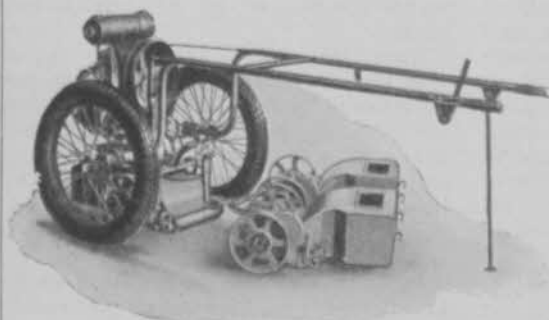
In the fall of the year we are troubled more or less with crab grass on our greens at our club, and recently I read that this crab grass could be eliminated by using one pound of arsenate of lead in 15 pounds of soil and broadcasting it over the grass on the lawn or greens and should be done at a time before the crab grass makes any material growth. Of course, we do not want to put anything on our grass that



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would be detrimental, so are writing to you to know if you have any information in relation to the above matter.

C. B.  
(Mo.).

### Answer

Sir:

Here in the east a very good degree of crab grass control has been obtained by the consistent use of arsenate of lead on greens. For this purpose it is best to begin applying the chemical first thing in the spring at the rate of one pound per thousand square feet of turf with each top-dressing and in addition would apply a three-pound application as soon as the crab grass begins to sprout. B. R. Leach.

### Why Not Hydrated Lime?

Sir:

I note in your article in GOLFDOM that you have a decided preference for any form of lime other than hydrated lime. Will you please advise the reason or reasons for your coldness toward the hydrate form?

### Answer

Sir:

I have no particular objection to hydrated lime except the fact that it is chemically very active as compared with other forms of lime and consequently is not foolproof, consequently unless a man knows all the tricks it may cause severe burning. It should never be applied in heavy applications of 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet of turf but rather in small doses of 10 to 15 pounds at intervals of 10 days to two weeks. It should furthermore never be applied immediately after the application of nitrogenous fertilizers such as ammonium sulfate.

As a matter of fact hydrated lime is much more rapid in correcting sour soil conditions than ground limestone and in the hands of the experienced and careful man is a valuable commodity. For general recommendation, however, I believe I will lose less sleep by advising the slower acting ground limestone.

B. R. Leach.

### When to Arsenate?

Sir:

Is fall a good time for applying arsenate of lead?

W. H.  
(Pa.)

### Answer

Sir:

For earthworm control and for the treatment of turf where grubs are work-

ing fall is one of the best times to apply lead arsenate mixed with milorganite. At this time the soil and atmosphere are cooling off so that the milorganite does not cause undue stimulation of the turf. In addition the arsenate has every opportunity to work down into the soil before the ground freezes. B. R. Leach.

### Getting Started Right As a Greenkeeper

Sir:

I read with great interest your articles in GOLFDOM and am writing for the purpose of getting some authoritative information from you on the possibilities which exist today in the "Greenkeeper" or "Golf Superintendent" field. If you are able to find time to drop me a few lines, I assure you it will be highly appreciated.

I am a chemist by profession but have not worked in the laboratory for 10 years due to poor health. I am now in good health and have for the past seven years been employed at one of the government establishments. In addition to having charge of rough construction work, excavating, concreting, etc., I have the farm under my supervision due to the fact that we raise on our own forage for our horses, which are a part of the transportation outfit.

About three years ago, due to the fact that I already was in charge of the farm, all grounds, including a 9 hole golf course were turned over to me. I have studied the golf maintenance problem considerably, like the work very much and have been wondering as to the possibilities in the field. I, of course, am aware of the fact my experience is very limited.

In order that you may be in a position to advise me as to whether my desire to follow the golf maintenance field is justified I will state that I am at present receiving a salary of \$3,400 a year with no chance for advancement. If the field is a good one I would make arrangements for competent instructions.

I thank you in advance for any information you may give me relative to average salary and demand for golf maintenance supervisors, I am

R. L.

### Answer

Sir:

As regards your aspirations toward the greenkeeping profession would say that in my opinion every man should do that one thing which he likes best. If he has the



necessary qualifications, success, mental and financial, takes care of itself within reasonable limits.

At the present time there is a decided surplus of greenkeepers in this country. Good members of the profession are out of work. Experienced men, with a background of success, are getting along nicely as a whole, while the few men with practical experience and some college training seem to have no apparently great difficulty in obtaining a job. If I were in your position, with your background of experience, I would write Professor Dickinson, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Mass., for particulars as regards the courses in greenkeeping given at that institution. If you can spare the time and the money the easiest way for you to break into the greenkeeping game would be to enroll under the Professor and have him try to put you into a job commensurate with your abilities.

As regards the money end of the proposition would advise that, compared with the average greenkeeper's salary you are doing pretty well where you are. The average greenkeeper in this country unfortunately does not receive \$3,400 per annum. High class greenkeepers in the metropolitan districts frequently get better than \$5,000, but it must be realized that these men are the cream of the profession, and they carry a heavy load on their shoulders. Aside from the metropolitan districts I doubt if greenkeepers average more than \$2,500 the country over.

B. R. Leach.

## Look Ahead a Little

By H. D. FARRANT

*Greenkeeper, The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.*

HERE it is mid-summer and at this time of year most of us greenkeepers are having some sleepless nights, with dry weather and the possibility of disease of some sort breaking out on our courses at any time. Then that wonderful change comes—we have a shower or two, better air and cooler weather—so when a fellow turns in for sleep, he really has a contented feeling that perhaps this world is not so bad after all.

It is this kind of weather in mid-season that makes us think of fall and winter, and in our minds we go over the many things we would like to do. But then we say, how can it be done? That is just the



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reason why, at this time, with this breathing spell between the many worries, we should outline a program from early fall on into winter.

Thought should be given to fairways, knolls, approaches and greens, which we know can be made better for playing conditions next year by the use of a little seed fertilizer and topdressing applied along in September, and unless *right now* we go after our green-committee, the time for seeding soon slips by and another season is gone. With a little foresight, time and expense, we could have improved conditions.

Looking beyond this fall seeding period, we try, by taking hole by hole, to make notes of the odd jobs we could, and should, do here and there to improve the course. Perhaps there are some old stumps or some stones that might be removed, some fills over here to level uneven ground so the rough can be cut quicker, a little drainage in that hollow. When these things are taken care of, they eliminate scythe work around stumps, stones and wet spots; save time and labor, and mean more money for equipment, seed and fertilizer, and other things you might not have the funds to buy otherwise, to say nothing of the pleased comments from the members for having these unsightly places taken care of.

Then there are compost piles to be worked, screened material to be prepared, sand to be hauled for spring, equipment to be overhauled, and numerous other odds and ends.

But the whole idea is to get these things behind you on your program, not to have them facing you in the spring. It is then I say the greenkeeper gets a little satisfaction and, looking back to those few cool days and nights when things were planned ahead, realizes what a little time and forethought have done for him.

**T**HE great things in greenkeeping are observation and experiment. It is unwise to do experimenting on greens or any part of the course that is in play, for obvious reasons. A turf nursery should be distinct from an experimental station, although they should be in close proximity. It is on these that seeds and fertilizers should be tested. The turf nursery should receive the same attention as the greens, no more and no less.—*From the Journal of the Golf Grnkprrs. Assn., England.*