

Greenkeeping Short Courses Announce Schedules

GREENKEEPING SHORT courses, educational factor which has proved itself of tremendous value to golf, are coming back in great shape now that the war's over. Dates already have been set for several of the courses and programs are being scheduled. Short courses were eliminated during the war years at most schools where they had been regular features, although in a few instances the courses were conducted on a curtailed but intense basis to deal with wartime problems.

Considerable interest has been expressed by returning servicemen in getting course maintenance education under the GI Bill of Rights educational provisions. However there are no schools having suitable courses available. At Massachusetts State college, Amherst, Mass., where a three month course was conducted during years before the war, it regretfully has been decided that it will not be "practical, advisable or possible" to conduct the winter course this year. Massachusetts State will have its recreation conference and exhibition March 14-17 inclusive, and in that affair the greenkeepers' section will have a valuable program of addresses, lectures and exhibits, according to Lawrence S. Dickinson, prof., agrastology, nationally noted head of the school's extensive work in course maintenance education.

Dickinson says that there have been 40 applicants for a Massachusetts State short course along the lines of those which used to be conducted and the school tried hard to work out a way of renewing the program, but was compelled to put it aside for this year.

Rutgers university, New Brunswick, N. J., announces its annual course in greenkeeping will be given Feb. 11-15. A circular describing the course is being prepared and will be sent on request by F. G. Helyar, Director of Resident Instruction, College of Agriculture. Considerable turf research work of a highly important character has been done at Rutgers over many years. The courses draw very well from greenkeepers eager to get from New Jersey scientists the close-up on their research.

Purdue will have its short course at the university, West Lafayette, Ind., March 18-20, advises Dr. Gerald O. Mott, executive sec., Department of Agronomy, Pur-

due university Agricultural Experiment Station. The registration fee will be \$4. Hotel facilities will be available in the Purdue Memorial Union and Fowler hotel. Of special interest in the Purdue program this year will be the coordinating of short course work with the research and field plans of the Midwest Turf foundation.

Iowa State college will have its annual short course in greenkeeping March 11 and 12 at Ames. The Iowa school is a phase of close coordination of the state greenkeepers' organization, the state agricultural school faculty and the state's agricultural research station. The frequent educational meetings of the Iowa greenkeepers and in the annual short course have been accountable for the state having an exceptionally high standard of course condition, even on the simpler of its 9-hole courses.

Minnesota is having its short course March 13-15 at the state university. The state golf course supts. association and university representatives are preparing a program headlining the maintenance work that had to be put aside during the war.

Penn State college, where considerable turf work of national interest and value has been done, will hold its short course Feb. 18-20, inclusive.

Rejuvenation of golf courses, neglected and ignored during the wartime years, and turf problems in general will be covered in Penn State's 15th Annual Fine Turf Conference. In announcing details of the conference, H. B. Musser, general chairman, stated this will be the first such conference since 1942.

This year's program, as well as those in other years, will be open to any one interested in fine turf, whether from Pennsylvania or any other state. There is no registration fee.

While production and maintenance of fine turf was relegated to the list of unessentials during the war, much of the reasearch in this field was continued at Penn State. As a result, findings of the research department, covering several years' work, will be reported in the conference program. Plans for extending this research in the future will also be outlined, in keeping with those practical problems raised by greenkeepers and others concerned with fine turf management.

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says Arthur McKnight, of Philmont C. C., Bethayres, Pa., shown (left) on the 12th fairway of this well-known Club's North Course.

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Among topics to be considered during the three-day sessions are: organic materials for soil conditioning; soil fertility details, including results of considerable experimentation with Kentucky blue grass, the fescues and the bents; insect control, with emphasis on use and application of the new insect-killing chemical, DDT, as related to the grasses; disease control; results of experiments in the use of 2,4-D for weed control as well as general aspects of the weed control problem; impounding of water and general drainage problems, and golf course renovation.

In considering golf course renovation, the conference will hear a discussion of turf problems in general, and particularly the aspects involved in coordinating research programs on a nation-wide scale. In this phase, the conference will have the assistance of Fred V. Grau, new director of greens for the USGA, who formerly was in the work at Penn State as a member of extension agronomy staff.

Detailed conference discussions will be presented by A. C. Richer and F. J. Holben, of the Penn State Agronomy staff;

H. F. Thurston, Jr., of the plant pathology staff; John O. Pepper and J. R. Haswell, of the extension entomology and agricultural engineering staffs and E. W. Schroeder of Agricultural Engineering staff.

Informal get-together programs are planned for each evening, while the annual dinner meeting has been scheduled for the evening of February 19. Any persons interested in additional details of the 15th Annual Fine Turf Conference should write direct to H. B. Musser, School of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.

Clubs Pay Expenses

Earlier history of the short courses had the greenkeepers paying their own expenses for study that has saved millions of dollars in golf course maintenance while improving the standard of courses. Now, however, the value of short courses has become so well known to experienced golf club officials that they consider short course attendance at one or more schools during the winter an important item of the budget and are active in encouraging the attendance of their greenkeepers.

There is a strictly business atmosphere day and night at these greenkeeping short courses. After the set programs and discussions there are informal clinics of greenkeepers comparing practical experiences on course maintenance and asking questions well into the night. In the few instances when chairmen have attended these sessions they've returned to tell that they wished their own business meetings of department heads of various companies could be conducted on the greenkeepers' short course basis of intense application and enthusiasm.

Pros who have attended short courses to improve themselves in handling greenkeeping-pro jobs, or to get information that will help them work on a more understanding basis with their club's course supt., have repeatedly expressed a desire for pro golf counterpart of the greenkeeping courses.

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Toro Begins Expansion; Goit New President

H. C. McCartney, veteran Minneapolis businessman, retired Jan. 1, 1946 as pres., Toro Mfg. Corp. Kenneth E. Goit was elected to succeed him, following a stockholders' meeting at which McCartney was honored for his long service. Several Twin City business men, including three veterans of World War II, have purchased an interest in the Toro company. Plans contemplate Toro expansion in the mowing machinery field.

Goit was Toro V. P. and has been associated with Toro for 21 years.

R. C. Lilly, chairman of the board of the First National Bank of St. Paul, heads the new interests in Toro. He said he and his associates bought in "because not only does the company enjoy a very excellent standing in the mowing machinery industry, but from all indications it is on the threshold of considerable future expansion."

The three World War II veterans, all of whom will be actively associated in the management of the company, are Robert W. Gibson, Minneapolis; C. Whitney Miller, Kansas City; and David M. Lilly of St. Paul. R. C. Lilly, was elected chairman of the board. Other directors are Goit; John M. Parker, pres. Northwestern Aeronautical Corp., St. Paul; Algot M. Johnson, pres. of the Al Johnson Construction Co., Minneapolis; Philip H. Nason, First National Bank, Minneapolis; David M. Lilly, Robert W. Gibson and C. Whitney Miller.

Commenting on the association of the new group, Goit said "Much as we dislike to see the original founders retire, nevertheless it is extremely gratifying to all of our employees, many of whom have been with us for years, to know that the plant is going to be kept in its present location and that future expansion will take place here where it started. But in addition to that the acquisition of three able young men in management posts is going to prove of great strength to the organization in years to come."

SPORT BROADCAST SCORES—Radio and sports authorities believe broadcast of Cleveland-Washington game for championship of National football league probably had one of the highest listener ratings ever given a sports event. Sunday afternoon time of the event overcame present geographical limitation of interest in pro football. Wilson Sporting Goods Co. sponsored the broadcast which was made by Harry Wismer, with Johnny Neblett coming in with bright commercials and comment.

DRIVING RANGE IDEA.—George Lake, Recreation Park courses, Long Beach, Calif., and pres., Southern Calif. PGA, heads a company which has applied for patents on the Hi-Ball Golf Fairway. The Hi-Ball patent covers laying out a practice range in checkerboard fashion so scoring is done according to the sections in which the ball hits. Handicapping to adjust to abilities of players is provided. The idea seems to have excellent possibilities in introducing a lively and entertaining element of competition in practice fairway golf.

NOVAK CLUB HOT—Novak Adjustable golf club was spectacularly demonstrated in the dedication day tournament at the PGA-donated pitch and putt course at Birmingham General Hospital, Van Nuys, Calif. Wielded by Marvin Stahl, former Michigan State open champion and now a Southern California pro star the club was used in par figures to tie for low score honors at 54.

TUCKER, SR. & JR. AT GOLF—Lt. Col. Wm. H. Tucker, jr., son of the widely known veteran architect, sends a scorecard of the 9-hole, 2835 yd., par 35 Allied GC, at Venice, Lido, Italy. Tucker, jr. was in the Engineer Corps all through the war in Europe. Latest completed job of Tucker, sr. is the University of New Mexico's 18-hole course, declared the best test of golf and the best turfed area in the state. It was built on a desert. Bill now is constructing the 18-hole course he designed for the Country Club at Carlsbad, N. Mex.

GOLF AUTHOR DIES—Rev. van Tassel Sutphen, 84, editor of Golf from 1900 to 1912 and from the 1890s a prolific newspaper and magazine writer on golf, died at his home at Morristown, N. J. Sept. 20. For years he was a member of the staff of Harper & Bros. After quitting literary work he entered the ministry from which failing health forced his retirement.

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HOW TO IMPROVE POSTWAR TURF MAINTENANCE

By O. J. NOER

FAIRWAYS—This is the second of two installments, the first of which, devoted to "Greens", appeared in the previous issue.

TEEES on most golf courses received scant attention during wartime because of the labor shortage. Very little was done aside from keeping them mowed. Improvement of tee turf is a postwar problem confronting many clubs. Spring is not the time for major renovation or rebuilding unless there is a nursery of good turf suitable for re-sodding. The task is best done in late summer or early fall, but the plan of procedure should be formulated now before the pressure of outside work starts.

The playing area on the tees at some clubs is wholly inadequate for the amount of play. A few tees are so small that it is impossible to keep turf of any kind on them. Grass can never recover when there is constant play from the same spot. On others, the lapse of time between moves of the tee plates is too short to permit full recovery of the turf, especially where there has been a marked increase in the amount of play. Infestation with clover, knotweed or crab grass is sure to follow. In either case a satisfactory turf cannot be maintained until the tees are made sufficiently large to support the amount of play. It is better to err on the side of making them a trifle too big, rather than too small. By building the tees so they can be cut with fairway units, the added cost of mowing is slight as compared with the expense of constantly re-sodding tees that are too small, or of fighting weeds and then seeding.

Tee Bank Construction

Banks along the sides of built-up tees are generally steep. This necessitates cutting the grass with hand mowers or with scythes. More frequent and heavier watering is required during hot weather, because of the added evaporation along the face of the slopes. There is no excuse for unsightly abrupt banks or slightly elevated tees. A gradual slope blends the tee into the landscape, and the grass on it can be cut quickly with a tractor-drawn 3- or 5-gang fairway mower. Occasionally the site chosen is

a spectacular one to provide an unusual vista, and may necessitate rather steep slopes on several sides of the tee. Sheeps fescue is the best grass to use on these slopes. It thrives in poor soil, survives summer drought, prevents soil erosion, and seldom requires cutting.

Tees are often built in wooded spots, or are surrounded by trees with little or no clearing in between. Trees are always farther away from greens similarly located. Excessive shade is commonly blamed for different turf growth. Shade may be a contributing factor, but tree roots directly underneath the turf may be the real cause. In either instance poa annua is apt to predominate without any, or very little, permanent grass such as blue grass or bent. Turf is usually good in spring and fall when poa annua is at its best. The bad effect of tree roots can be corrected by digging a trench around the sides and back of the tee, as suggested for greens in the Fall, 1945 GOLFDOM. Enough trees should be removed from heavily wooded areas to admit sunlight to the turf for a portion of the day, the opposition of tree lovers notwithstanding. Where it is a choice of trees or grass, the trees taken out will never be missed.

Resume Lead Arsenate Use

Little or no lead arsenate was applied during the war years. As a consequence, worm casts have started to become objectionable and there have been a few instances of grub damage. The use of lead arsenate should be resumed to eliminate worm casts and control grubs. Applications can be made any time between now and early spring at 5 to 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet. The larger amount should be approached where lead has not been used for several years or more. The treatments should extend 3 to 4 feet out beyond the teeing area to produce a poisoned barrier which will stop worms or grubs from entering the tee proper. Some arsenic should be used every year to keep worms and grubs under control.

The use of lime is justified on tees if the soil is moderate to strongly acid; that

is if the soil is more acid than pH 5.5 to 6.0. Soils needing lime should be tested for available magnesium and a finely ground dolomite containing 20 to 30 percent magnesium reported as the oxide, should be used if soil supply of this element is low. The rate for applying ground limestone should be 25 to 75 pounds per 1,000 square feet, depending upon the degree of acidity. The full rate is justified on strongly acid soil. Lime can be applied at any time, but preferably before growth starts in the spring.

The tendency is to under-fertilize rather than over-fertilize tees. Nitrogen is the element most needed, phosphorus ranks second, and potash comes last. Phosphorus and potash are less important than nitrogen partly because clippings are not removed. The mineral elements in them become available to grass during the process of decay.

The importance of generous feeding has been demonstrated very strikingly by several greenkeepers in Cleveland and elsewhere. They use 2 to 3 pounds of nitrogen to 1,000 square feet every 4 to 5 weeks, except in July and August. These rates are safe for natural organic fertilizers of low solubility, and may be safe for mixed fertilizers when applied in early spring before growth starts. After that the rate at any one time for soluble fertilizer must be reduced to amounts which supply three-fourths to one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet or less.

Fertilize, Top-dress All Tees

All tees should be fertilized and top-dressed this spring. Some of them may need seed in addition. When a soluble fertilizer is used, the tees that require seeding should be fertilized a week or 10 days before seeding. This precaution is advisable to prevent the possibility of retarding or inhibiting seed germination.

Spiking or severe raking immediately before seeding is important to prepare a seed bed. The job can be done quickly and thoroughly with a tractor drawn 3-gang spiker, such as the one illustrated. A light rolling after seeding and top-dressing is important to compact the surface. Then the seed will make contact with the soil and absorb the moisture needed to start growth.

The first application of fertilizer in the spring of 1946 should provide ample nitrogen. The amount of phosphoric acid used should be governed by a dependable soil test. Heavier rates are justified if the soil supply of available phosphorus is low, or if seeding is contemplated. Potash is not important unless the soil is sandy. Natural organics, such as cottonseed meal or Milorganite, should be applied at 40 to 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet, and when additional phos-



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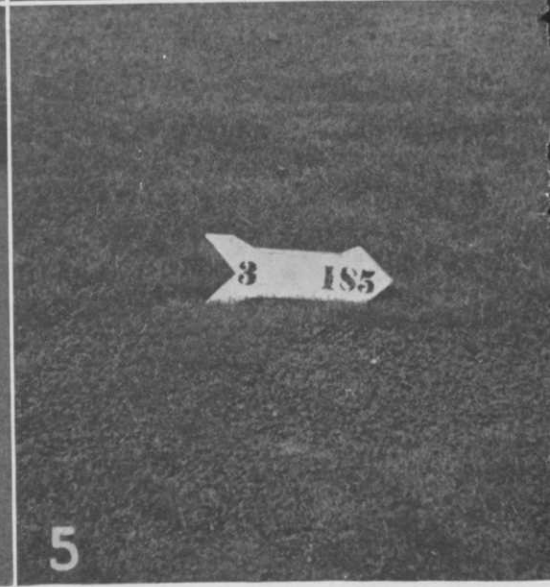
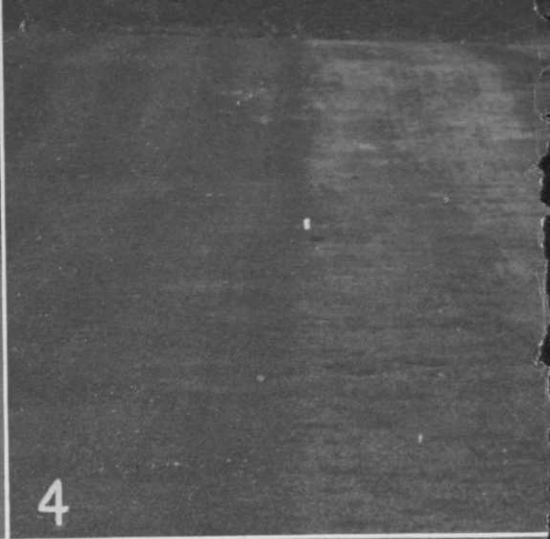
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PIX FROM THE TURF FRONT

1. A Tee at Algonquin in St. Louis, which is filled with tree roots. The turf is invariably bad, especially in summer.

2. Osear Bowman, the Greenkeeper at Algonquin, points to the tree roots in a spot selected at random. The roots rob grass of moisture and plant food.

3. After the sod was lifted and tree roots were removed from this tee at Country Club in Detroit. Then the sod was re-laid. Benefits last several years only. A trench between the tee and trees with sheet metal along the side nearest the trees is better, and benefits are more permanent.

4. Sodium arsenite has been used in half this tee at Areola to kill clover and weeds, preparatory to spiking and seeding.

5. The same tee a year later. The untreated part in the foreground is mostly clover. The treated and seeded half in the background has excellent turf and is free of clover and objectionable weeds.

Photos by O. J. Noer

phoric acid is needed, the rate for 20 percent grade superphosphate should be 10 to 15 pounds. The two materials can be mixed and applied together. When commercially mixed fertilizer is used, an analysis such as 10-6-4 or 10-8-6 is a good one for soils of moderate to high phosphorus content, but where phosphorus is low, or where seed is to be used, 6-12-4, 4-12-4, 5-10-5, etc., along with extra nitrogen is better. Mixed fertilizers are rarely used at rates exceeding 15 to 25 pounds per 1,000 square feet at any one time. They should be applied only when the grass is dry, and should be watered-in immediately to reduce the possibility of burning, which is caused by the soluble salts in the fertilizer.

Spring Seeding Tips

Spring is not a good time to seed permanent turf forming grasses, such as Kentucky blue grass and fescue, because it takes several weeks for the seed to germinate, and seeding growth is slow also. Late summer and early fall are the preferred times to seed them. Temporary grasses such as domestic or perennial rye grass, and red top, are the best ones for spring use. They germinate quickly and grow fast, but seldom persist beyond part of a season. Rye grass seed is large, so the seeding rate is usually heavy. Some greenkeepers use 15 to 25 pounds, or more, per 1,000 square feet. On the other hand, red top seed is very small, so several pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet is ample. Bent grass seed germinates in about the same time as red top and is a permanent grass that can be seeded in the spring with reasonable assurance of success. A colonial bent, such as Astoria or Highland should be used. Seeding in the spring should be confined to areas which are bare, or where the grass is exceedingly sparse. Fertilizer alone will do more good than seed, when permanent grasses are thin but coverage is uniform. Several applications at rates specified above, and spaced four to six weeks apart, will be needed.

Golfers desire firm surfaces on tees, so the top dressing should contain less organic matter than is used in the mixture for greens. The soil should be a loam, rather than a sandy loam, with not to exceed 10 percent by volume of organic matter. Such a soil will give a firm surface, and has a larger water-holding capacity than a sandy loam. A generous top-dressing in the spring should be enough to keep surfaces smooth and level.

Until recent years weed and clover infested tees were renovated the hard way. Sod was stripped from the tee, a seed bed prepared by spading or plowing, and then the tee was seeded. It was out of play from July until late Spring of the following year. Sometimes half the tee was renovated one season, and the other half the next year. Players were inconvenienced for the greater part of two seasons.

Tee Weed Control

Thanks to developments in chemical weed control, renovation can be accomplished without serious interruption of play. Farnham in Philadelphia, Kress in Milwaukee, and others have pioneered in this field, and deserve credit for devising a workable method. Sodium arsenite was used by them, and was applied dry because this method is less drastic on grass, especially in hot weather, than the spray method of application. Arsenic acid produces similar effects, but must be applied as a liquid spray. The arsenicals kill crab grass, are very drastic on poa annua, and will eliminate buckhorn, plantain, and dandelion, but at least three or four treatments are needed for dandelion. Both arsenicals prevent worm casts and help curb grubs.

The tees were treated with sodium arsenite three times, beginning in July or August, with an interval of two to three weeks between applications. The rate was 4 to 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet. It was safe for the dry method because there was enough moisture in the surface 5 to

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6 inches of soil to support plant growth. The grass turned brown, but recovered soon. The tees were spiked or disced just before the final treatment, fertilized with nitrogen and plenty of phosphate, seeded, and rolled.

The new weed-killer called 2,4-D has given a good account of itself, especially in killing dandelion, plantain and buckhorn. It does not affect crab grass or poa annua. Poa will smother most of the newly planted blue grass, fescue or bent seedlings unless something is done to retard its growth while the young grass is becoming established. Clover is checked but seldom killed completely by 2,4-D. Some of the bent grasses do not seem to tolerate 2,4-D too well.

In the future, 2,4-D alone may be satisfactory to kill weeds in the tee renovation program, provided crab grass, poa annua or clover are not bad. Then one spraying will suffice. But these instances are rare. Most of the tees which are poor have much clover, poa annua, and plenty of crab grass especially in the region from Philadelphia across to Kansas City. It is in this section that tees are a pressing problem. Then if dandelion are present in addition to the weeds previously mentioned, a spraying with 2,4-D followed by several treatments of sodium arsenite to kill crab grass and retard poa annua will be more effective.

Choice of Tee Grass

The choice of grass for tees is a much debated question. Each grass has its ardent champions. Fescue is ideal from the golfer's viewpoint. Leaf blades are stiff and wiry so the ball sets up, provided there is a good stand of turf. But fescue grows and spreads so slowly that it never recovers quickly from the effects of heavy play. It cannot withstand the competition of the more aggressive Kentucky blue and bent grasses when conditions are favorable for their growth.

Kentucky blue grass is a good grass for cool sections of the North, except for the fact that it is susceptible to leaf

spot and cannot withstand close cutting at less than 1 to 1 1/4 inches. Furthermore, it does not make a tight turf capable of resisting crab grass which is a curse and the reason for poor tees in many places.

The bent grasses make a dense turf which can resist the invasion of clover and weeds. Bent tees have been the only ones able to combat crab grass in the districts where it is bad. Yet bent is not popular, especially if the grass is of the creeping type. Failure to keep the turf tight by close cutting is the reason for player criticism. Unless it is kept tight, the creeping bents develop a cushion-like mat with almost no roots. Then the tee is not firm underfoot, golfers are unable to play a clean shot, and complain about grass between the ball and club head. Scars in the turf are long and slow to heal, due to the sparsity of roots. Routine treatments with fungicide are necessary to prevent brown patch in the area where this disease is rampant in hot weather.

Until a better grass is developed for tees, Kentucky blue grass and the bent grasses are the best bets. A combination of Kentucky blue grass and colonial bent is most dependable for the region north of the heavy crab grass belt. Not more than 5 to 15 percent of bent seed is needed in the mixture, and all the balance can be blue grass.

The rate of seeding on new tees should be 5 to 7 pounds per 1,000 square feet, and slightly less for re-seeding after using chemicals for weed and clover control. Stolen plantings of creeping bents, such as Washington, C-15, etc., can be used provided the turf is cut close and kept tight.

Dollar spot will not be a serious problem if the turf is fed properly, and brown patch will not be troublesome on these strains. In the crab grass belt, bent grass is still the best bet, despite the necessity for disease treatments and close cutting. With other grasses the

(Continued on Page 61)

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