

What Makes My Greens Grow

By HARRY HANSON, Greenkeeper
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Harry Hanson

IN 1914 I started at the La Crosse Country Club as a caddy, then I got the job as a green cutter and held it for four years, then became greenkeeper.

The first few years it was hard and being quite young and inexperienced I made a few mistakes.

We had two teams of horses to work with until 1922, then we got our Washington tractor. It took us a week to mow our course with the teams, but now it takes us a day and a half.

Power Putting Green Mower Cuts Labor Cost

We have a 9-hole course and I have five men working for me. One man drives the tractor and repairs all the mowers. One man mows tees, rakes bunkers and keeps the water pails filled. One man scythes ditches and does other odd jobs. A night man waters the greens and one man mows the greens. We did have two men, but now we have a Jacobsen power mower and the work is done in half the time.

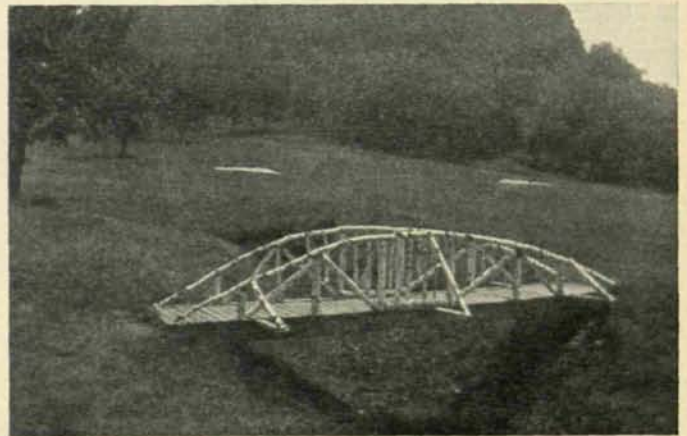
Our greens are top dressed three times a year. The dirt is hauled by the greens the day before, and in this way it takes us about a day. We use a Toro top dresser. When we did it by hand it took us two days.



New Bent green Number 9 at LaCrosse Country Club seeded May 1, taken August 15, and open for play Sept. 1, 1927

Cottonseed Meal Gives Fine Results

After we have the greens top dressed we use cottonseed meal as a fertilizer, and have been having very good results. I have been using cottonseed for the last two years. I first used it on two of my greens and it made them a rich green color, and one day my chairman asked me what made those greens darker than the rest and I told him I had used cottonseed meal. I have been using it ever since. It gives very good results on new



Looking up Number 5 fairway at LaCrosse

grasses and bent. One good thing about it is if you should happen to use too much it will not burn the grass.

We have started to construct our course this year. We have made twenty new traps and two new greens, and the forms for two more. The greens were seeded with bent May first, and were in good shape to play on September first.

I have a bent nursery which I started this spring with some bent stolons which I bought from Mr. Charles Erickson of Minekahda Club, Minneapolis. I am going to use this bent on the rest of our greens this fall and next spring.

I have found many useful articles in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, and expect to find many more. I am sure there could be nothing better in the world than this association for we greenkeepers, and I hope to see several hundred of our members turn out for the annual convention in Detroit.