

The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

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VOLUME I.

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Constructing and Keeping Sand Greens

By CHESTER MENDENHALL, Greenkeeper
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AFTER reading an article in the August number of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER by LeRoy Johnson on sand greens and talking with a number of our local greenkeepers who have to keep them the thought has come to me that others may be interested, so I shall attempt to tell you what little I have learned about sand greens.

I have been keeping sand greens at the Sim Park Municipal Golf Links for the past seven years with fairly good success. The first two or three years I had a great deal of trouble with our greens. They were dug out about four inches below the fairways. This caused them to hold water which would soak under the base of the green. Then during the winter when the ground would freeze and thaw the base would buckle up and become soft and almost unplayable.

Raise Level of Greens and Use Sharp Sand

Four years ago I raised all our greens about one foot above the fairways and have had very little trouble with them since.

The next difficulty I had was with sand. A great deal

of the sand in this part of the country is what is called blow sand. This sand is very fine and when oiled and put on a green soon loses all its life. It becomes packed and solid, making a very poor putting surface. I now use a good grade of sharp plastering sand. This material goes through a washer at the sand pump which takes out this blow sand and dirt, leaving just the clean sharp sand. I find it will stay in fair condition on a green for the whole season. I apply new sand on my greens each spring.



Chester Mendenhall

Crank Case Oil For Surfacing

I have used several kinds and grades of oil for greens—crude oil, fuel oil, road oil and crank case drainings. I find that the latter give me as good satisfaction as any of the rest and are far less expensive. I get my oil from the local bus company. Their oil is changed every four days and I am sure of getting a good grade.

Constructing New Sand Greens

Our soil is very sandy, so to build a new green I haul in heavy soil to raise the green about one foot above the fairways. I make a green about forty feet in diameter, usually sloping the ground up to the green from about ten feet out. After the green has been roughly graded, it is allowed to stand for some time to settle. During this time it is rolled several times to pack. Then I fine-grade the green, leaving it two inches higher in the center than at the edges. This prevents any water from standing on the green.

When the green is graded I leave a ridge of dirt three or four inches high around the outer edge to pre-



Replacing worn sod around Number 18 green at the Municipal Golf Links, Wichita, Kansas

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courtesy we have asked of him. Here and now we ask our members to give him a rising vote of thanks at the convention, which he will address on the 24th, not only for what he has done for you but for what he stands for, a scientist who is always seeking for the truth, and who acknowledges that it is sometimes a long search. Brown-patch is a humid subject, but at times it does not lack humor. Dr. Monteith sent us a photograph of himself this summer labeled, "This is neither large nor small brown-patch."

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the coming convention is heavy these days. Greenkeepers who have been late in joining are sending in their memberships, and we look for a large increase in the association family before the annual meeting date.

SEVERAL chairmen of Green committees have written asking if the convention will be open to them. Our members who are planning to attend should extend invitations to their chairmen to come and hear the programs on the 23rd and 24th. Every member should impress it upon his chairman that the association welcomes him, that he may at first hand determine the value of our organization to the greenkeepers and golf clubs of America. Don't forget to talk with the chairman of your Green committee, and *do it now*.

SOME of the most expert greenkeepers in the United States and Canada will speak at the convention. Among them, Edward B. Dearie of Chicago; W. D. Chinery of Eglinton, Ontario; Joseph Valentine of the famous Merion Cricket Club, Philadelphia; Captain David L. Rees of the Progress Country Club, New York; Joseph T. Van Hagen (before mentioned); L. J. Feser of Wayzata, Minnesota. These, and others we will report in the January issue.

THE wives of our members will be welcomed into Detroit the week of February 21 by a special Women's Entertainment committee to be appointed by Mr. Alex McPherson, Treasurer of the association. We find there are innumerable instances where Mrs. Greenkeeper is the first assistant to her husband in his work. Bring your first assistants, and they will be well taken care of during the convention. The meetings of the 23rd and 24th are open to them, and Mr. McPherson's committee will see that they enjoy themselves during the week. In the coming January issue, the program of entertainment arranged by the Women's Entertainment committee for the convention will be published.

Keeping Sand Greens

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vent the oil from soaking into the area outside of the green. I then put on four barrels of oil, allowing it two days to soak in. Then the ridge of dirt is removed from around the outer edge of the green. This dirt will have to be hauled away as a part of it will be oil soaked.

Next I sod up around the outer edge of the green. I leave this sod about two inches above the base of the green with the exception of a space about two feet wide at the back of the green where I lower the sod a trifle to allow the surface water to drain off.

Putting on Finishing Touches

Finally the green is ready for the sand. First the sand is screened to remove the pebbles, after which it is mixed with oil at the rate of twenty shovels of sand to three gallons of oil. The green is then covered with this oiled sand about one and one-half inches deep. Each morning my greens are raked with a wooden leaf rake and dragged smooth with a wooden float. I start at the cup, dragging in a circle to the outer edge of the green. During the playing season when the sand becomes too dry oil is added with a sprinkling can and, if the sand is too thin, new sand is added.

Special Drag With Round Edges

I have a drag at each green so that the players may smooth out any rough places that interfere with play. For these drags I take four by fours, two feet long to the planing mill and have them turned out round with a handle in the center making a T. The round edges of this drag smooth out the sand and do not drag the sand off the green as badly as some other types do.

During the winter months all the worn sod around the greens is taken up and replaced with new sod. For re-sodding around my greens I keep a large area of Bermuda and buffalo grass in my nursery.

We have one creeping bent green that will be ready for play in the spring. We hope to build all grass greens in the near future.

I would like to read more articles in the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER on sand greens. I feel that we all have a great deal to learn about sand greens as well as grass greens.

Converted to Bent

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ture. We did not, however, let our grass grow rank but kept our machines up more than we would ordinarily do. When growing conditions started to improve we let our machines down and cut much more closely. Cutting daily we left the clippings on the green and while we cannot tell if this did any good yet we know that it did not do any harm, and we are still continuing this. Too much