

Don't Be a Sleepyhead!

By JOSEPH VALENTINE
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IN this article I do not intend to eulogize myself as the greenkeeper of the Merion Cricket Club, but in plain words I wish to express to my fellow greenkeepers just what is expected of them in order to become successful.

First of all a greenkeeper should make a thorough study of the natural conditions which exist in his particular locality. By this I mean the climatic conditions and the nature of the soil. Another greenkeeper might tell you what to do, or what to apply to the soil in overcoming a certain obstacle or condition which may exist. But before doing anything ask yourself, are my conditions, climatic and soil, the same? Then be governed accordingly.

Be in constant watch of the weather, because you know Nature changes often and very suddenly, and your daily work depends much upon her moods.

Face Your Own Problems

Always strive to make your course better, so that members of the club will appreciate what you are doing, and they will be proud of their club. Do not look at the worst course when you are



Joseph Valentine

having difficulties, but always look at the best, so that a feeling comes over you to surpass the other, or at least to make your course just as good as the best in existence. In order to accomplish this a greenkeeper must always be on the alert and ready to combat unexpected developments which may suddenly appear. When things seem to be going along smoothly, some unforeseen trouble may arise, and the greenkeeper must prepare to go after it like a soldier going over the top.

Do not trouble the chairman of the Green committee or the president of the club with every little thing that happens. The officers of the club usually have enough troubles of their own. Consult the chairman when you have something new to offer which will benefit the club and improve the course. Don't load him down with stories about brown patch, grubs, etc., but get after these pests as quick as lightning, and fight them until you have obtained the results expected.

Greenkeepers Do Not Study Enough

Greenkeepers as a whole do not study



Top, Number Thirteen; Left Lower, Number Twelve Tee, East Course; Right Lower, Number Nineteen Green, East Course, on the famous Merion Cricket Club Courses, Philadelphia

enough. They have for the most part considered practical experience all that is necessary. That time is all gone by, as greenkeeping is now recognized as a science, not a hit-or-miss job that any ordinary man can pick up in a short time. No matter how long you have been a greenkeeper, there is always something for you to learn.

Many persons all over the country have remarked upon the wonderful condition of the greens at the Merion Cricket Club, but the methods I follow may not be suitable for greenkeepers in other localities to use. Therefore I am not going into details as to solving difficulties which always appear during the summer months, nor what methods to use in keeping putting greens in velvety condition. You as individual greenkeepers should know how this is done,—if not you should not be called greenkeepers. We all have different methods in handling labor, how and how often to apply fertilizers, top dressing, etc., and by studying cause and effect you can work out methods that will be sure to get results.

Let This Magazine Speak for You

We have this wonderful organization, the National Association of Greenkeepers of America, and too much praise cannot be given those who labored so faithfully to make a dream of years come true. Their dreams were ours, and now they are a reality in the form of this as-

sociation. This organization and magazine will put the greenkeeper in the place where he rightfully belongs, at the top of his art. Let everyone fall into line and let this magazine speak for you, for what you know and for what you deserve.

In conclusion let me urge you to keep on striving to make your course in every way better. Make your club members feel proud to bring their guests out to play, so that they will approach the chairman of the Green committee and say, "Our greenkeeper certainly knows his profession."

Use More Bent

Improve the bunkers, so that the outlook will be pleasing to everyone's eyes. Have first class turf all over, and especially bent grass for the putting greens, approaches, fairways and tees. Let the other greenkeepers come to see how well you are keeping your course. By setting such an example, any greenkeeper less well qualified than yourself, will go away determined to put forth his best efforts to improve his own course.

If you happen to have a first class course, keep it so. If not, wake up and make it so. Don't go to sleep on your job. Stay awake at least in the daytime, that no important duty be left undone. Success comes to him who goes to meet it.



The Clearing House



Address all questions relating to general golf course maintenance to this department. Every question answered free of charge by a committee of experts.

Mowing Greens

The mowing and sweeping or dressing up of how many putting greens averaging 5500 square feet do you find is the average days work of the man mowing greens, and do most clubs favor early mowing or later mowing with more men?

Saratoga, New York.

Assuming a man has to care for slopes, traps, tees, greens, weeding and mowing, one man will have his work cut out in caring for three greens averaging 5,500 square feet. As to the mowing work, it is always better to have this done as early as possible, so that play is not disturbed. If done late in the day, the men spend about 75% of their time waiting for a chance to cut a green.

Top Dressing

My greens have a clay subsoil, the top soil is black muck about 8 to 12 inches deep. This soil out in the open is very light and the kind that blows away. It does not seem to take water very well and our greens get hard in the summer, despite the fact that we do all of our

watering at night. What top dressing would you use to help these greens hold moisture? These are all Metropolitan Bent.

Lansing, Michigan

If your greens are not tile drained, they evidently should be. Top dressings of 50% sharp sand, 25% well rotted manure and 25% loam, are recommended. Also two dressings of clean granulated charcoal during the season, one in spring and another in the fall, at the rate of 150 pounds per average sized green. Late in the fall, when the course is closed, a light application of sharp sand will be beneficial.

Fertilizing Old Trees

I would thank you if you would get some information for me in the feeding of old trees about 100 years old.

Nashville, Tennessee

In fertilizing an old tree the same practices should be followed as in fertilizing a young one. It is of prime importance to get the soil under the tree in good physical condition. This can only be done by cultivating with