

Clubhouse Gardens

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THERE are perhaps few golf clubs throughout the country where the club officials have not made some attempt to enhance the appearance of the grounds in the vicinity of the clubhouse by planting shade and ornamental trees, climbing plants, flowering shrubs and the laying out of flower beds and borders. Where their efforts have been attended by success then I think we should consider this as money well spent.

I have at various times heard much criticism passed on the policy of maintaining such grounds, some contending that the money spent might have been put to better use on the course, but we should bear in mind that through ages past both the poor and the rich have spent their little or much in planting and developing such gardens for the embellishment of their homes.

Love of Flowers is Universal

Most people admire flowers whether in a wild or cultivated state. Even the first few flowers of that, to some, obnoxious weed, the dandelion are welcome in early spring. For the happy bride, the sick at home or in hospital and the departed, flowers are one of the first things in demand, so much so that I am tempted to quote the following:

*"With the kiss of the sun for pardon,
With the song of the bird for mirth,
You are nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth."*

At some golf clubs where the space allotted for such gardens is more or less extensive the rule is to engage a gardener to take charge who can devote his whole time to this work, thereby getting results and giving general satisfaction. At other clubs the greenkeeper has to supervise this work and one is often put to, to find a suitable man to place in charge. There is a general impression I believe that anyone can look after a few shrubs and flowers and up to a certain point this is correct. This would apply to the common shrubs and annuals, but where there is a collection of plants and a continual supply of bloom expected then it behooves one to have the wherewithal to produce results.

Inexpert Pruning Destroys Bloom

This was brought home to me very forcibly this season. To substantiate this statement will my readers excuse me if I appear to deviate somewhat from my subject. A lady golfer asked me this summer why her shrub—"Forsythia Elegance" did not bloom well explaining that though the plant made beautiful growth, and that the gardener had pruned it very carefully the shrub only bloomed on little twigs. Not knowing, the lady had answered her own question, i.e., had the

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W. D. Chinery



New Number 8 at York Downs, showing seventh in background.

than are required by the turf grasses, because of the stimulating effect of phosphoric acid on clover, particularly if the soil is not acid.

BASIC SLAG—This material is seldom used in this country but is a very common phosphate fertilizer in Europe. It is produced when phosphoric iron ores are used in the basic process of steel manufacture, an excess of lime is used to combine with the phosphoric acid and remove it in the slag.

Basic slag contains about 15 percent phosphoric acid and large amounts of lime. It is a slow acting material and makes the soil less acid due to the high lime content.

Potash Containing Fertilizer Materials

MURIATE OF POTASH—This is the most widely used potash containing fertilizer. It is mined in Germany and the newly acquired provinces of France. The principal grades imported into this country contain fifty percent potash.

Muriate of potash is completely soluble in water and hence may injure the turf if heavy applications are used. Although water soluble, potash is not lost from the soil by leaching because the potash is taken up and held by the clay particles of the soil in the same manner that ammonia is held. When the potash is taken up muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid) is released. Consequently muriate of potash tends to increase the soluble acidity in soils.

Clovers have a high potash requirement and are generally greatly stimulated by applications of potash fertilizers. If clover is not desired potash applications should not be made in amounts in excess of the requirements of the turf grasses.

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"gardener" deferred the pruning till after the flowering period all might have been well. Forsythias in conjunction with many other shrubs, flower on wood of the previous year's growth. Thus to prune early in spring would be to remove most of the inflorescence.

Just to create a little diversion from the general theme and by request I hope to deal more fully with shrubs, perennials, etc., hoping that these subjects may be of interest to our readers.

Brother Members, Let's Hear from You

As we shall all too soon be looking forward to the long nights of winter ahead, and few can have the excuse of being busy, o'er fairway and hazard, may I make an appeal to a whole lot of brother greenkeepers, and remind them that whilst they are reading of others, the others are not hearing from them. Remember this, boys, you cannot begin any younger, so open up and do not hide your light under a bushel.

Say you saw the ad in The National Greenkeeper

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workmanship and completeness*

Now is the time to go over and check up on what the course needs for next year. Planning now for next spring means valuable time saved later on, and when time is worth money.



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Wanderings of a Greenkeeper

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No. 5 green I put in creeping bent stolons—and then built nine holes more. The soil on the new nine was very poor, so in the fall I ploughed it all up and sowed it in winter rye. In the spring I ploughed this under, and drilled in soy beans, which in turn were ploughed under the first of September. I then put on three tons of crushed limestone to the acre, with a ton and a half of bonemeal, and seeded it down. In a year I had a splendid stand of grass. All the new nines are bent stolons.

Last year I built nine holes for the Brookside Country Club, Barberton, Ohio.

Clay Gumbo and Silt Need Constant Watering

The first of March of this year found me at the Hillcrest Country Club. The soil here is a heavy clay gumbo and silt. It requires constant wetting. It does not matter how wet the sub-soil is—a few hours of sunshine, and the top is as hard as concrete. For example, this summer we had three successive days of rain—then the sun shone for one day—and lo, we had to water again.

So I quite agree with Mr. McNamara that it pays to move around to different courses, profiting by the knowledge gained in contending with the diversifications of climates and soils. Truly, the old adage, "A rolling stone gathers no moss" certainly was not intended for a greenkeeper.