

# Clippings and Burlap Bags

By ALEX MCWHINNIE, Greenkeeper  
Brown's Lake Golf Club, Burlington, Wisconsin

"WELL, we have to dump the clippings somewhere when we mow the greens." This was the reply of a workman when he was asked what the bare spots a yard or so in diameter were, beside each green.

Clippings from putting greens, if dumped from day to day on the same place will surely leave a bare spot, that gets larger and more unsightly as the season advances. Visitors who come to play your greens, and friends of club members who are invited out to see them, will walk over them, get down and feel them with their hands, tell you they are just like rugs, remark on the absence of weeds, and are astonished at the beauty of them. A clean, well kept putting green, surely is a thing of beauty. Why have the bare patch or the pile of clippings near it?

I have eighteen creeping bent greens that are cut and watered daily by six men who take the same three greens each. Each man when he leaves the implement shed in the morning takes with him three burlap bags (fertilizer bags) ripped up the seam. He spreads a bag beside each green and dumps his clippings on it. As soon as the greens are cut the tractor is taken around. The man takes the four corners of each bag, picks up

bag and clippings and throws them on the dump body. You can imagine how quickly and easily they are removed.

## *Making Use of Clippings on Poor Fairways*

Just now our fairways are what is familiarly called "burned up." We have only had one good rainfall in five weeks. On the hilly places and mounds the gravel is pretty close to the surface. Every day the clippings from the greens are taken, mixed with top soil, and the hilly places and mounds top-dressed with the mixture.

Our number 16 fairway (a par 4) almost all adjoins a swamp and was very poor. Thin and mossy. Daily for three weeks we top-dressed part of it with the clippings and top soil. This fairway in a month's time has improved wonderfully, and is getting better daily. I find that by using the burlap bags, the time taken to remove the clippings, mix them with soil, and top-dress with them is very little more than picking them up with a shovel or fork, and dumping them in a heap somewhere. The bare patches and clipping piles at each green have disappeared, and the improvement resulting from top dressing is very gratifying. In fact

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Upper left number 3, where sixty trees were removed to give light and air; upper right, shows sand trap on top of dump pit; lower left, fairway showing dark area covered with one day's clippings and top dressing; lower right shows bank filled in with concrete blocks and scrap iron, one half terraced and sod laid. Oval, Alex McWhinnie, greenkeeper, Brown's Lake Golf Club, Burlington, Wisconsin



## *Saving on Re-Construction*

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ways. The work is nearly completed and the new holes will be ready to play on next summer.

Of course this can only be accomplished by the help and co-operation of the Green committee and the kind consideration of the players in overlooking an un-raked bunker or a rough that has become a little long, understanding that we did not intentionally neglect any of our regular work of keeping up the course.

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## *Clippings and Bags*

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the removal and disposition of clippings in the above manner is now a daily operation, the men taking the same interest in it as they do in keeping their greens in shape.

"Clippings and Burlap Bags" is not much to write about, but using them as we do here on a course in its second year, surely saves a lot of time and does a lot of good.

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## *Chat With President*

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avoid penalties in his play through knowledge of certain rules, and definitions necessary to avoid complaints.

**W**E are all born into the world debtors to the past, and during our lives to our friends whose companionship has helped us develop character and give us ideals.

**G**UY C. WEST, Fall River, Mass., says, "The ability on the part of a greenkeeper to read and observe intelligently, knowing when to adapt someone else's experience to his own use will advance him materially." I personally agree with him.

**C**ULTURED people are kind, thoughtful, deliberate. They think of the future, plan carefully, and in life prepare for the ultimate needs of their family at death. In a word they seek protection. For the sake of your family and for your own sake join the Death Benefit Fund of our association, which furnishes you with protection at cost.

**I**N the great rush to get somewhere, men are prone to lose sight of the moral trend of modern life. The common excuse is lack of time.

**I**F you are interested in the care of trees on your course, read Mr. C. M. Scherer's articles which appear in our magazine. Mr. Scherer is principal of the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery, Kent, Ohio.

Say you saw the ad in *The National Greenkeeper*

**W**ILLIAM BROWN, Trumbull Country Club, Warren, Ohio has had a hard struggle to get the clover out of his putting greens. I suggested to this club that they would get a nice batch of clover when they allowed the architect to use too much vegetable fertilizer. By the way, William was not twenty-one years old when he took charge of this 18-hole course.

**B**E yourself, be sincere. If you are sincere you will attract friends of a like nature.

**"V**EGETATIVE PLANTING" by Lyman Carrier, an article which appeared in our last issue was very interesting. If you have not read it do so. If you have, read it over again.

**T**HE world does not owe you a living. You owe the world a useful life.

**I**F you desire more news in *THE NATIONAL GREEN-KEEPER* you can help by sending to the Editor your own experiences and pictures. At the same time it will encourage her, knowing that you appreciate her endeavors.

**G**ET a new member, and watch us grow.

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