

# The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

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VOLUME I.

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## *Greenkeepers' Convention at Washington*

Meeting August 29th at Arlington Gardens and Washington Clubs

**G**REENKEEPERS and Green committee chairmen from far and wide gathered at the Hotel Hamilton, Washington, D. C. on the morning of August 29th, and spent the day as guests of the U. S. G. A. Green Section.

Busses of the sight-seeing type conveyed the visitors to the Arlington turf gardens, where Dr. H. L. Westover, O. B. Fitts and Dr. John Monteith, Jr. led the crowd from plot to plot over these extensive experimental grounds, explaining in detail the work in progress.

Regarding the many strains of bent, Dr. Westover stated that the Washington and Metropolitan strains are standing the test of time, that nothing better has been found during the year's experiments.

### *Brown-Patch*

Dr. Monteith, in speaking in general of mercurial products used in the control of brown-patch, emphasized the fact that the actual value of a commercial product can only be determined by ascertaining the amount of mercury used in the compound.

Greenkeepers were warned that when turf is of a soft growth and is injured by brown-patch, the addition of nitrate will often cause a bad burn.

Experiments at Arlington have proved Rhode Island bent to be more susceptible to large brown-patch than is creeping bent, but that it is quite resistant to the dollar type of this disease.

A new experiment now under way is being made with metallic mercury in brown-patch control. This is the least expensive of the mercury products on the market and it is hoped to prove its value during the coming season.

### *Copper Poisoning of Turf*

One plot of turf upon which was a very thin and patchy growth, was shown to be the result of a residue of copper sulphate in the soil. No copper sulphate has

been applied during four years' time, yet nothing encourages the grass to grow on this poisoned soil. No greenkeeper who examined this plot could fail to see what danger lies in long continued applications of any mixture containing copper sulphate, such as Bordeaux.

### *Fertilizers*

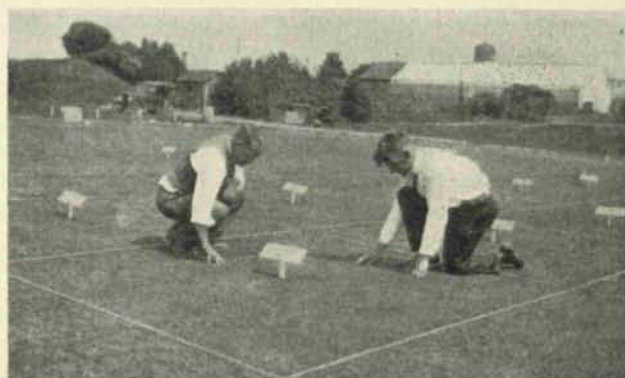
In showing plots fertilized with Urea, cottonseed meal, soy bean meal, ammonium sulphate and other materials, Dr. Monteith advised that Urea is one of the highest in value among nitrate fertilizers. Experiments show that Urea combined with mercurial cures for brown-patch brings the turf back to normal very quickly.

### *Extent of Experimental Work*

According to the list of plots now laid out and in process of experimentation, there are 385 squares of turf maintained and carefully watched by the Green Section, for the express purpose of determining what is good and what is not good for the golf courses of the U. S. A.

### *Visits to Indian Springs and Burning Tree*

Returning to the hotel, luncheon was served promptly



Edw. B. Dearie of Chicago, and L. J. Feser of Wayzata, Minnesota, examining a plot of velvet bent at Arlington Turf Gardens





*A group of the guests of the U. S. G. A. Green Section, taken at Indian Springs Country Club, on August 29*

to allow those present to visit and inspect some of the district's fine courses.

Indian Springs was selected as the first on the list, where considerable time was spent by Dr. Westover and Mr. Fitts in identifying grasses and explaining the effect of soil and climatic conditions as prevail in the district. This club is in the process of introducing creeping bent into their greens. Only a short inspection of the course was made, but the well-groomed appearance of the greens and fairways was apparent to all.

Burning Tree was the second course visited and time had been so taken up that it was the final inspection of the day. At this club the group found some of the most beautiful bent greens in the Washington section. Not only were the greens bits of Paradise for the golfer, but the lay-out and contour of the course are both remarkably fine.

Mr. Otto W. Schaum, and Mr. F. H. Chapman of Whitmarsh Valley Country Club, Philadelphia, were

discovered in process of play, and both voted Burning Tree second to none they have played over.

### *Dinner and Meeting*

At 6:30, dinner was served in a special hall at the Hotel Hamilton. Quick service, and the healthy appetites inspired by the footwork of the day, soon prepared the way for open discussion.

The need for a convention reporter was evident from the moment Mr. O. B. Fitts opened the meeting, as many of those present at once started to ask questions.

Velvet bent, its characteristics of growth and its resistance to disease, was a topic of animated talk. One member described his success in raising turf from velvet bent by the nursery and vegetative method. "It has been done successfully," said one. "It can't be done, for it won't creep fast enough," said another. The result of the discussion seemed to put the weight of the blame upon anyone who wishes to experiment with a velvet bent nursery.

*(Editors note: We would like to hear from all greenkeepers who have made such an experiment with velvet bent sod.)*

Mr. Fitts stated that at Arlington, the darker colored strains of velvet bent seem to be more resistant to brown-patch, and this was confirmed by Mr. Robert White of Westchester County, who stated he had noted this consistently for some period of time.

Perhaps the old fashioned expression, "a pleasant time was had by all" most aptly describes the day spent in the capitol city.

## *Where Algae Thrives*

By JOHN MORLEY, President  
National Association of Greenkeepers of America

**I**N visiting a number of courses in an advisory capacity, I have observed that some golf architects have at various times laid out a short hole where the tee is placed on a high location, and the putting green in a low one, which gives the hole a beautiful appearance. The greens are often surrounded on three sides by a large number of trees, which often keeps the air from reaching the surface of the green. They are often built on an angle. Some of these have clay loam top soil and have no drain tile, as some officials are inclined to think they are not needed because they are built on an angle or sloping formation. Some place two rows of tile parallel.

This kind of putting green should be well drained. I prefer that the tile be laid in herringbone fashion.

This brings us to another important matter. A number of these putting greens are built over a subsoil consisting of blue clay. You have often noticed where there is a pond or artificial lake that during extreme

hot, dry weather some of the surface of the pond or lake contains a lot of dark green scum, which is known as algae. This is supposed to be a poisonous substance that the energy of the sun rays has drawn to the surface of the water.

I simply refer to the above condition to show that when the same weather conditions prevail the energy of the sunrays is drawing to the surface of the putting greens, from the blue clay subsoil the poisonous matter which these soils contain. A large amount of this poisonous substance has a chance to escape if the putting greens are properly drained. Otherwise most of it continues to remain in the soil. After a heavy watering or rain it is forced down into the soil, only to again be brought to the surface by the energies of the sun rays.

Where these conditions prevail, the algae is often injurious to the turf and a number of greenkeepers are of the opinion that it is brown-patch. Sometimes it is for this scum often encourages its growth.