

# How Canada Fights Weeds

Chemical sprays have proved effective. Crab grass most noxious weed

By C. A. Tregillus

**A**MONG the most noxious of turf weeds, omitting *Poa annua* from consideration, is crab grass. This perennial nuisance seems to be going as strong as ever even on courses where eternal warfare is waged against it. Attacking the menace as soon as it appears has done much to lessen the period of its continuance. Hand picking where it can be afforded, is done, and at other times success has attended the very close cutting of the turf after allowing it grow a shade longer than usual.

Chemical sprays have proved effective on weedy greens, particularly for the destruction of creeping weeds as chickweeds and dutch clover, and for weeds with fleshy leaves. While it is understood that this practice is not feasible to the south on account of the injury to the turf, still in the east, west, and central portions of Canada, it has worked out very well.

## How One Course Killed Weeds

**T**HE experience of one course in this connection is worth repeating. The greens in question were excellent except for the fact that they were overrun with chickweed and clover. In the autumn of 1926 the weed

patches were sprinkled with a lawn sand mixture made up of 50 per cent sand, 25 per cent iron sulphate and 25 per cent ammonium sulphate, made up on the premises. This mixture was put into small cans with holes punched in the lids and shaken over the noticeable spots. Three or four days later the whole green was sprayed at high pressure, with iron sulphate solution one and one half pounds of sulphate to one gallon of water. This blackened the green considerably and left ugly marks where the weed patches had been but did not hurt the grass to any extent. When a rain followed shortly after treatment it was repeated. Within two or three weeks in normal weather the green recovered its natural hue and the bare patches left by the weeds were rapidly growing in with good turf.

On some greens a second treatment was given, when some weeds showed signs of returning life. Two greens were re-treated in 1927 by spraying only because some small plants of clover were noticed, but other than that slight evidence, the greens have been absolutely clear of these noxious weeds. The chemical destruction of fleshy-rooted weeds by stinging them with sulphuric acid is also practiced in Canada.

Pests, as worms and ants, continue to make trouble one way or another, and it is comforting to know that the efforts of research and experiment in both Canada and the United States, by technicians and practical greenkeepers, are becoming more and more successful in eliminating this source or trouble.

## Greenkeeping Methods Same As In U. S.

**R**EGARDING the methods of greenkeeping in the Dominion, they do not vary much from the practice observed on courses in the United States. The average staff employed on 18-hole courses range from ten to twelve. This seems to be the number required to perform the basic operations and to maintain the course in a condition that reflects pride upon the members. Some courses, by reason of their layouts and the extensiveness of their grounds, require more than this number to do a good job. The equipment is standard, largely of American manufacture, though there is a sprinkling of English-made machinery in addition to the Canadian. It is gratifying to note that a close association exists between the workers on both sides of the line. The functioning of the National Greenkeepers Association will do much to bring about a close sympathy among all members of this profession wherever their work may take them, and it is the writers hope that he will see its continued development, and he takes this opportunity to extend to it his most earnest wishes for its abiding success.

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