



# Beetles at Cedarbrook

Noted Philadelphia greenkeeper describes early experiences with the Jap beetle and methods used in combating its ravages. Arsenate of Lead only cure known.

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I CAN distinctly remember three years ago when one of my greensmen found a Jap beetle on one of the greens. It surely was a curiosity and how we crowded around to examine the first specimen at Old Cedarbrook. True our neighbors across the Delaware at Riverton, New Jersey were badly infested and even then Torresdale on the Pennsylvania side was passing through a severe siege.

The United States Experimental Station was then at Riverton, N. J. and was in charge of a man whom we all know and respected, Mr. B. R. Leach. The Philadelphia Greenkeepers' Association had gone over to Riverton a couple

of times and saw the wonderful progress that had been made in the mastering of this new pest of golf courses.

I might add that at this time arsenate of lead had ceased to be an experiment but was the only known thing that positively would eliminate the grub. As one who has passed through the beetle siege I feel that this is the proper time to give credit to Mr. Leach for having given us arsenate of lead, for in addition to its value in exterminating the grub and beetle it also has a wonderful value in worm and chickweed control. In spite of arguments to the contrary I do believe it will control crab



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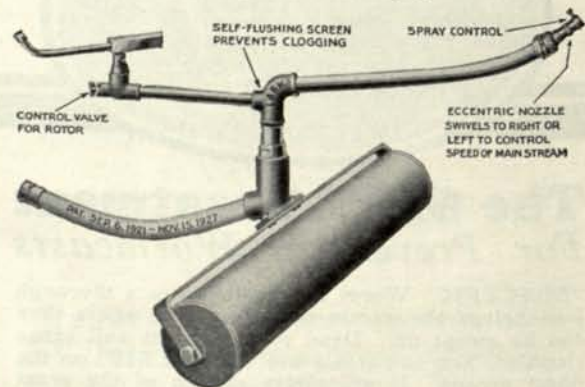
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and fall grass if used as directed by him.

But to get back to Cedarbrook. The novelty of finding that first beetle soon wore away as many others came along that first year. We started using lead on our greens and the effect on worms and chickweed was at once apparent. If I recall rightly I think we put it on in several applications that first year, about thirty-five pounds to a green.

The second year found us using the necessary precautions insofar as our greens were concerned making several applications of lead even before the beetles came out of the ground. When they did finally come out the sight was one you never forget.

There were signs of great damage done the turf by the grubs the previous fall and spring. You just watched the place "melt away" as it were and the course that you had been mighty proud of took on a barren look. The government test showed thirty-seven to the square foot that fall and we were horrified. But the worst was yet to come.

That fall we brought Mr. Leach in to advise us in our troubles and he said, "get busy with the lead." We put five thousand pounds of lead on with thirteen tons of Milorganite and in addition to this we brought in a landscape concern that sprayed all the foliage on the trees just previous to leading the fairways.

This year found us better prepared to combat the pests for we doubled the number of traps, bought a large sprayer and put another eight thousand pounds of lead and fifteen tons of Milorganite on the fairways. The beetles arrived a couple of weeks ago in great numbers but so far we have kept the damage (except in our rough) down to a minimum. The damage to our rough can best be explained by saying that we have not leaded it and the recent test showed eighty-four grubs to the foot.

In conclusion I would advise that as soon as you see that first one get busy and don't fool yourself that fate may be much kinder to you and you won't need Mr. Leach's advice or any arsenate of lead. Profit by the mistakes we have made in the present "beetle zone" and get after them when the army is small and it doesn't take so much powder to knock them off. Let the watch word be, "Fight with the weapon, Arsenate of Lead" and in time you can master them.

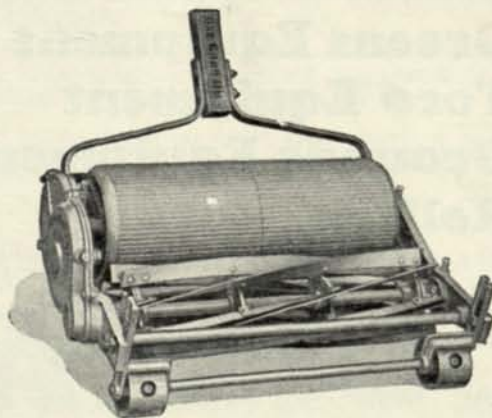


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