

Park Board of Minneapolis, so you boys can readily see that I have been a good sticker. I have always gotten along nicely with my employers and the men working for me.

I have organized my men so that they have their definite duties to perform. Three men cut the greens every day, for about five months steady—a total of twenty-one greens. They cut the greens every day as well as Sunday, using the Ideal and Toro hand mowers. First of all they pole the greens before cutting them. After the cutting has been done the men go to the tool house. They then lift the holes on the greens and weed them and do such things as they find necessary to do during the balance of the day. If they cannot find anything to do on the greens they go into the nursery, which also requires some attention. That also has to be cut and watered.

The greens are also watered throughout the night. A man starts in sprinkling at five P. M. and continues until one A. M. He covers nine greens during the night and this is done every night, whenever it is necessary. If it is not necessary to do the sprinkling he works through the day in the compost pile.

I have one man taking care of the tees, cutting, weeding, and watering them, top dressing and putting on sod whenever it is necessary. Another man tends the bunkers, which you know is quite a job—dragging—and if this doesn't keep him busy we find something else for him to do. This man does not have a steady job on the bunkers at all times.

I have one man who cuts the fairways three times a week during the growing season and in this way it is very easy for a greenkeeper to get along, providing you have reliable men, and I certainly have been fortunate in finding them so. Some have worked for me close to twenty years. I certainly take a great pride in my crew.

Do Not Overfeed the Greens

I NOTICE that some of the boys have been troubled with brown patch. I believe this could be remedied quite a little if they did not feed them so much. I know of some instances where the greens have been overfed and that is much worse than starving them. I have found that out from experience.

About two years ago one of my men put three sacks of Milorganite in with the compost and I did not know about it. I told him not to put anything on except just to top dress, as I knew what it was made of and that it was rich enough for that season of the year. At any rate, several brown patches appeared on the greens. I scratched my head and wondered about it. This year I watched him closely and told him not to put on anything except what I told him to and the green which has brown patch is as wonderful now as the others. So from that I know that greens can be overfed as well as starved.

It really is surprising how little fertilizer I have used for all of my greens this year. I used a ton and half of Milorganite early in the spring and have fertilized them five times with ammonia sulphate, which amounts to 2200 pounds. They certainly have been in good condition at all times. Have also top dressed them three times, but of course I have real compost. I am always careful with the soil—how it is mixed—and I always keep about two or three years ahead. Turn it over and see that the weeds are kept clean of the pile, which is the main thing; otherwise, I feel it is easier to pull the weeds up on the compost pile than it is to pull them on the greens, which is a slow job.

I have seen compost piles where the weeds have been three feet high and some of them have been over an inch in diameter. Just think of the amount of moisture the weeds are taking from the pile, which should be going to the greens instead. I always use a great deal of sand in my compost.

Some Bent Is Just Junk

I HAVE noticed that the bent greens do not stand up on some of the courses like they should. My opinion is that the members of the clubs, as well as the greenkeepers, were in too much of a hurry to get this bent grass started so they could have regular putting greens. I have seen bent that I wouldn't give two cents for. There was a little of this sold for Washington bent and also for Metropolitan bent. They give it the best names, but what is it today—nothing but junk. I have noticed

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in this section of the country how quick they were to "skin" the people and sold it for good bent. They certainly got fooled.

Now is the time to rip it out and put in some better quality bent. I have a lot of *Poa annua* in them, and I still have a few and I think just as much of them as some of the bent greens. My chairman certainly thinks they are better than the bent. I have four of the Washington bent and they have stood up fine and always look good, but I got this bent from our old friend Piper, from Washington, D. C. He was at the Minikahda Club twice and I had quite a talk with him and nobody else could sell me any bent, with the exception of one green which we changed over and I did not have enough at the time so I took his advice and put in enough for one green, which I should not have done as it isn't worth anything. Some day I am going to rip it out and put in some real strain.

We have a nursery of old strain which I picked up on the course, which is called Minikahda strain. It is wonderful—I have watched it for the past fifteen years and have found that it never turns in either cold or dry weather.

There is quite a bunch of greenkeepers in this section of the country—I imagine about twenty-two. We certainly have had a lot of fun. I happen to be the president of our little group. Last summer we took two days off and visited the courses in the small towns around here and gave them a helping hand wherever we could. Then we went to Duluth, had a nice dinner and played a good game of golf, in fact, we had a wonderful time. We are planning on meeting the next time in my tool house, which is modern in all respects and we certainly are looking forward to another good time.

Ice On Greens At Chicago

By JOHN MACGREGOR

Greenkeeper, Chicago Golf Club, Chicago

THE end of the Golf season and golf course maintenance has come to a close for another year. We all like to elaborate on the bright spots but, want to forget or ignore the troubles and adverse conditions with which we had to contend during the season just passed.

Personally I have had my share of both. The past winter was a severe one for golf courses in Northern Illinois.

I believe every green in the Chicago district was covered with from two to three inches of ice which remained for more than two months; this meant they were sealed, and the grass naturally suffered for lack of air.

The grass on my greens go into the winter with never less than an inch of growth on them, usually more. I find under normal conditions when ice forms on the green the blades of grass can be seen showing through the ice, during the day. When the sun shines the ice melts a little around the blades and in a short time the ice has a honey-combed effect, thus giving a circulation of air to the grass and preventing winter kill.

My greens being about 80% "*poa annua*" came out of the winter with practically all of the *poa annua* killed out; only on high spots did it escape. The spring was cold and late with hoar frosts every night until the end of May. It was nearly June before any growth started so that it was hard to convince anyone that the greens would recover and come back in good shape without tearing them up and re-seeding. But we succeeded and the greens were better this year than they ever have been. I could do nothing but wait until the growth started; when it did I commenced feeding gradually and in three weeks they were fine.