

# Helpful Hints

Some practical advice from experienced greenkeepers on golf course maintenance. No guesswork here

## Checking Crab Grass

Now is the time to be on the lookout for crab grass, especially through the south.

I have one man that I send over my greens every morning with seed mixed with good top soil. After cutting out the grass he drops in a little soil and smooths over. In this way crab grass cannot get ahead of you and at the end of the season your greens will be in good condition.

I have known greenkeepers to neglect this work and have to plow up and replant their greens in the fall.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND GOLF CLUB    HUGH C. MOORE,  
BRUNSWICK, GA.                      GREENKEEPER

## Watch Your Machinery

Golf course equipment costs a great deal of money. It should get the best of care and attention to make it last and do efficient work.

Don't neglect draining your oil in power machines every week; it adds life to the motor. Be sure the working parts are cleaned and greased each day; it will help keep the cost of maintenance down.

It is a very good plan to mark your machines and make a man responsible for his mower or tractor. He will take better care of his equipment if he knows he will be using the same machine all through the year.

Do you realize that a tractor that is mowing fairways twice a week covers 1500 miles a year? Then think of the number of times the reel blades pound the bed knife during one year of cutting. Be sure your reel is just touching the bed knife enough to cut grass clean, to set the reel tight to bed knife cuts down the life of the mower. The continuous pounding is felt through the whole machine and every part takes some of the wear.

Don't forget that a mower that is not cutting clean will bruise the ends of the grass blades and you will have brown-tipped grass ends and that does not look so well on a putting green.

BUTTERNUT RIDGE G. C.    HARRY A. BURKHARDT,  
NORTH OLMSTEAD, O.                      GREENKEEPER

## Odd Jobs Here and There

Screen your sand that you use in your top soil through a  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch mesh screen. It makes a finer top dressing and better putting surface. Use the grits on any walks and roads you may have.

Keep up the agitation for a shed to house your top soil. This is the time of the year that shows the need for one, when top dressing is most essential, and the soil is slow drying out.

Adjust your putting green mowers to cut about as close as they will cut at this time; you can raise them later.

Feed the greens freely at this time; now is the time they need it to form a dense turf.

Now is the time to begin your turf nursery. Seed at once, or if you want stolens, prepare the ground now and plant the stolons in May or early June.

If you want to keep your tees in good order, make a practice every Monday morning, to fill the divot holes with soil to which has been added a goodly quantity of grass seed. Fill level and press down with the foot. You will be surprised how well your tees will stand up, especially if you will give them a little water from time to time, in dry weather.

If you have spots on the fairways that are a little weak now is a good time to top dress them with soil to which has been added plenty of bone meal or some good balanced fertilizer.

Now is the time to sow flower seeds for cut flowers for the club house tables later on. Also plant dahlias, gladiolas and peonies; these latter will make a good

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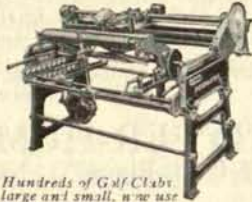
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growth this summer and will give some cutting next year.

GLEN OAKS COUNTRY CLUB      EIMER E. AFFELDT,  
GREAT NECK, L. I.                      GREENKEEPER

### Fertilizing with Sulphate

I notice you are running a Helpful Hint column, so am sending my idea as to a useful and ideal way of fertilizing greens with sulphate of ammonia.

Many greenkeepers think it is necessary to have a high pressure spray machine which is all right if you can afford it, while others use just a common ordinary garden sprinkler or spray barrel.

The most convenient, easy to handle way as I have found is just a hose with a branch like a "T" that goes in the sulphate of ammonia mixed with water in the proper way. The container or the hose may have a check valve to regulate the amount of sulphate to be turned into the water line.

Care should be taken not to turn too much sulphate of ammonia into the line, because the air and suction in the hose due to the stream of water flowing through will draw the sulphate of ammonia very rapidly from the container. With this method you are receiving the same results that could be had from others more complicated and extensive.

ALBERT LEA COUNTRY CLUB      OSCAR JEPSON,  
ALBERT LEA, MINN.                      GREENKEEPER

## Brown Patch

For the Prevention and Control  
USE

**SEMESAN or NU-GREEN**

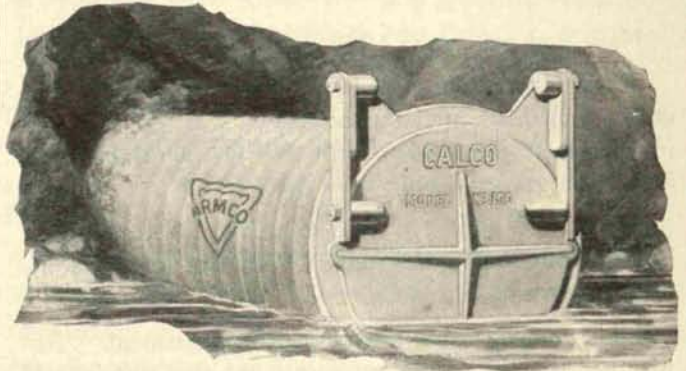
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MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

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