



The Greenkeeper's Lament

IF you can keep your head when greens are dying,
 And all your club is blaming it on you,
 If you can keep the misty sprinklers flying,
 When no rain falls and there's not even dew.
 If you can keep from slaying all the growlers,
 When brown and dollar patch makes labor vain,
 If you can look for weeks on baking weather
 And look and long and yearn and pray for rain.
 If you can show the Green committee reason
 Why clayey soils, bake hard, much worse than sand,
 And every day and half the night keep sprinkling,
 While naught but heat and dust lie on the land.
 If you can keep your greens all fine and grassy,
 Your fairways and your tees a plushy green
 And keep from growing worn and mean and sassy—
 You're a better man than I am, Gunga Deen.

(With sincere apologies to Kipling.)

WILLIAM A. GROVER, President,
 Westchester Greenkeepers' Association.

The National Greenkeeper,
 Cleveland, Ohio.

Some little time ago a certain firm sent out a questionnaire asking greenkeepers what methods they used in treating brown patch. I wonder what proportion of replies were, "We have never had any?"

The writer who has had charge of courses for many years, can truthfully say that he has never had a case of this terrible disease on his greens and is old fashioned enough to still depend on compost to keep them healthy, believing that by building up a healthy soil he will have healthy grass.

By aerating the greens and applying good two or three-year-old compost every six months with a dressing of 8-6-4 fertilizer between, the grass gets a steady diet of its natural food and is able to ward off most diseases through just being healthy.

Nitrogen is a valuable stimulant when used as such on soils in good condition, but should never be used entirely as a fertilizer. There is a great temptation on the part of the inexperienced greenkeeper to turn to

nitrogen when he sees a green not quite up to standard.

The response is so easy to see and the effects so pronounced that the necessity for phosphates and potash are lost sight of for the time being.

If this nitrogenous treatment is persisted in the result will be an unhealthy condition of the soil to the detriment of the grass growing thereon and favorable to the various diseases to which unhealthy grass is heir to.

When that condition becomes apparent there is a frantic rush to mercury, calomel, sulphur or what have you, in a vain attempt to stop the attack.

Most of the trouble is caused by inexperienced Green committees and greenkeepers who not having the necessary knowledge themselves are carried away by high pressure salesmen who have this or that to sell which makes the growing of grass on greens and fairways no trick at all according to them.

If the clubs who try to carry on with a foreman for financial or other reasons would have an experienced greenkeeper visit their course say once a week to install a system and instruct their man in charge, there would be less trouble for in greenkeeping as in other things, it is easier to keep right than to make right.

By TOM NICOLL, *Golf Professional*,
 Los Altos Golf and Country Club, Los Altos, Calif.

New Course at Des Moines

A sporty golf course is being opened one-half mile west of the city limits of Des Moines, on Rockland Road. Mrs. J. O. Hopkins and John W. Hopkins, Jr., members of the Hopkins Sporting Goods Company, distributors of MacGregor golf goods in Iowa are sponsoring the project.

It is a wooded, rolling site with hazardous creeks running through the fairways and promises to be one of the most attractive nine-hole courses in the state when completed, being on the home site of the J. O. Hopkins residence.

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