

# General Turf Maintenance

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**I**N THE practice of turf culture the word "maintenance" is universally misused. The dictionary meaning is "to hold or keep in a particular state." In turf culture it is interpreted to include true maintenance, general improvement of the turf, and the rehabilitation of a partially destroyed lawn.

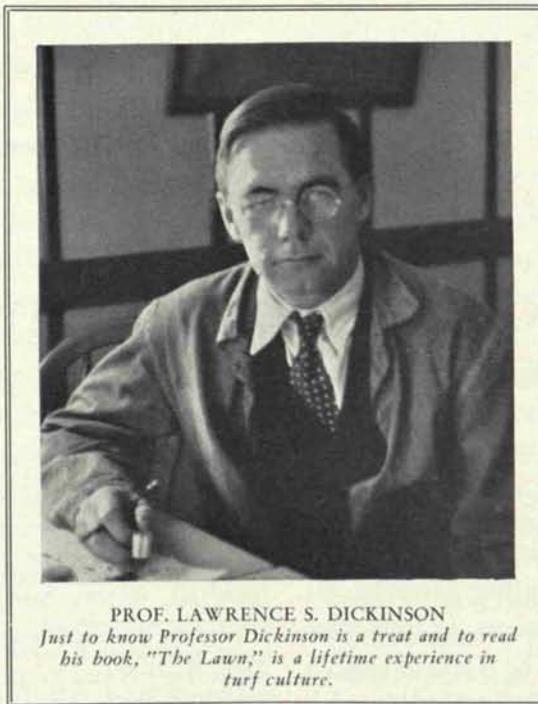
Whatever the interpretation, good construction will greatly lessen the cost of maintenance. Also it is far better, and much cheaper, to encourage and improve the existing turf on a lawn area

than to re-make it. Too often the errors that caused the lawn to fail in the first instance are repeated in the rebuilding. Also if there is some grass growing, good maintenance methods will cause more grass to grow.

Good maintenance will never entirely overcome the handicaps of a poorly constructed lawn, nor will good construction diminish the need of correct maintenance methods in turf culture. All maintenance methods should have two objectives: first, to relieve the immediate troubles of the turf; second, to be of permanent value. Unless these two objectives are kept in mind it is very easy to cause considerable injury to a lawn, and at the same time satisfy an immediate need. Incorrect watering is an example of how such a condition could be brought about.

## FALL MAINTENANCE OF NORTHERN TURF

**B**ECAUSE the northern turf grasses prefer a cool temperature for their growth, there is in the fall an increased growth of leaf and a general freshening appearance on all turf. This revival of vigorous growth is the reason for careful fall maintenance.



PROF. LAWRENCE S. DICKINSON  
*Just to know Professor Dickinson is a treat and to read his book, "The Lawn," is a lifetime experience in turf culture.*

Some organic fertilizer that has an analysis of about 7% ammonia, 2% phosphorus and 1% potash should be applied during the early part of September. After September 1, the lawn mower knife should be lifted one-half inch above the usual height for spring and early summer cutting. The mowings during the first half of September should be frequent enough to prevent matting of the clippings, and all clippings should be left on the lawn. During the latter half of the month the mowings should be less frequent,

and timed so that the last mowing of the season will be made about a week before the grass ceases to grow.

At the Massachusetts State College at Amherst the final mowing of the season has been made during the last week of September in sixteen of the last eighteen years. The exceptions were twice during the first week in October. Both of these occurred in years that had exceptionally dry summers.

There are three reasons for permitting the grass to go into winter in a somewhat long and untidy condition: (1) By so doing more carbohydrates are stored in the roots for early use in the spring. (2) Protection is afforded against the early thaws causing the grass to start too early only to be killed by the late spring frost. (3) The grass crowns are protected against injury by being tramped upon. The ideal length for the grass to enter the winter is just short of the "lopping over" length.

The thick rough on golf courses can be improved by being burnt over in the late fall, but such a practice is not advisable for lawns or the better turf areas.

## FALL MAINTENANCE OF SOUTHERN TURF

LAWNS planted to Bermuda grass or St. Augustine grass should be given a severe raking to loosen the soil, and seeded with Italian rye grass at the rate of from one-half pound to one pound for each one hundred square feet of turf. The rye grass will give body and color to the lawn during the winter months that are too cool for the Bermuda grass. October is the proper month for seeding with Italian rye grass.

## WINTER MAINTENANCE

THE only protection that a lawn needs in winter

is against trespassers. A path across a lawn can be made very quickly in the winter if there is little or no snow. Also, if a path is made in the snow on the lawn, the turf under the trodden snow is quickly injured. Paths made during the winter are seldom obliterated before June unless very special care is given them.

A winter mulch of manure, straw, hay, or even tobacco stalks has been found to be unnecessary and in many instances harmful. If one cannot resist the temptation to "protect" the lawn, the mulching should not be done until after the ground has become solidly frozen.

## The Greenkeeper's Importance in Golf

*A tribute to the hard-working men who make the game worthwhile to those who pay the bills*

By GANSON DEPEW, Chairman U. S. G. A. Green Section

Reprinted from address delivered at the Annual Greenkeepers' Educational Conference in Chicago



GANSON DEPEW

*A good sport, a gracious host and an efficient executive.*

man of the Green Section of the United States Golf association for the past two years and as Chairman of the Green committee of the Country Club of Buffalo for many years, I feel I can speak intelligently.

My duties in the positions I have held, and my observation covering a long period of time have convinced me that there is nothing in golf which is more important or vital than greenkeeping. It has had more to do with the development of the game and the amazing strides it has made than anything else, until today there are more than two million players in this country, not to speak of those in Great Britain, Canada, and other parts of the world.

Golf has become our National game when the actual number of players are considered and which

I APPRECIATE very far outnumber the total of those playing baseball, football, tennis, and other sports. Very few play for exercise, and were it not for the pleasure connected with the game, it never would have attained its present popularity which is rapidly increasing every year. To the greenkeeper is primarily due the responsibility of making courses playable and attractive. The more he makes them so, the more players the game attracts and the greater the appeal to all classes of people.

If links are in a condition which leads only to complaint and irritation, some other means of recreation will be sought as players today not only want, but demand, almost perfect putting greens, and fairways. When links which receive little attention or are neglected, are contrasted with those in charge of a competent greenkeeper, then his great value to the game is realized. His work has led to more than 5000 links and clubhouses in this country. The municipal courses which are being constructed everywhere, the daily fee courses which are becoming so popular, besides the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the supplies and accessories of the game. It is no exaggeration to say that over one billion dollars is invested in some way in the playing of golf.

The greenkeeper however, has not I fear, received the appreciation and gratitude from golfers to