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The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

Official Organ of The National Association of Greenkeepers of America

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No. VII

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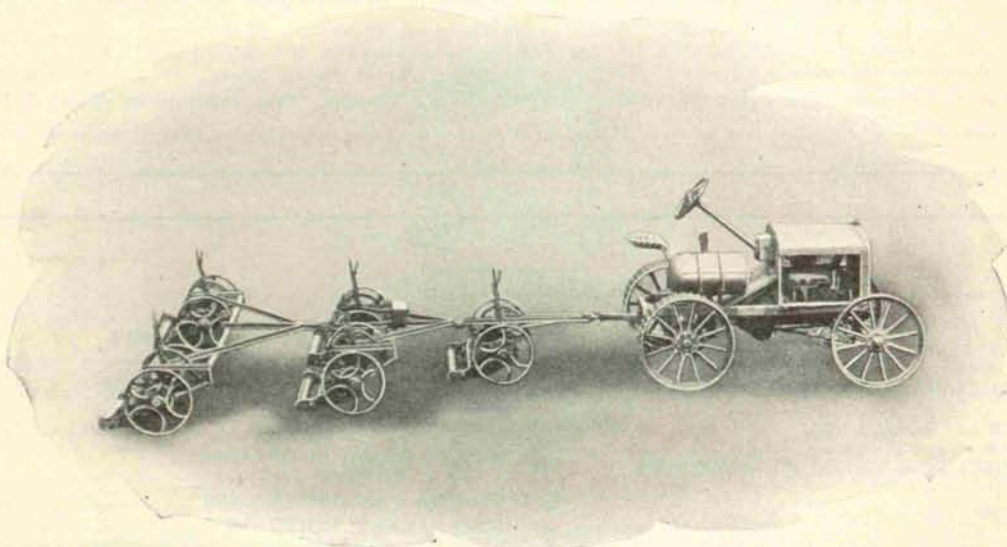
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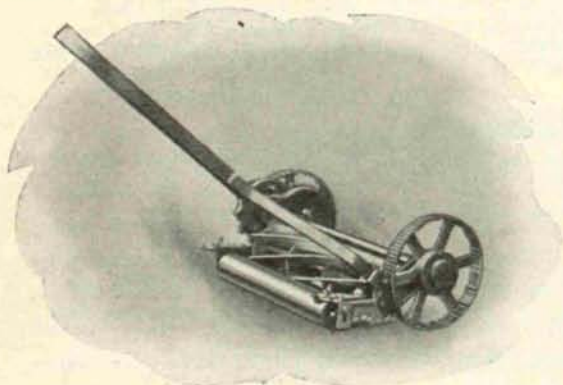
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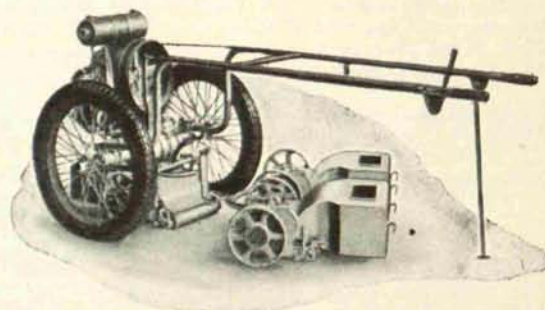
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July
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The NATIONAL GREENKEEPER

The Leading Journal of the World on Turf Culture and Golf Course Maintenance

Official Organ of The
National Association
of Greenkeepers of
America

Planting Bent Stolons

By DR. AMOS F. HUBBARD

Editor's Note: In response to numerous requests we are publishing these specifications on the proper planting and care of bent stolons.

Next month, August, is the best time to plant stolons in the northern latitudes. It has been known to have a putting green in six weeks by this vegetative method providing favorable weather, which means moist cool weather, prevails. But two things are necessary—first, to have young stock not over a year old, and second, to give them constant, intelligent care.

THE preparation of the soil for planting bent stolons is the same as for grass seed.

A firm level surface of good agricultural soil; preferably of a loamy texture. Heavy clay should be lightened by working in well rotted manure for its humus quality to maintain moisture and air.

Highly soluble chemical fertilizers should not be used until grass has become well established.

If the weather is very hot and dry, soak the ground the night before.

Before planting, rake the surface lightly, then spread the stolons evenly without leaving bare spots; a node to every square inch is ample; if too heavily covered, those stolons that do not have contact with the soil will rot. These stolons should be rolled again and then lightly covered with about a quarter of an inch of top-dressing; this allows the grass to show through in spots; then rolled again and watered.

The top dressing should be a friable soil similar to greenhouse soil. If not obtainable, a good sandy loam will serve. It is more important that it be friable than that it be highly fertile, a quality that will pass through a quarter-inch mesh screen. The ordinary mason's screen is suitable for spreading the top-dressing over the stolons.

A stolon is largely an air plant and therefore should not be smothered by too heavy a top-dressing. Light top dressing and constant moisture are best. One-half cubic yard of soil is ample to cover one thousand square feet of surface.

A clay soil cannot be used, as it bakes under sun and moisture and prevents the grass from coming through.

Water With a Fine Spray

THE watering should be done with a fine spray, care being taken not to wash out the grass, nor drag it with the hose. Care must be taken for the first two weeks, not to let the surface dry out; especially during the middle of the day when the direct sun rays are their hottest. In very hot weather, planting, covering and watering must follow closely. Half an hour of exposure to direct sun rays may be damaging to the vitality of the node.

After the grass has attained about two inches of growth, it may be cut, letting the cuttings fall, then a very light top-dressing applied; this can be done with a shovel and then raked with the back of a rake down into the roots. These cuttings add many nodes for new growth. After two or three weeks of careful watering, the plants will have matured enough to thrive under ordinary good lawn treatment.

The finest greens are obtained by frequent mowing, this also is the best way to force the grass to spread by root extension. The spreading of the roots takes place far more rapidly when kept closely mowed than when allowed to grow long.

After maturity, chemical fertilizers are best.

and should be used several times, both Spring and Fall.

Sulphate is Best Fertilizer

SULPHATE of Ammonia is the superior of all, as it tends to make an acid soil which discourages weeds and clover. Bent grasses thrive in an acid soil. Never use lime unless you want clovers. Sulphate of Ammonia may be applied at the rate of 2½ lbs. to the thousand square feet with safety, and double this quantity if care is taken in applying sufficient water. It may be spread with a Cyclone grass seed spreader, or with a pail of dry sand well mixed, or dissolved in water and sprinkled on. In every case, follow with a drenching of water. In Spring and Fall, it may be applied twice a month until the results are obtained.

A compost or a greenhouse soil are probably superior to any other materials for top-dressings and when used once or twice in the Spring and Fall will give a truly superior grass growth. Straight manures are not recommended, if fresh, there are too many weed seeds; if rotted, can only be applied in late Fall, owing to the coarse fibres contained that have to be raked off in the Spring.

Creeping bent stolons can be planted any month the ground can be worked. August and September are the best months, April and May next, July is the worst, owing to water requirements. October and November are un-

certain, but if dry enough to work the soil in preparation, the risk is not great, because if it turns cold and the plants do not germinate, they will lie dormant until Spring and then come through early; much earlier than Spring planting can be done.

Sun Rays Heat Stolons

STOLONS are much hardier than seeds in every particular except one, and that is, they will not stand direct hot sun rays without having surrounding moisture. The fresher the stolons the better the germinations; therefore when ordering, the plot should be entirely ready, the top-dressing should have been screened, kept dry and ready and the water must be available.

The stolons are often shipped long distances, but with a corresponding risk, especially as to heating; considerable earth is left in the grass to reduce this danger. A delay of one or two weeks is not highly damaging if in early Spring or late Fall.

Should the delay be after the stolons are received, they should be spread out under shade, with good air circulation, and kept moist. A tent is suitable for this.

When inexperienced, a good way to learn how much a bag of stolons should cover, is to lay off a square of surface the size that the shipper advises that one bag should cover, this gives a good idea on how it should be spread.

Planting Bent Stolons for a Turf Nursery

This interesting photograph shows Victor George (on the right), directing the planting of 13,000 square feet of stolons to make a turf nursery. The turf will be used in rebuilding the Number 6 green at the Country Club of LaFayette, Ind. Mr. George is president of the Indiana Greenkeepers Association and one of this country's outstanding greenkeepers



The Trend in the Greenkeeping Profession

An acute analysis of the greenkeeper's place in the golf field

By B. R. LEACH

Address delivered at the Third Annual Convention of the National Association of Greenkeepers of America at Hotel Statler, Buffalo, February 13-15, 1929



B. R. LEACH

Whose speech at Buffalo attracted wide attention

they have had an effect one way or the other on the greenkeeper, individually and collectively, and we can give the situation of the greenkeeper's status by discussing these events.

In 1920, or thereabouts, the Green Section was formed. There is no doubt that the Green Section has had a pronounced effect on the status of the greenkeeper. There is no doubt that the Green Section has greatly aided the greenkeeper in maintaining his turf.

From a technical angle, and from constant effort and direct contact, the Green Section has had a pronounced influence. Whether this supply of technical information is as great as it might have been is an open question.

There is another angle, to the Green Section influence upon the greenkeeper, which I believe is especially realized by every man here. When the Green Section was formed—to put it bluntly and boldly—the greenkeeper was ignored. I sometimes wonder if the powers that be knew as much then as they know now whether or not that gross mistake would have occurred.

GREENKEEPERS, individually and collectively, are interested in two things. They are interested in the technical side of their profession, by that I refer to the growth of turf, disease control, etc., and naturally they are interested in maintaining and improving their status in the turf maintenance work.

During the past ten years, things have happened, and in each case,

Greenkeeper Was Ignored

BUT at any rate in the formation of the Green Section, the greenkeeper was ignored. That action had two results. In the first place it hurt the greenkeeper—hurt his individual dignity and it hurt his professional standing. I scarcely question whether there is anyone who will contradict me on that point. Another result of this ignoring of the green people in the formation of the Green Section, and the lasting result, has been the formation of a formidable army of amateur greenkeepers.

In ignoring the greenkeeper, the Green Section catered to the Green chairman. It is hardly necessary to bring back to your minds some of the slogans in days gone by in the Green Section. You probably remember that famous slogan—"Come and bring your greenkeeper if you wish."

Now, in ignoring the greenkeeper and catering to the chairman, the situation rose and continued where the greenkeeper was simply submerged, unless by chance he was associated with a club in which the chairman was content to let well enough alone, and let the greenkeeper attend to his business. The greenkeeper through force of necessity became a "yes" man, and when an individual in any business becomes a "yes" man, that business does not prosper the way it should.

Inasmuch as I have known a great many greenkeepers, I think you will bear with me while I make just one criticism of greenkeepers, and this is my criticism. You men know your business. You might say that nobody realizes that any better than we technical men. You know your business, but you keep too damned quiet about it. There's the whole trouble. Now, when I say that college men are getting into this field, and when I say that I think in the long run it may prove a good thing, I have one thing in mind, and that is that you can't keep a

college man quiet! They are not built that way. So that if this situation ultimately becomes a mixture of older, wiser heads, with an influx of young so-called educated, energetic young college men, it is very probable that these young men will exert an influence on your proposition the like of which has never occurred until this time.

It may be you need these college men. They may start something that you could do if you would, or have missed, or whatever you want to call it. In other words, we might apply a little particle of philosophy to this thing. It has been my experience "Everything happens for the best, and every knock is a boost."

I have heard many reasons advanced in support of this army, as I characterize it, of amateur greenkeepers—I have heard many arguments advanced, but I have never heard one advanced yet which would hold water.

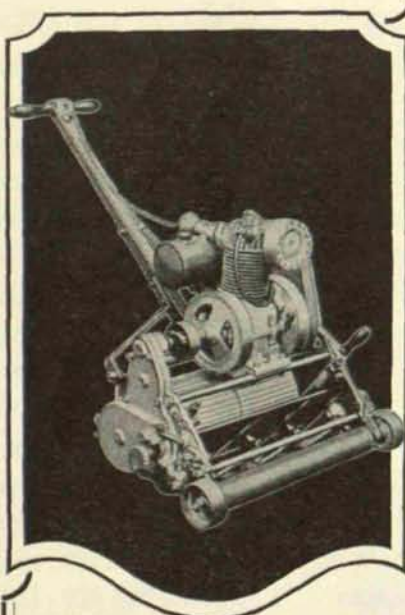
This afternoon you have heard Professor Dickinson.* I hope you will remember what he said about the qualifications of the green-

keeper. After hearing him, I realize that the qualities are even greater than I had previously supposed. Now, if a greenkeeper must have all those qualifications, and it takes all those years of training and work and study to become a greenkeeper, how in the name of Heaven can the chairman, or a chairman of any sort, without all this achievement—serve in the place of the greenkeeper? This situation doesn't lead to any improvement in this business.

Business Interests Neglected

WHEN the Green Section was formed, another phase of turf maintenance work was neglected. I refer to the business interests catering to golf courses. The Green Section has never had adequate funds. They are very frank to tell us that. In other words, the golf courses which have utilized the Green Section have never supported it adequately. Furthermore, they have never given anyone else the credit of supporting it adequately.

*Dr. Dickinson's address was published in the May issue of the National Greenkeeper.



FREE Guide to Green Maintenance

Write for new catalog of putting green upkeep equipment. Find out how other clubs from coast to coast are cutting the cost of green maintenance.

DEMONSTRATIONS
on your own greens without obligation.

JACOBSEN-CUT Putting Greens

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er . . . so much faster and cheaper that greens are always ready on time . . . keeps players happy, greenkeepers satisfied and the treasurer smiling.

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A Green Brush Attachment to prevent matting, a Power Transport Cart and a Bunker mower are additional Jacobsen equipment you will like.

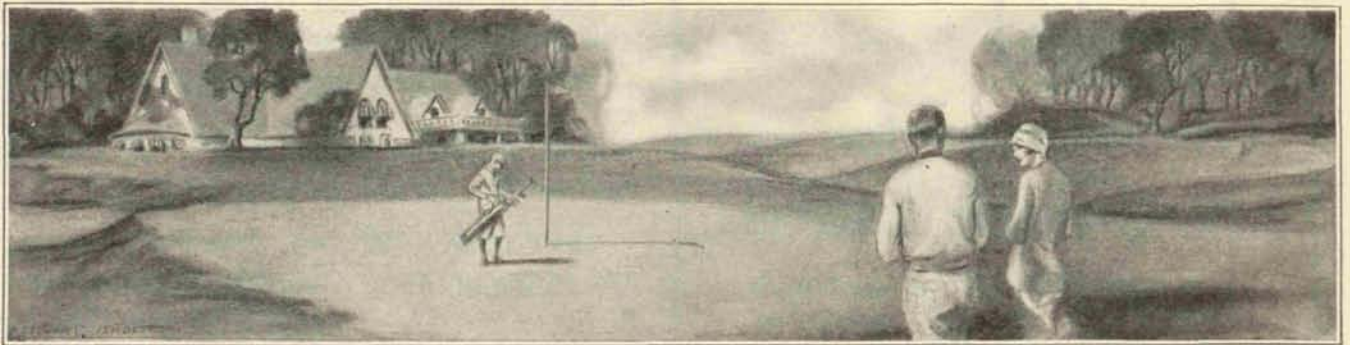


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*and you reduce the cost of
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The annual cost of course maintenance to golf clubs is astounding.

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Costly brown patch damage can now be practically eliminated by timely treatment with Semesan or Nu-Green. Applications of Nu-Green once a week for ten weeks cost only about \$87 per green. Semesan treatment for the same time would cost about \$132, which is but a small portion of up-keep cost per hole.

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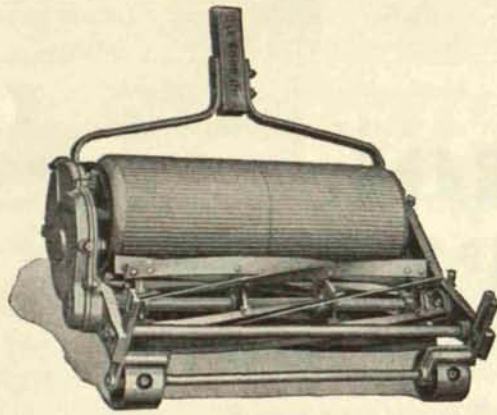
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The Super Roller Mower—famous as a cutter of championship greens

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For instance, the greens at "Winged Foot" were prepared for the National Open last month by the PENNSYLVANIA Super Roller Mower—the precision greens cutter shown above. Likewise, at Muirfield, Scotland, where Walter Hagen set a new record in this year's British Open, the greens were Pennsylvania-cut.

At famous old St. Andrews itself, the PENNSYLVANIA is standard greens equipment and, in this country, Baltusrol, Salisbury and East Lake are among the many championship courses using PENNSYLVANIA Quality Mowers.

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It may be said that when you admit a business or industry into this organization that business enters in, and that such a thing is necessary in modern times. Industries, research institutions all over the country are beginning to demand more and more funds for the business of research.

In the New Jersey Experiment Station, Dr. Lipman never neglects an opportunity to get money for business of scientific research. If you wanted to know whether money gotten in that way had any influence in the research work, the doctor would simply smile.

As an instance considering the reason lye is used on turf, I will venture to say that if you went to a lye manufacturer, and said:—"Gentlemen, you are not selling any lye to golf courses. Does it occur to you that this subject should be looked into?" they would answer "We should do it for \$5,000."

Business is interested, selfishly interested, and business rarely overlooks an opportunity to make money. I venture to say that had the business interests been considered during these years of Green Section activities, that our progress along the technique of handling turf would be much further advanced.

If I wanted to be a court-house lawyer, I could advance another argument showing the unreasonableness and unfairness of this monopoly of the Green Section activities by the golf clubs. I might say at this point that the ethics of my considering this at a meeting of greenkeepers may be questioned, but I am sure that my code of ethics in this respect is entirely above board and not open to question.

Turf Research Costs Money

IT IS amazing how little the average man in the turf maintenance field, whether he is a business man or greenkeeper or club official—how little he knows regarding the financial status of turf research. As you know—you probably know the Green Section—the golf clubs of this country are financing the Green Section to the extent of \$28,000. Now, for every dollar of that money that the golf clubs put up—five or possibly ten dollars