Sewage Disposal on the Golf Course

The proper disposing of the sewage collecting on a golf course is an important matter. In cities, as a rule, one need give little concern to the sanitary problems involved, as they are taken care of by the municipality. In out-of-town properties, however, the situation is different. There due precaution must be given to the health of the occupants and guests. The occupants of a golf course are not so numerous but that adequate arrangements for the safe disposal of sewage may be undertaken by the golf club itself, under proper guidance. The subject is fully treated in Farmers’ Bulletin No. 1227, issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, entitled “Sewage and Sewerage on Farm Homes.” This bulletin of 55 pages, which may be obtained free upon application to the Department, is well illustrated with photographs and plans, contains necessary structural specifications, and discusses in detail the following features of sewage disposal: locating and constructing sanitary outhouses; chemically-treated vaults; liquifying vaults; disinfectants and deodorants; cesspools; kitchen-sink drainage; grease traps; locating and constructing septic tanks; laying of sewer pipe; sewer-cleaning tools; sewage siphons; submerged outlets; distribution fields. Cost data are also given.

Bare spots in fairways.—If the spots are large the soil should be scratched and seeded preferably late in August. If the turf is merely thin, much better improvement can be obtained by the use of fertilizers than by any other means.

Controlling Velvet Grass

Velvet grass is a long-lived perennial occurring throughout the United States except in the Southwest. It is not sufficiently aggressive however to occasion trouble on golf courses except along the Pacific Coast as far south as San Francisco, where it not infrequently occurs as a bad weed in putting greens. Its characteristic pale color and hairiness of foliage make it exceedingly objectionable on putting greens. It is very persistent when once established, and under close cutting spreads by short underground stems. Occasionally single plants will spread over an area 10 feet in diameter. The only certain way to get rid of the grass is to cut it out bodily, destroy it, and replace with good turf. The effect of acid-reacting fertilizers on velvet grass has not been determined. When found in putting greens, the grass is also likely to occur in the rough on a golf course, and unless it is kept from producing seed in the rough it is likely to spread to the greens at the time of year in which it is producing seed. For this reason it is advisable to keep the grass from seeding wherever it may occur on the course. This can usually be done by a single mowing when the grass is in bloom, although at times a second mowing may be necessary.

Velvet grass is known by various common names, including meadow softgrass and, in England, Yorkshire fog; on the northern Pacific coast it is called mesquite, and at times crab grass.
Velvet grass (Holcus lanatus Linnaeus, Notoholcus lanatus Nash): 1. Plant showing habit (about one-fourth natural size); 2. a single panicle (about natural size); 3. a branch with six spikelets (much enlarged); 4. a single spikelet (much enlarged).