

A Rub of the Green

The title of this brief article was chosen with the clear intention to deceive, but it was not chosen in the spirit of facetiousness. It was selected in all well-meaning to attract, to cause the reader to stop, look, and read far enough to learn what it is all about. Surely, this is defensible. Now to the point.

Just as "a rub of the green" has lost many a match and broken many a beautiful friendship, so has rubbing the green injured much grass and ruined many a good putting surface. Wear and tear in the ordinary sense, while not always beneficial, are not particularly harmful; but rubbing or scrubbing or otherwise bruising the grass is decidedly harmful to it. Have you ever observed that the turf on the margins of many greens is poor or sometimes, in fact, entirely wanting? The abrupt turning of mowers and rollers is for the most part responsible for this. What should be fine approaches are frequently the poorest parts of the fairway, because the operators of the fairway mowers and rollers use them for turning grounds. A caddie at the flag, a player turning quickly on his heel, may unknowingly cause bruises that will show up ultimately as thin spots or as weeds. If you are the chairman of your club's green committee, or the greenkeeper, or are otherwise responsible for the care of greens, instruct the workmen to do the necessary work on the greens without rubbing the grass to the extent of bruising it. See that they turn the mowers and the rollers so that the turf will not be injured. See to it that the greens are not mowed when there is water on the leaves of the grass, unless cutting them in this condition is really necessary. Wet grass is very easily bruised and injured.

A mere suggestion is all that should be required to put on guard those who are held responsible. There are turf troubles enough without adding others that are relatively easily avoided, as are those that result from rubbing or bruising.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

All questions sent to the Green Committee will be answered in a letter to the writer as promptly as possible. The more interesting of these questions, with concise answers, will appear in this column each month. If your experience leads you to disagree with any answer given in this column, it is your privilege and duty to write to the Green Committee.

While most of the answers are of general application, please bear in mind that each recommendation is intended specifically for the locality designated at the end of the question.

1. **GETTING RID OF PEARLWORT AND CHICKWEED.**—We are sending two pieces of turf cut from one of our greens in which you will find weeds which are infesting them. Can you give us any information concerning these weeds and how to get rid of them? (Massachusetts.)

Answer.—The bright green weed with the thick narrow leaves is pearlwort. This is a bad weed and should be fought vigorously by cutting it out clean and replacing with good turf and then destroying the pieces cut out by burning or otherwise. If there is much of this in your greens you are up against a campaign of at least two years, as undoubtedly there are seeds of it scattered throughout all the greens; so even if you cut out every plant, you would still find that there would be a second crop later.