

Troublesome Weeds of the Rough

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Last month THE BULLETIN contained the first of a series of articles on plants that are objectionable in the rough. On a modern, well-planned course the rough does not consist merely of the heterogeneous, nondescript weeds and grass that come in after the land is plowed, but is comprised of carefully chosen plants arranged in such a way as to provide an increasingly difficult hazard away from the fairway. On such a course the handicap is for bad play rather than bad luck, and the player does not find himself in the underbush until he is actually out of bounds. Obviously, there are many plants which are quite out of place in the rough of a well-kept course, no matter how useful these plants may be elsewhere. A typical example of such a weed is the plant described below.

II. JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

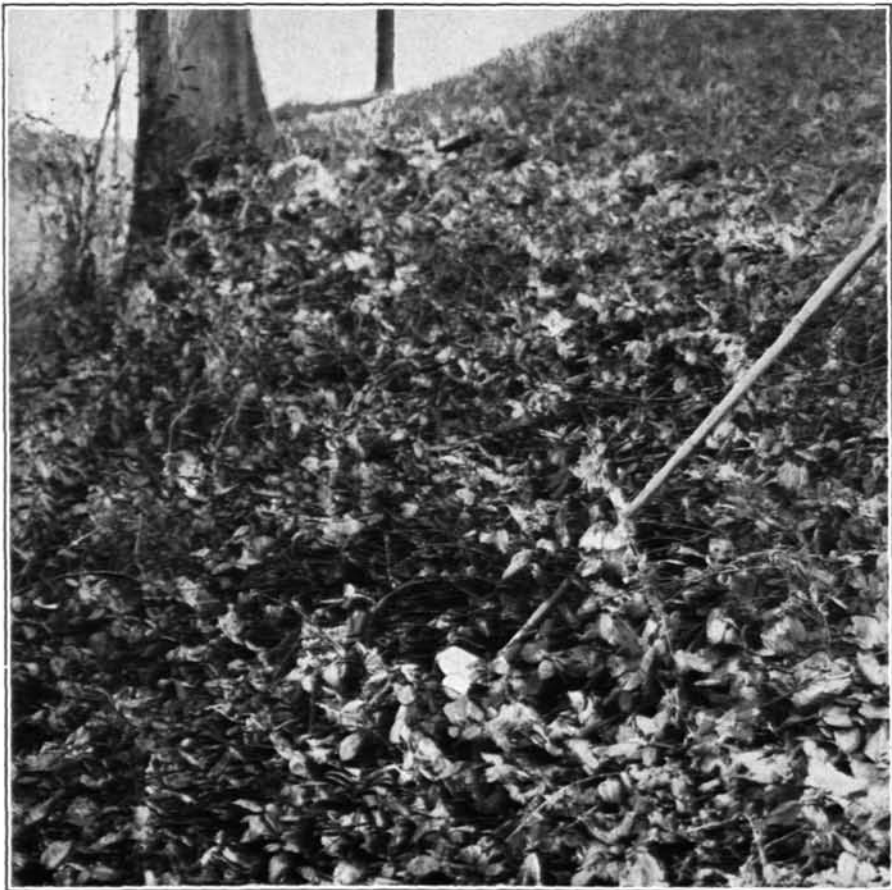
On one of the popular courses not far from Washington there is a favorite hunting ground where the caddies foregather early in the morning following any pleasant day and engage in a spirited and all-too-successful search for lost golf balls. The spot is a hillside adjoining a long, narrow fairway, not more than 10 yards off the straight line from tee to green and in a position where any well-hit ball, if only very moderately sliced, is almost certain to come to rest. The place is a superlative ball trap for the hillside is covered for a distance of 30 or 40 yards by a dense, impenetrable mass of the trailing or Japanese honeysuckle. A ball hit into the honeysuckle is almost as good as lost, and even if diligent search discloses it, it usually is so imbedded in a tangle of tough wiry vines as to be utterly unplayable. Tradition has it that the hilltop was intentionally planted with honeysuckle to prevent the soil from washing. If so, the designer has attained his object, but he has also earned the unending execration of the luckless players who undeservedly suffer from driving into this pile of living fish-nets.

This is perhaps an extreme example of honeysuckle as a golf course weed, but in any of the territory south of the latitude of Philadelphia one is likely to find honeysuckle growing wild and rampant over the fences, trees, banks, and waste places on or adjacent to the rough. Japanese honeysuckle was originally introduced into the United States from Asia as an ornamental vine and it is still one of the most popular items in the horticultural trade under the name of Hall's Japanese Honeysuckle or some other varietal designation. It long since escaped from cultivation, however, and now may be considered as nothing but a weed and too objectionable even for hazards on any well-cared-for golf course.

Eradication: As might be expected from such a vigorous grower, honeysuckle resists eradication. A well-established mass of honeysuckle consists of numerous strong, well-rooted "mother plants" and dozens of shallow-rooted young plants where the spreading vines have taken root at the joints. The young plants are easily ripped out by hand and destroyed, but the old plants are firmly imbedded in the soil and can not be torn out without breaking the roots except when the ground is extremely soft. Broken pieces of the plant left in the soil immediately give rise to new plants. Hence, a single hand

grubbing serves to remove the mass of vines for the time being and, unless followed by follow-up work to destroy the new shoots as they come up, may result simply in stimulating the plant.

A method that was found some years ago by the Department of Agriculture to be quite satisfactory is to spray the honeysuckle with oil and burn the area after the leaves are dead. The oil-soaked vegetation burns fiercely and all the tops and many of the roots are destroyed. The burned area must be watched and in about a month or six weeks must be sprayed again to destroy the succulent young



Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

shoots that arise from the old roots. For the second spraying a concentrated solution of salt (3 pounds per gallon of water) is just as effective as oil and much cheaper. Sometimes a third spraying is necessary, but if the work is done thoroughly the first year there will be little to do thereafter.

The most satisfactory results have been obtained with the heavier grades of oil. A rather heavy fuel oil, a light lubricating oil, or the waste oil from automobile crankcases is of almost the right consistency. The light oils, such as kerosene, light gas oil, light fuel

oil, and light distillate are not reliable. The oil should be light enough to spray readily with an ordinary hand sprayer, but heavy and viscous enough not to evaporate freely. Recently the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, in experimenting with the use of oil for destroying honeysuckle in apple orchards, discovered that emulsions of the oil with water were quite as effective as the undiluted oil, and of course saved much oil. A 25-percent emulsion gave excellent results. The preparation of an oil emulsion requires some care, but directions for doing this may be found in Bulletin 244 of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station. Before using waste automobile oil in a sprayer it should be allowed to settle and be strained through a double layer of cheesecloth. In the Virginia experiments, three sprayings are recommended; the first about the middle of May and not later than the first of June; the second when the new shoots are four or five inches long; and the third in May of the following year. The second spraying is not considered necessary if the honeysuckle is in the open where it can be burned, as described above, without injury to near-by trees. Spraying should be done in clear weather, since rain dilutes the freshly applied solution and washes it away.

Royal and Ancient Decisions on the Rules of Golf

A provisional ball is played because the player considers that his first ball may be out of bounds. On coming up to it he finds that it is on the course but he deems it unplayable. Is he entitled to continue his play with the provisional ball which was played because of the possibility of the first ball being out of bounds?

Decision.—A provisional ball is played in order to save delay. A player is entitled to continue play with the provisional ball whatever the cause may be which induces him to abandon his play of the original ball.

(1) If a ball is driven into a heap of hay or cut grass, can it be treated as a ball on "ground under repair" or must it be played where it lies?

(2) A drives a ball, but on going forward can not find it. She then goes back to the tee and drives another. On walking to this she sees the first ball.

(a) May she continue play with the first ball, counting the second ball as a provisional ball, or (b) may she go back to the tee and play a provisional ball, allowing her caddie meanwhile to look for the first ball with the understanding that it will be played if found?

Decision.—(1) When a ball is driven into a heap of hay or cut grass Rule 11 applies. The ball may be lifted and dropped without penalty.

(2) The note to Rule 22 makes it quite clear that a provisional ball can only be played before the player goes forward to search for the ball which has been played with the previous stroke.

At a certain hole A has played four strokes and B three. A says "Like as we lie." B plays two more strokes and picks up, saying "your hole." A afterwards discovered that he had played one more stroke than B when he made the statement "Like as we lie." Does he lose the hole?