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Turf Gardens and Experimental Work

In this issue we give a brief review of the principal experimental turf gardens in America. We frequently find men interested in such work who are not acquainted with the turf gardens in their immediate vicinity. It is hoped that this number of THE BULLETIN will serve as a guide for any who may be interested in observing some of the experimental work being conducted for the betterment of turf. We do not claim to include all turf gardens which may be carrying on constructive work, for it is recognized that there are many small but interesting turf gardens conducted by other experiment stations and on many golf courses. No attempt is made to evaluate the various gardens nor to give results obtained on each. The purpose is rather merely to point out the location of each, the type of work, and by whom it is being conducted.

It will be noted that the turf gardens are divided into two groups; experimental and demonstration. The experimental gardens are all supervised by institutions whose business it is to conduct experiments, and in most cases they receive some financial aid from the United States Golf Association Green Section. On the experimental turf gardens new grasses, new chemicals, and new methods may be tried out. A large proportion of these tests prove of little value and must be discarded. The occasional new development which comes out of all these trials must be further tested before being recommended for general use on golf courses or elsewhere. Although there is apparently much repetition of work at the various stations, this is desirable due to the different responses of grass to different treatments under unlike soil and climatic conditions. Beyond a certain point repetition leads to waste. It is the purpose of the Green Section to try to correlate the fundamental experimental work in order to avoid needless duplication of effort with its resultant dissipation of limited funds. As an example, it is proposed to continue to concentrate the principal disease work at the Arlington Turf Garden but at the same time to conduct some disease studies at other stations on a small scale.

Each of the new series of demonstration plantings on golf courses is intended to serve as an intermedium between the experimental work and the golf courses in the immediate vicinity of the planting. These will give the experimental men an opportunity to further check their results under more varying conditions. At the same time they will "take home" the experimental work to men interested in turf production throughout the country.

No doubt all this work will meet the usual objection from the super-practical man that these plots do not represent actual putting green conditions. The answer is that we all recognize that they are not actual putting greens and no effort is being made to make them

such. This work may well be compared with the experimental work in the automobile business. Before being adopted, the improvements in engines and body parts are worked out by engineers and mechanics in experimental laboratories and on machines quite different from the highly polished and be-cushioned product of the show window or boulevard.

Demonstration Turf Gardens on Golf Courses

By John Monteith, Jr.

During the season of 1928 the Green Section established 15 new demonstration turf gardens on golf courses in different sections of the country. These will be supported and cared for by the local clubs, under the direction of the United States Golf Association Green Section.

It has been recognized for a long time that soil and climatic conditions exert such important influences on plant growth that recommendations based on tests in one locality may need modification under somewhat different local conditions. This has been found to be true in growing most plants, and as a result the State agricultural experiment stations and the United States Department of Agriculture have established many branch stations throughout the agricultural districts. The purpose of these new demonstration turf gardens is to extend the Green Section experimental work by providing a series of plots near several golf course centers. There it will be possible to reproduce under various local conditions some of the most promising experimental work of the turf gardens at the Arlington Experiment Farm and a few of the State experiment stations where golf turf work is under way. These series of plots are distributed as follows:

Minneapolis:	Interlachen Country Club.
Chicago:	Olympia Fields Country Club.
Grand Rapids:	Municipal.
Detroit:	Detroit Golf Club.
	Lochnoor Club.
	Meadowbrook Country Club.
Pittsburgh:	Oakmont Country Club.
	Allegheny Country Club.
Boston:	Charles River Country Club.
Metropolitan District:	Morris County Golf Club.
	Upper Montclair Country Club.
	Wheatley Hills Golf Club.
	Century Golf Club.
Atlantic City:	Country Club.
Richmond:	Country Club of Virginia.

Similar plantings have been made on the grounds of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Amherst, Mass., and on the campus of Leland Stanford Jr. University, Palo Alto, Calif.

Each series consists of 55 plots, each 10 by 10 feet, requiring an area for the complete set of 50 by 110 feet. It is recognized that there are several objections to small plots, but these objections are overcome by the advantages of lower cost, more uniform soil conditions, and more direct comparisons. These plots are all numbered and are planted in practically the same order in every locality. The arrangement is such as to bring together the plots that will be most interesting for comparison and also to condense into a small series