

that they will prove more interesting and instructive as they develop farther and accumulative effects of fertilizers and treatments become a factor. Most of the gardens were used by individuals in their neighborhood to an extent far greater than those who planned the gardens had expected for the first year. The gardens have not solved all of the problems of turf culture nor have they solved any single problem. Such solutions were not expected by anyone who has any reasonable appreciation of such work. It is quite apparent however that they have encouraged an open-minded attitude among many who have visited them, and the results already obtained lead one to question many of the hard-and-fast rules by which some individuals feel turf culture can be governed. Such an accomplishment, independent of all the other features of value, has fully repaid the money and energy so far expended on these gardens.

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### Sorrel and Its Control

One of the more persistent weeds in fairways and putting greens, when once it has a foothold, is sheep sorrel. This is a low-growing, creeping perennial belonging to the buckwheat family and closely related to the docks. The weed is variously known also as horse sorrel, field sorrel, red sorrel, sour weed, or simply as sorrel, the name sorrel being derived from a German word meaning sour, and having reference to the sour taste of the leaves. Other plants with sour-tasting leaves are also called sorrel, but none of them are as troublesome as the sheep sorrel.

Sheep sorrel forms dense clusters of small arrow-shaped leaves, which lie close to the ground in poor soils and form thick mats of foliage on more fertile ground. The plant spreads by means of creeping underground stems or runners, somewhat after the fashion of the strawberry plant, and in addition produces an abundance of small, triangular seeds. The seeds are borne in loose clusters on slender stalks and are of a peculiar reddish brown color. In late May or early June a patch of sorrel is conspicuous for miles around, owing to the red mass of ripening seed heads.

This plant is a common weed in old pastures, meadows, stubble fields, and lawns throughout the United States. It is particularly abundant on dry, sandy, or gravelly soils that are in a run-down condition, although it sometimes becomes troublesome in more fertile soils following seasons of unusual drought. Its presence is often, though not necessarily, an indication of an acid condition of the soil, as the weed will thrive on acid soils more vigorously than will most other plants. Like any other plant, sheep sorrel prefers a rich, well drained soil well supplied with lime; but it usually can not compete with other plants under such conditions.

Sorrel can be destroyed by spraying with a solution of sulphate of iron (copperas) made at the rate of 1½ pounds to a gallon of water. The treatment will not permanently injure grass, and will destroy the weed if repeated as often as the sorrel tries to send out new leaves. Sulphate of iron is deadly to clovers as well as to many broad-leaved weeds, but is not injurious to animals or to the soil. The spraying method is useful where the sorrel occurs as patches in a good stand of grass, or for working around rocks or fences. Where it is not abundant it may be weeded out by hand.