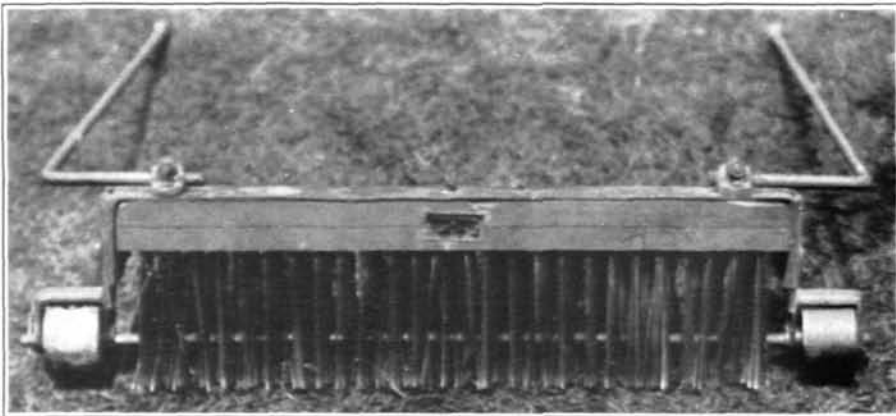


An Improved Mower Brush

Brushes attached to putting green mowers are gradually coming into more general use, especially on turf that has a marked tendency to produce an excessive growth of stolons, such as Bermuda grass and some strains of creeping bent. If the turf can be lightly brushed ahead of the mowers many more of the objectionable stolons are removed from the turf than would be the case if the grass were mowed when it is trampled down by players or pressed down by the rollers of the mowing machines. The brush attachments are more common with the power mowers than with the hand mowers, but even the hand mowers are now occasionally equipped with brushes.



The efficiency of the mower brush is increased by equipping it with casters. The casters are adjustable and thus the pressure of the brush on the turf may be regulated. The axle running between the bristles increases their resistance

One of the objections encountered in one of the common types of brush attachments is that the long bristles tend to bend backward as the brush is being pushed over the turf and this defeats the purpose of the brush. One method for overcoming this objection was devised by George T. Cunningham for use on the Metropolitan bent turf on the putting greens of the courses of the Country Club of Virginia, in Richmond. The accompanying illustration shows the additions which were made to the brush attachment furnished with the power mower used by Mr. Cunningham. A strip of 3/16-inch steel with the ends 3/8 inch thick was screwed on the top of the brush. This strip was bent over the ends of the brush. The ends of this steel strip were provided with slots 1/8 inch deep, in which were fitted the extra brackets and casters taken from a discarded hand mower. A bolt through the brackets and side irons makes it possible to raise or lower the rollers and hence the height of the brush may be carefully adjusted. A half-inch axle runs through the brush between the caster wheels. This axle is about an inch from the ground and holds the bristles in front of it from bending too far back. The resulting increase in the resistance of the bristles makes the brush much more effective in raising the runners of creeping bent or the seed heads of annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*).