

The Turfnut

Every country club should have a turfnut. No use to look in the implement and seed catalogues—it is not listed. A turfnut is made in the image of a man. From the standpoint of the golfer he is a superman. Some things are above price. A genuine turfnut belongs in that class. He cannot be hired or fired. He may be ignored for a season, ridiculed for several seasons, but he cannot be suppressed. In the end he will leave an impression on his course.

Several golf clubs are the fortunate possessors of turfnuts. "Richland Center" has one. It is not necessary to prove that "Chauncey" is a turfnut. He frankly admits it. Chauncey is also contributing to the shortage of white paper, and thus increasing the cost of printing *THE BULLETIN*, in a futile attempt to make a turfnut out of his friend "Bill." It can't be done. Bill just hasn't got it in him. If he had he would ere this be giving instructions to Friend Chauncey instead of still earnestly seeking knowledge by soliciting advice from "experts" *et al.*

This leads up to the matter of qualifications for a turfnut. The candidate for this inspired and enchanted fraternity should have much leisure. To put it in plain English, he should not be hitched with too short a rope, either by business or family cares. It goes without saying that he loves or did love the game dearly. Sometime in his career he should have made one of the eighteen holes in below par. This will give him a point of contact with the other players. He will be able to speak their language; and convincing the "powers that be" in control of the funds with talk is one of the hazards of the game. But above all other qualifications the turfnut must possess an inquisitive, experimental frame of mind—not the inquisitive mind that questions every so-called expert that blows in to save the club from the trouble of investing its surplus funds, but the kind of mind that seeks facts by trying things so as to learn what really does happen. With every golf course there are scores of problems that are peculiar to that course alone. The Green Committee of the United States Golf Association, with all of its profound wisdom, can hope to solve but a small fraction of these. Neither can the green-keeper be expected to spend much of his time in experimenting. He is too busy. This then is the part to be played by the turfnut. When strange bugs begin nocturnal grazing on the greens, when disease overtakes the grass, when faulty drainage causes puffs and spewing in the winter, when ill-designed and poorly constructed machinery is disfiguring the course, the turfnut puts his individual attention to the problem, locates the trouble, and improvises a remedy. He is ever alert to improvements in culture of fine turf. His motto is, "try everything at least once." If there is a bog of muck convenient to the club, he puts some of it in a box and finds out if it is toxic or not to grass seedlings. If he is not satisfied with the customary methods of seeding, he tries out methods of his own devising. The same with watering, top-dressing, mowing, and the many other details of golf-course management. The late Frederick Taylor was a turfnut extraordinary.

Each club must develop its own turfnut from among its members. Usually it means the spoiling of a good player. When the right individual is found he should be given every encouragement. He should be on the

green committee, preferably its chairman. But if he is an honest-to-goodness turfnut he will be the whole committee whether he is on it or not.

Estimating the worth of a turfnut to a golf club is like putting a dollar sign on sunshine and summer showers. But go to any golf course which possesses outstanding merit and you will find somewhere around the grounds its turfnut, for it will surely have one, busily engaged in studying the troubles of the day. The turfnut fills a place not covered by experts, architects, greenkeepers, or confidential advisers. Through him more than through all of these has real progress been made in the technique of growing fine turf. It was he who invented the slogan "replace divots."

The Control of White Grubs on Golf Links

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The turf of golf links, both on the fairways and the greens, frequently is attacked and sometimes severely injured by white grubs. These voracious insects devour the roots and underground stems of the grasses, cutting them completely off and causing the grass to dry up and die in patches which may be of small size, but which occasionally aggregate acres in extent.

Golf links which include deciduous woodlands are most liable to attack, because the May beetles, which are the parents of the grubs, are attracted to and feed upon the foliage of such trees, afterwards laying their eggs in the sodlands contiguous to these trees. May beetles, which are strictly nightflying insects, feed principally upon the oak, hickory, poplar, elm, willow, locust, hackberry, ash and walnut, although a few species are known to be attracted to conifers. Practically all of the most injurious species of white grubs spend two full summers feeding beneath the surface of the soil, and the complete life cycle consumes three years. In the most northerly states the life cycle may be as long as four years, or be reduced to as little as two years in the extreme south.

The eggs of the May beetle are deposited in the soil usually on rising ground. They hatch some three or four weeks later and the young white grubs feed during the first season on decaying and living vegetation in the soil. The injuries caused by these at this time are comparatively slight and often escape notice. In the fall white grubs penetrate deeply into the ground and remain inactive until the following spring when they once more approach the surface and begin to feed in earnest on living vegetation. From May to September or October of this second year is the period during which the grubs do their greatest injury to grasslands. At this time they are comparatively close to the surface of the soil and easily may be reached by insecticidal treatments of the character hereinafter described. During the colder months of the year, from October to the following May, the grubs are inaccessible to exterminative measures, and it will be a waste of labor to attempt to eradicate them at that season. A possible exception to this rule may be found in the extreme southern states where the white grubs have been but little studied and are less troublesome than in the north.