

Let Us Take Stock

Now that the golf season in the North has ended or is rapidly drawing to a close, is it not a good time for you, as chairman of your green committee, to review your year's work? Possibly December, 1922, turns the page on the first year of your service, or it may be it adds only one more anniversary.

A year ago, or at least nine months ago, you were outlining hazily, if not actually definitely planning, a program for the year's work. Today as you look back over the season you can tell with considerable certainty whether your efforts have really borne fruit. If you take your job seriously you should be willing to ask yourself,—

Is the course I have been responsible for better than it was last year?

Is it as good, or has it actually deteriorated?

Has anything been done to correct the fundamental troubles that make it difficult to maintain good turf?

Was the season's work performed efficiently and economically?

Was the budget properly adhered to and a cost-accounting system installed?

Were purchases made intelligently and economically?

Frankly and plainly, do I know anything more about handling my job than I did a year ago?

It will do you a great deal of good to face these questions. It will help you in planning for next year and also in many other ways. If your honest answers show that you have been properly on the job, then cast about for something to help increase your usefulness for the coming year. In case you should be looking for them, here are some suggestions. They are offered gratuitously—at least it will cost you nothing to consider them.

1. See to it that abundant, readily available good compost is at hand.
2. Look carefully into the matter of drainage and provide good drainage for the parts of your course where it is needed.

3. Establish a bent grass nursery and a bent grass sod bed for making new and patching old greens.

4. Install mechanical devices that will lessen the cost of upkeep of your course and do the work more efficiently.

5. Get on intimate terms with your turf grasses and with their cultural requirements. And do not forget that it is good for your soul as well as for your club's golf course to admit to a certain degree of ignorance with regard to seeds, fertilizers and many other matters pertaining to turf culture.

6. Check up your cultural practices with a view to eliminating the unprofitable ones. Do this by leaving untreated a similar area for comparison.

7. Seek information from sources where reliable information can be had.

After you have jotted down these suggestions so that they can not easily be overlooked, then take out your year check book and renew your subscription to the Green Section. (Bills will be sent out this month.)