

Quacks and Suckers

Webster defines a quack as one who professes skill or knowledge in any matter of which he knows little or nothing—a charlatan or imposter. He defines a sucker either as a suckling or as a fish. To accord with the common usage of the word, "poor fish" would be more accurate. Suckers are born every minute, and strange as it may seem the accumulated experience and knowledge of the world does not seem to affect the birth rate. We are strong for some effective sort of birth control as applied to suckers, but we are in a quandary as to the kind of control and the method of application.

There seems to be a direct relation between the number of quacks and the number of suckers. Occasionally when the suckers get to be few and far between in any locality the quacks die out or seek new fields. We have tried to prevent the fatal contact between quacks and those who may fall into the sucker class by making available all the knowledge on the subject of greenkeeping that could be gleaned from science and experience, but time after time we have seen suckers put aside all this and take the bait. We have about concluded that if one is predestined to be a sucker, nothing that we can do will avail, and that about all we can do is to keep on with the work and occasionally prevent, or about prevent, the creation of a hooked sucker.

The queer thing about growing grass is that every man in the world feels he knows all there is to be known about it or at least he feels perfectly able to accomplish results. It never occurs to him to try to learn what others have done. He is ripe and ready to become a sucker, and so when the quack comes around with his pretensions of experience and wisdom and with his misapplied or utterly inapplicable bywords, the sucker bites, and when he bites he bites hard. He takes it all in—hook, line and sinker; and the quack goes away with the money.

The quack always has something to sell. It may be seed, or fertilizer, or what not, or perhaps himself; and when the sucker bites and buys he always gets less than he pays for, and usually, what is worse, he loses time that can never be replaced.

There is no mystery about greenkeeping. There are no secrets. The work has been going on so long that pretty nearly everything has been tried out. When any one comes around trying to sell something or sell himself, remember to stop, look, and listen. If he offers something mixed, or mysterious, or magic, or secret, or special, pass it up. If you want seed, get standard seed from an established seed house that will tell you exactly what they are selling you. If you want fertilizer, see that you know what you want and that you get it and that you pay for what you get. The honest salesman for an honest house never oversells a customer; but a quack goes after the money, and it is nothing to him whether he sells too much, but it is a crime or disgrace in his view to sell too little.

The varieties of quackery are too many to admit of description. They range from the man with the mysterious mixture of seed or fertilizer to the man who can cure brown-patch by getting Bordeaux in around the roots of the grass. All we can do is to point to the availability of a great mass of knowledge and experience, and suggest to those who feel they may possibly fall victims to the quack, that they stop, look, and listen and study just

enough to put the pretensions and claims of the quack to the test. Remember that a golf club has no income to offset losses arising from the acts of suckers, and that time wasted is gone forever.

We are for birth control as applied to suckers and quacks. We are for the prohibition of quacks, both within and outside the three-mile limit. We are "agin" them hard.

Seeds and Seeding for New Greens and New Fairways: What the Green Section Recommends

C. V. PIPER, R. A. OAKLEY AND LYMAN CARRIER

As there still seems to be some lack of understanding in regard to the Green Section's recommendations on seeds and seeding methods for golf courses, it is deemed desirable to present these as clearly and concisely as possible. The accompanying maps show the areas to which each grass is adapted.

Good preparation of the soil as well as good treatment of the young grass is presupposed. With poor preparation of the soil or poor treatment afterwards, no rate of seeding, however great, will make much difference. The rates of seeding that are to be indicated will insure success so far as the amount of seed is a factor. Indeed, the amount of seed advised is *heavy* seeding. *Heavier rates of seeding than those indicated are never justifiable and will not increase the chances of getting a perfect stand.*

SEEDING NEW PUTTING GREENS

GERMAN MIXED BENT OR RHODE ISLAND BENT FOR NEW PUTTING GREENS.—Sow preferably between August 15 and September 1, using not more than 5 pounds of good quality of seed per 1,000 square feet. The bents are the best of all putting-green grasses in the area to which they are adapted.

When bent seed is scarce or too expensive for a club, economy can be secured by sowing 2 pounds of redtop and 3 pounds of bent per 1,000 square feet. The redtop will mostly disappear after two years, by which time the bent should occupy the whole surface.

RED FESCUE.—This seed is sold under various trade names, as Chewings' fescue, New Zealand red fescue, and European red fescue. While there are sometimes wide variations in quality, and especially in germination, of red fescue seed from different sources, we fail to find any distinctive differences in the character of the turfs produced. There have probably been more putting greens seeded to red fescue, either alone, or as is more commonly the case mixed with redtop, in the past six or seven years than to all other grasses in the same period put together. The results are very disappointing. Greens more than two years old that show an appreciable amount of red fescue are quite rare in this country. Apparently the fescue on most soils will not withstand the close cutting usually given greens or even fairways. It persists on bunkers and in the rough even as far south as Washington. There does not appear to be anything gained by mixing other