

### Recent Books on Turf

LAWN MAKING. By Leonard Barron. 1923. Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York.

LAWNS FOR SPORTS. By Reginald Beale. 1924. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., E. C. 4, London, England.

GRASS. By A. J. Macself. 1924. Cecil Palmer, 49 Chandos St., Covent Garden, W. C. 2, London, England.

Most of the old literature (both English and American) dealing with the growing turf is "desk stuff"—that is, written by fellows with more or less botanical knowledge but who manifestly had never carried out any actual turf experiments. The older American writers copied to a great extent that which the British fellows had written—poetry and error included. It is distressing to see that the recently published books continue to repeat statements long since proven erroneous, evidently from a slavish bowing to so-called "authority." Here one still finds the old and erroneous information and advice. Thus the English writers say: use lime to sweeten the soil; use the spike roller to cure hide-bound turf; seed mixtures are better than one kind of seed; charcoal purifies the soil. The American writers say: we can not hope to duplicate English turf in America [if we could it would not be worth while]; threat your grasses to get deep root growth; sow grass seed in spring; use wood-meadow grass for shady lawns; crested dog's-tail is recommended; etc.

If you want your library to be complete, get these books of course, but be extremely cautious in following the advice they give where it runs counter to that of the Green Section.

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Winter-killing in the Chicago district.—Mr. Leonard Macomber, Active Chairman of the Green Section, Chicago District Golf Association, writes as follows under date of April 25: "I might mention that most of the courses in this district are in pretty bad shape owing to winter-killing. We had a pretty bad ice storm in December and the *Poa trivialis* and of course the *Poa annua* patches have been entirely killed out, many of the greens being very badly spotted. This is especially noticeable at Exmoor, Flossmoor, Indian Hill, Evanston, and in fact at practically all of the older courses where *Poa* species are found in the greens. All of the patches of bent came through in good shape; all of the new greens planted with stolons are perfect."

It would be of interest to receive reports from other clubs with regard to the effects of last winter's ice storms on the various turf grasses.

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A weed that makes good turf in the South.—On many southern golf courses there occurs on the putting greens a weed with leaves divided in fern-like fashion that makes excellent turf through the winter. In some places the plant is called fern-weed, certainly a much more attractive name than wart-cress or swine-cress which it is called in Europe. Technically it is named *Senebiera coronopus*. The plant is one of the mustard family and has globose pods covered with warty elevations. It is native to southern Europe and has long been introduced in America. In the South the seeds sprout in fall and the plants grow all winter. On putting greens especially it makes dense turf of very satisfactory quality. Perhaps it may prove to be an ideal plant for winter turf on southern putting greens.