

about your troubles, go out to the barn and sit down on a box and figure them out with your partner.

If you two are going to spend from \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year of your club's money, it's up to you both to work together and hold directors' meetings—just the two of you—back of the barn or out around the course, so you can both understand and thrash out your problems; and if you can't agree, for the love of Mike don't call in an "expert." The expert will solve your problems without the aid of spectacles or a crutch; but if you set on his eggs your expected chickens will be ducks; or more likely the eggs will turn out to be China door-knobs.

Bill, don't bother me any more. I have trouble enough making my wife believe I know something without taking you on too. When you have served your novitiate and can think like a real greenkeeper we'll consider you as an applicant for the first degree; but you've got to choose your course, Bill, and do it quickly. You can either be an ornamental chairman and content yourself with pretty raiment, or you can learn the work and amount to something. I hope these few words will find you well.

Yours,
Chauncey.

P. S.—Do all the clubs in your town belong to the Green Section of USGA? You ought to take it upon yourself to see that they do. Do it now!

From Vol. 1, No. 8
August 22, 1921

Removal of Grass Clippings

Nothing is quite so nasty near an otherwise perfect green as the usual pile of grass clippings. They become rotten and malodorous, and while we sympathize with the poor golfer who steps into the slimy mess, we think the greenkeeper deserves criticism. Incidentally such grass heaps are breeding places for many insects. Why not require clippings from greens to be emptied in burlap sacks which can be hauled away to use in a compost pile? This involves very little extra labor and is worth while in every way.

From Vol. 1, No. 9
September 16, 1921

Questions and Answers

Q. How can we keep our tees in good condition? They are always ragged or cut-up? E. J. M.

A. If tees were given a fraction of the attention devoted to putting greens they could be enormously improved over the present average. Practically total neglect or else good attention once a year is the usual treatment given to tees. It is not enough. One little scheme that will preserve the grass on the tee for those who wish to use it is to have the tee plates at the extreme front and have the first yard of the tee bare. Ninety per cent of the players to gain this yard will tee on the bare place, and thus reduce divoting to a minimum. Perhaps the best way to cover bare spots formed in the turf on the tee is by inserting a piece of sod when necessary. Indeed resodding all or most of a tee every spring is a method used on some courses.

If any one has discovered how to keep grassed tees perfect, we want him to give us his method.

From Vol. 1, No. 3
March 23, 1921

Q. Our club is a very small one and we have only a small course. Do you feel it would pay us to belong to the Green Section? W. D. B. Massachusetts.

A. We think your club is just the type that will benefit most by participation in the Green Section, as you no doubt wish to get the best results from the least expenditure of money. We are confident that you will find hints and suggestions in the Bulletin alone which will save you many times the cost. We propose to give just as much, or more, attention to the numerous small courses such as yours as to those which are large and rich.

From Vol. 1, No. 4
April 22, 1921

Q. The writer would like to know whether you have had any experience in building greens with sterilized soil in a manner similar to what the tobacco growers use? Roughly speaking, they steam the soil under a pan until a potato will bake about 6 inches below the surface. This is done to eliminate all weed seeds and to kill any fungus and bacteria which may be in the ground. It would seem as though this might save a very

considerable amount of work after the greens are seeded and come up, in keeping the weeds out; but I would like to know whether you have had any experience with greens handled that way, and, if so, what your opinion of it is? V. W. B., Connecticut.

A. Sterilization of soil for tobacco beds, which, after all, is only partial sterilization, was primarily for two purposes, one to destroy weed seeds and the other to destroy fungus diseases, insects, nematodes, etc., which might be present in the soil. The oldest plan for doing this was simply by burning trash piled over the seed bed, a plan still used in some regions. The plan now generally adopted by progressive tobacco growers is by means of a steam pan, under which hot steam is kept in contact with the soil for some time. In the Connecticut valley contractors sterilize soil for 50 cents to \$1.00 per 100 square feet, that would mean \$100 to sterilize a large putting green.

Still another method of sterilizing soil is by using formaldehyde; using 1 gallon of formaldehyde to 50 gallons of water and then applying 2 quarts of this to each square foot. Before applying this the soil should be prepared for seeding, and it is better to apply the liquid in several applications than in one. After applying the liquid the surface needs to be covered with wet bags or blankets so as to confine the gas for 24 hours. After these bags or carpets are removed the soil must be allowed to air for 8 to 10 days so the formaldehyde can evaporate. The cost of the formaldehyde treatment is very considerably greater than that of the steam-pan treatment. All of these methods are described in detail in U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers Bulletin No. 96.

In our judgment the expense involved is vastly greater than any possible benefits that can accrue. Temporarily it may be helpful, but not to a degree to justify the expense. Sooner or later organisms that live in the soil are sure to return and weed seeds are carried to the greens by the feet of golfers, and by other means.

Notwithstanding this adverse opinion, it would be an extremely interesting thing if your club could see its way clear to try out the scheme on one or more greens and give us all the benefit of the

results you secure. After all, a real experiment is the only way to get the right answer.

From Vol. 1, No. 6
June 20, 1921

Q. The robins are damaging our putting-green badly by picking holes in and scattering the turf. Can you suggest a remedy? E.B.K., Massachusetts.

A. This indicates the presence of abundant earthworms, white grubs, or other larvae. Visits by robins and other birds seem to be general wherever putting-greens are highly infested with insects that will serve as feed for the birds. The remedy, of course, is to get rid of the worms and other vermin which are attracting the birds. It would be well first to find out just what the insect is.

From Vol. 1, No. 11
November 15, 1921

Standardized Accounting

At present it is very difficult to compare the maintenance costs of golf clubs because accounts are not kept according to any definite system and a great variety of work items are included that have nothing to do with maintenance. The Committee hopes to put out in the future suggestions as to accounting which, if followed, will afford a basis for comparison of costs. If one 18-hole course is maintained for, say, \$15,000, and another for \$25,000 the difference should be accounted for, and if both accounts were kept on the same basis it would be easy to see where the differences occur.

The first thing to be considered is the classification of accounts and the distribution of maintenance items into as many classes as are practicable. Some of the classes are seed, fertilizers, new machinery, repairs to machinery, supplies, water, horse feed, contingencies and labor.

The committee will welcome suggestions along these lines. The work will be greatly facilitated if each member club will send in a copy of its last year's statement, showing its distribution, with any suggestions that may be considered pertinent.

When we can establish a standard system of bookkeeping we will be in a fair way to eliminate useless expense.

From Vol. 1, No. 8
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