

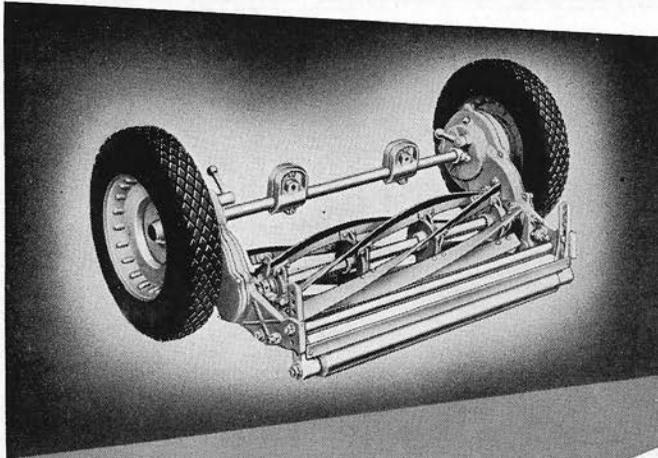


# NEWS LETTER

As is a tale, so is life;  
Not how long it is,  
But how good it is,  
Is what matters.

**JUNE • 1941**

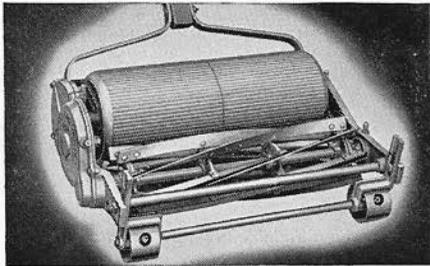
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# NEWSLETTER

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This NEWSLETTER is published by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Green's Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar for ten copies

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June 1, 1941

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*The ideas and opinions expressed in the subject matter of this NEWSLETTER are not necessarily those of the Editor or the members of the club as a whole.*



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### GREENKEEPERS' CLUB OFFICERS

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Brae Burn Country Club, West Newton, Mass.

ALEX OHLSON, *Chairman Golf Committee*, Lexington Country Club, Lexington, Mass.

## LET US HELP TO MAKE THE GREENKEEPERS' CLUB GROW UP

Democracy, is a democracy, only so long as the people who are governed by that democracy, work to keep it so. When a people become so busy making money, that they have no time, to work and fight for a democracy, then that democracy ceases to be a democracy, and becomes nothing but a sham.

Now, that is not the fault of the leaders, it is the fault of the people. The leaders failing to get any understanding of what the people want, proceed with government business, because something has to be done.

Let me give you a pretty good example of what I mean. A certain political boss in a fairly large city, in this country which was notorious for its corruption and crime, was visited by a group of men of that city.

These men were the cream of the more desirable citizens in the city. A banker, a merchant, a doctor etc. These men demanded that corruption and crime be cleaned out of the city at once.

Our political boss was elated, and expressed himself so, "At last you have come to help me. I have been waiting for you for a long time."

First he turned to the banker. Your an expert on finances, I'll appoint you as city treasurer, then to the merchant you can take over the purchasing department, and then to the doctor you can take over the Board of Health.

Then what a howl went up after that, for none of them felt they could leave their businesses, for even part time.

Now our political boss told these men to get out of his office, he'd run this town to suit himself until the decent people in it were willing to help him.

On the surface that seems a little far fetched, yet it happens all the time, in one way or another.

Those men did not realize that by ridding their city of crime and corruption that they would have taken the biggest step possible to improve their business, as well as the welfare of their fellow citizens.

Now this article is not being written just to give a lecture on politics, but what could be a better parallel for a club run according to parliamentary law. As I look at it the greenkeepers' club is being continually criticized by its members and by outsiders as being run by a clique.

That may be so, but if that clique did not function I am sure there would be no longer a greenkeepers' club. None of those who are on the so-called outside are willing to work. This is even in evidence in meetings. Time and time again, the most worthwhile projects are voted down, because most of the members are not willing to think things through, because it's getting late and everyone is either anxious to go home or to a show. It is to the interest of everyone to argue these things out, and if it's necessary to keep the meeting going until midnight, then let's do that.

The approach to most of our problems is too superficial. The club should get down to the basic facts of the problems, before going off in a half cocked manner. Most of the problems are brought up at a meeting out of a clear sky, and before the problem has had time to jell its voted on and the natural reaction, is to vote anything down which we aren't sure of, and then what may have been a good idea is lost.

There's the value of your NEWSLETTER, let those who have problems or grievances write them in the NEWSLETTER, so that all members may be prepared to discuss these problems intelligently at club meetings.

Many times the club has allowed incidents to develop which are not to the best interests of the club, yet when something is attempted to curb it a howl goes up, that that is in the past and should be forgotten. In reality a bad precedent has been established. That precedent should be prevented from recurring by making laws with teeth in them. We are like the ostrich, which buries its head in the sand when trouble comes. The right way to handle trouble, is to face it, and think it through.

I think that this club was originally founded to lift greenkeeping and that in so doing we would make golf a better game.

Let us look at some of the worthwhile things which have been lost, and then let's stop and think if we have really thought any of these things through.

*Publicity.* — When we had a committee that was willing to work on this in a conservative way, it was gagged and therefore died a borning.

*Education.* — We all need more of it.

*Change of Name.* — Always voted down with very little thought as to why or why not.

*Change of By-Laws.* — The by-laws do not need changing half so much as they need to be lived up to.

*Examination for Membership.* — I think some people vote against this because they are afraid they couldn't pass the examination. Those fellows better watch out or they'll be without a job anyway.

*Budget Committee.* — A most essential part of running a golf club, and we're the biggest advocates of such a thing, but we refuse to have such a thing in our own club, what a shining example to hold up, for other clubs and golf clubs. The budget committee we once had died, because the club did not see the logic. This com-

mittee did one of the best jobs of any committee in recent years, but its work went for naught.

*Bill in Legislature.* — A great deal of work was done by one man on this project, too little by the rest of the club. This one man made great sacrifices for the cause, yet he is ridiculed when in reality he should be looked up to. This man should have our thanks not our ridicule — yes there is too much negative in the Greenkeepers' Club, for if only half the worthwhile bills that are brought up would be put through, our club would be looked up to, and not down at, these days. — OLD SOD.

## DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 14, 1941

The meeting was called primarily to discuss the sectional meeting which is to come to Boston and surroundings, some time in October.

All plans yet, however, are indefinite, but the board through committees chosen, will hasten definite plans, between topdressings.

Several matters about the NEWSLETTER were discussed. All matters will be discussed by the Business Manager and Editor, in an open meeting, some time after the October NEWSLETTER has been published. Be prepared to fire your shots at that time.

Did you know that George Rommell slipped up on Breck's ad last month. Gee, was the Business Manager's face red. So red that the Editor decided he was two-faced, and the last they were seen together, the both of them were arguing about who was going to apologize, so they compromised; and now both apologize, to the Club and Breck & Sons. Just a coupla fresh guys, huh.

## BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OF DISEASE CONTROL

A Paper Read at Amherst Recreation Conference

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Our republican institutions can best be sustained by the diffusion of knowledge, and discussion of public events through the medium of the public press."

With this freedom offered to us as a means of expressing thoughts we should take advantage of it and use it to extremes in promoting public interest in our field-stations, laboratories and class rooms. Our problems become less difficult.

In my talk today in control of diseases, I wish to make the following recommendations.

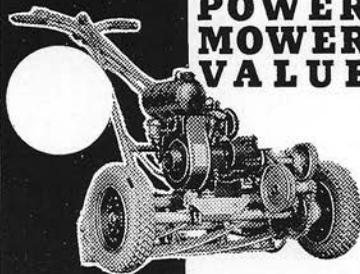
1. Do not fertilize greens during highly humid or rainy weather.
2. Do not water greens during highly humid weather, night or day.
3. Do not use bamboo pole to break up the brown patch.
4. Have the PH. of the greens the highest possible.
5. Never let the clippings of an infected green fall on the green or allow it to be used for top-dressing or composite pile materials.
6. Use loam from the natural fields if possible.

It is said that good grass turf is conditioned by two important factors — Climate and Soil. The climate cannot be greatly changed to suit the growth of grass so the only practical thing to do is to make the soil condition as nearly ideal as possible.

One by one new elements have been added to the list of those known to be necessary for plant growth and health. Some of these elements are needed in only a few parts per million of soil, yet without this trace, plants and animals also suffer from serious diseases. Brown patch is one of the

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diseases encountered in the growing of fine turf.

Now let us consider the soil which is eventually going to produce good turf. The soil, in its natural position is made of layers known to us as horizons. The two top layers are called horizons A and B. The top layer, or horizon A is the loam used for top-dressing and developing fine turf. As a rule, it contains the necessary organic materials. This loam usually is of a mellow, fine structure and has a high moisture holding capacity.

Some of the important elements found in the turf which are N, O, H, I, Ca, K, and C. All of these are necessary in the development of fine turf.

This top soil has a great number of organisms of microscopic size, that feed, multiply and live there. During their course of existence, these organisms change the substances which are about them to make the plant grow. In the soil there are many kinds of micro-organisms, some harmful, and some beneficial to the plant.

Warm weather favors their movement. Their development almost ceases during the period of cold weather.

You need an equal balance of the microbes in the loam while developing turf. In the virgin soil, or in areas in which natural competition has been undisturbed for long periods, the micro-organisms and green plants are found to reach a fairly stable balance. The swamp, the forest, the prairie, change slowly over long periods. When farming operations are introduced this balance is destroyed. Whole sections of the organic population are wiped out, and others are started. Plowing and cultivation increase the activities of the micro-organisms and the accumulated organic remains are freshly broken down at a greater speed. In many

areas, adequate steps have been taken to replace those which have been destroyed.

These micro-organic activities in the soil are desirable when they serve man's purpose. They become undesirable when they are stimulated to the point where they destroy the fertility factor that cannot be replaced in developing the plant.

Microbe activities are needed for a particular crop in each soil group and how those activities may be maintained at desirable levels.

Under cultivation, however, the conditions of growth found in nature are disturbed, because certain species of fungi are frequently introduced.

This organic matter in virgin soil which has been lost is very different in nature and effects from the material we considered to replace it. In kind and composition, the organic matter used for restoration should be as close as possible to that which was lost to insure good results in future plant growth.

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MILFORD, CONN. WOODRUFF SEEDS TOLEDO, OHIO  
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Most of the compounds in soil organic matter contain nitrogen and serve as food for the growth of bacteria, fungi, and various other forms of life. The processes of life, death and decay leave by-products that aid in plant growth. The maintenance of an adequate supply of active organic matter is important for permanently good turf.

Whether it is a plant or animal, its growth is governed by bacteria. Bacterial activity is greater in grassland than fungi. Fungi are more abundant in forest regions. The decaying of grass roots provide a large amount of organic matter for the soil.

As a rule, soil which is used for the first time by man is free from disease because the microbes are there to check it. For example, let us consider a field that has been used a good many years for planting the same crop. Plow it up and start growing something else. The first crop is good, but the second is poor unless we restore certain materials to check the microbes or elements that were removed by these crops. This plant has changed the life of the soil.

Adding fertilizers. The organic materials which are added in fertilizers are subject to more extensive change by microbe action than the mineral substances already in the fertile soil.

The fertilizers added in the summer are readily absorbed by the plant because it is available for the plant and also because of warm weather. The change is too great for the normal growth of the plant.

Soil containing an abundance of well decomposed organic matter is most satisfactory for the growth of turf. Organic matter disappears from soil under cultivation in a humid region. It is only by careful control that a satisfactory content of organic matter can be maintained.

In developing turf, there is no question about that which we are taking

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from the soil and destroying its value as the years go by. This is a slow process. Plant growth is not the same. It becomes weaker and therefore its resistance to disease is decreased. Under these conditions it would seem reasonable that we prepare a loam for top-dressing material by restoring the organic matter which is necessary.

Liming the soil may be of great help. Acid soil occurs in a humid climate and where there is plenty of rain water. It has washed out a relatively large proportion of basic elements of the original soil material and also from the use of acid fertilizers. These are known factors in the development of disease.

Records show definitely that liming the land was practised back in the Christian Era as a soil-builder. But the use of lime was first used in this country by a practical farmer in the state of Virginia about 1840. However it was not until the year 1900 that a professor at Rhode Island

State University discovered how important lime is to the soil. It seems strange that this was not carried on more extensively before that time.

Lime is basic and fundamental as a soil building material. Lime has accomplished the following result. In the summer of 1938, a certain greens-keeper worked for 25 years on a certain location. He had the PH. of his greens between 8 and 9. The soil was tested by the Massachusetts State College field station at Waltham. That year we had a record rainfall and it was a bad year for disease, but not one cent was spent for chemicals for treating those grass plots. As the PH of those greens was reduced each year, the disease was on the increase and more money was spent for chemicals. Also, a report from Rutgers University on their experimental plots stated that there was less disease present in a soil with a high PH.

With the cost of mercury rising under the present world conditions, would it not be wise to raise the PH

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Here is an ideal golf course fertilizer and a **sound investment** if price be measured by comparative results. Scientific research has developed the proper, balanced ratio of plant food elements for growing good turf:

- 6 Units Nitrogen
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of greens higher during this time by using lime. For those who are in doubt, excessive use of lime will not cause any damage because lime is always needed by the soil.

This may be the answer or lead in the right direction in discovering what substance or organism will check the disease or increase the resistance to it.

It is not too much to say that lime is the backbone of profitable crop production, soil conservation and permanent in the humid region of this country. A high humidity is known to be a direct cause of brown patch.

It is shown in experimental plots that bent grasses grow best with a PH between 5 and 6 — but has a PH of 7 or more done any harm to bent grass?

I hope that I have given you a few ideas in the control of brown patch by using a carefully prepared loam for top-dressing. However, this may bring out a question in your minds. If using top-dressing material which helps in the control of disease proves to be successful, why use lime? Using lime, which is a basic material for fine turf, simply adds another material which builds up the resistance of the plant.

Plant diseases in general are caused by parasitic fungi and bacteria. This fungi is dependent upon food materials manufactured by the plant. The cells of fungi are known as spored. The spores are produced in large numbers. Air currents, splashing rain, insects and other moving objects help spread the spores to other localities. Moisture is necessary for the germination of these spores, and in many cases free water. A condition of high humidity and free water on turf grasses occur generally at night and consequently, the majority of disease infection takes place then. The germ (hypae) push out from the spore cells and enter the natural opening of the leaf (Stomata and

Hydathodes) or penetrate directly through the epidermis. In the blade of the grass the germs absorb food materials from the cell of the plant, and they cause the death of the blade.

These micro-organisms are active only under moist conditions. There are special groups of bacteria which develop alone when the soil becomes water-logged which kills the plant because the necessary elements are not active.

Dollar spot, sometimes called small brown patch, kills the grass. This is a contagious disease. If you have had no dollar spot around; very well, but remember it can be carried to your course from another. The control of this disease is similar to that of other brown patch.

With these thoughts in mind, there is a great possibility that one of you may bring forth a discovery not only of the treatment but also the cure of these and other diseases for better management of turf.

**Massachusetts State College  
Conference March 14, 1941**

— ANTHONY J. SPERANDIO,  
Hillcrest Country Club,  
Leicester, Mass.

Francis G. Tuscher is now serving with the 67th C. A. A. Battery E, 1st Platoon, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

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## NEWS FROM THE KEYHOLE PEEKER

"Narry" Sperandio was married on May 24. The stock market on plain gold rings is at fever heat. Congratulations "Narry" we symp — we wish you the best of luck.

There was a Bachelor Party for "Narry" at the Marlboro Country Club, Tuesday May 20. There were 100 at the party, including many notables and about 8 or 10 members of the greenkeepers' club.

Don't forget the June meeting of the Greenkeepers' Club of New England will be held with the Rhode Island group on June 23, instead of on the first Monday of the month.

Frank Tuscher is the greenkeeper or Superintendent of lawns at Fort Bragg.

Too much lime is as injurious to soil as too much acid.

## Tournament Winners at May 5 Meeting

Best Gross	Nick Bruno	37	\$2.00
1st Net	Paul Wanberg	32	
2nd Net	Sam. Mitchell	33	
Most 6's	(12) Henry Mitchell		

### Rules of Tournaments

1. Tournament fee is \$1.00.
2. Three standard 75-cent balls as Gross prize in each tournament.
3. M. G. A. Rules are to govern our tournaments.
4. No one player may receive more than one prize.

### A Correction

August 4. Club Championship will be held at Kernwood instead of Belmont.

Sh-h did you know that Howard Farrant has just recently arrived at second childhood — to prove it he had the mumps.

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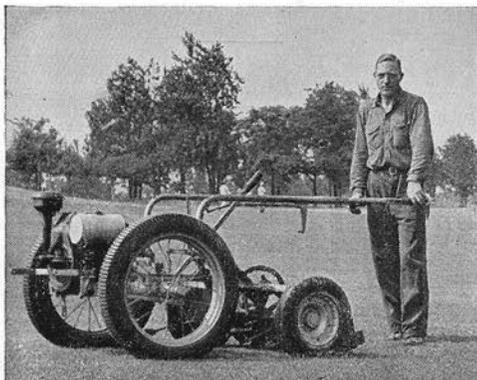
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