



# NEWS LETTER

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*"The best service a book can render you is, not to impart truth, but to make you think it out for yourself."*

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**OCTOBER**

**1935**

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly 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 a year.

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October, 1935

Vol. 7, No. 10

The slack season of the year is nearly with us. It is our earnest desire that our members use some of the time which they will have this coming Winter season in the pursuit of more knowledge, and to that hope do we dedicate this issue of the NEWSLETTER. There is a vast amount of interesting and helpful information in the files of any greenkeeper. Past issues of the Green Section Bulletin, Golfdom and other golf magazines, bulletins from the U. S. D. A. and the various state experiment stations, past issues of the NEWSLETTER, and even advertising literature itself, are full of help for all of us. Many of the articles and suggestions in past issues are now of help under present problems and conditions.

Many books on greenkeeping in its many phases are available for those who would study a bit this Winter. Our library committee will report along this line at the December meeting.

If you would have an interesting evening, try our suggestion, and look over past issues of any of the above, or read over some of the literature of a few years ago. Look over advertising literature of five years ago, and ten years ago, and note the many improvements in the golf course equipment of today. Note the changes in the golf course supplies such as fertilizers offered.

In the hope that all of our readers will try to interest themselves in some professional improvement this coming Winter, we have clipped several interesting items from a few of our sources of help, and are reprinting them to start the delving for information. As we believe that Herb Graffis and his well-known Golfdom furnish the largest source of greenkeeping knowledge pre-

sented under one head during the last few years, we are clipping many items from various issues during the past nine years, and present them as proof of the many varied helps to be found in this one source.

**Browned Areas** on putting greens are not necessarily due to brown-patch infection. They may be due to:

Insufficient water.

Poisons in the soil.

Chemical burns.

Unfavorable soil conditions.

Starvation—especially no nitrogen.

### Why Topdress Greens?

**Topdressing** greens is necessary (1) to furnish additional plant food for the growing grass, (2) to add a new lively surface of fresh unpacked soil, (3) to fill up the small depressions in the green and thus make the surface uniform and true, (4) to support the mat of fluffy stolons and grass blades which continuously accumulate above the surface of the soil.

**Change** the cup on a green as soon as the grass around it begins to show bruises from the golfer's trampling. During mid-summer, after a Saturday afternoon of heavy play, be sure to change the cups to fresh locations before the early Sunday players arrive at the course.

**There** is no good reason why any green should exceed 8,000 square feet in size. If they are larger, the increased expense is out of all proportion to any real advantages.

**The weight** of a roller best suited for a particular putting green necessarily depends on the character of the soil. On clays and clay loams, a roller no heavier than sufficient to smooth the green properly should be used. On sandy soils, very heavy rollers can be used without ill effects. Generally speaking, use the lightest roller that will give the desired effect. Water-filled rollers are popular because their weight can be regulated at will.

**Build** your tees large so that a given strip of turf can have plenty of time to recover from divot scars before it is necessary to use it again. On many courses, each hole has two tees; one is allowed to rest and the turf recover while the other is in use.

**Elevated tees** require hand mowing, are difficult to drain and ordinarily require more watering than tees built at or only slightly above the level of the surrounding land. For maintenance economy build your tees so that power mowers can be used to cut the grass.

#### Move Tee Plates Uniformly

**Adopt** a uniform method of moving the tee plates. At many clubs, the workmen taking care of this job are instructed to look around the tee and pick out a good thick belt of grass where the plates have not been for some time.

A much better method particularly if your tees are large enough, is to use only half the width of the tee at a time and starting at the front move the plates back about three feet each time they must be changed. When the back of the teeing ground is reached, start at the front of the other half and work back. This gives plenty of time for the grass to fill in the old divot scars before any portion of the tee must be used again.

**Sheep's fescue** and Canada bluegrass have generally been found to be ideal grasses for the rough. They do well enough on poor, dry soil and are suited to almost all parts of the United States, especially the North.

**Just** because one fertilizer smells worse than another is no sign the former is any more efficient. Buy your fertilizer on the basis of your turf needs as established by analysis—never mind the odor.

**All sand-traps** guarding a green should be visible from the approach area. A golfer is entitled to know of its presence and modify his shot accordingly if he so desires.

**Moss** on the fairways is almost a sure sign that fertilizer is needed.

**There are** two methods of thickening bent turf quickly. The first way is to fertilize vigorously; the second method consists in sowing redtop in the thin spots, since redtop germinates quickly and grows rapidly in its early stages.

The second method is a makeshift and not recommended unless the bent turf is in very poor condition.

**Many** green-chairmen think additional traps are the sole necessity when a hole is "too easy" and needs tightening, but many a perfectly designed hole has been ruined by this practice. It is generally better to change the location of the tee, which does not necessarily mean moving it back. Sometimes a shift to one side or the other for a matter of only fifteen yards will change remarkably the character of shot required.

**Sand traps** should be constructed so that entrance into them and exit from them is easy. Otherwise, players clambering up over their banks will break down the carefully prepared sand walls of the hazard and make proper maintenance expensive, if not impossible.

**Unless** you are prepared to keep a water hazard in good clean condition, fill it up and cultivate rough or put a sand trap there instead. Nothing is worse on a golf course than a scum-filled pond of stagnant water.

**If you want** your grounds crew to work with efficiency, make sure their hand tools are kept in as good condition as the mowers and other course machinery. Spades, forks, rakes, hoes, scythes and sickles should be examined each morning when brought out for use and if the working edges of these implements are dulled or turned, take a minute to sharpen them up. The difference in volume of work possible with sharp tools as against dull ones is amazing.



**Keep course machinery** well lubricated. Don't shove the drum of lubricating oil in any old corner of the equipment shed; find a well-located place for it, easy to get to. Keep gummy dust off the noses of the oiling cans. All this takes very little time, but repays a hundredfold.

**Now** is the time to start thinking about improving those weak golf holes on the course. Collect several hundred score cards of actual rounds played by your members, dubs and short-shooters, average the strokes needed on each hole of the layout separately, and you will be able to pick out the holes that need tightening up.

Don't be guided by popular opinion. Just because the conviction has grown that Number Five is too easy, is no reason to tear up the hole. Very possibly, your averages will disclose that two or three others are poorer holes than condemned Number Five.

**Landscaping** is important. The finest golf layout in the world may lack interest if the surroundings are unpleasant, while a mediocre course appeals a great deal to the majority when the backgrounds and vistas are well thought out.

**Begin** now to think about your landscaping program for this fall. Shrubs and young trees should be planted then, not in the spring. Fall is also the time to put out bird houses; weathering over the winter removes human and paint odors.

**Establish** a definite parking space for members' cars and insist that this space be used and no other. Nothing is more unsightly than a clubhouse road with cars parked at all angles and at half a dozen places.

**The injuries** which result in winter-kill in its many forms are caused by several agencies, but rarely, if at all, from extreme frost. Variable winter weather is more to blame than below-zero temperature, also methods in handling greens, and in the construction of greens themselves.

**Much** of the costly work in maintenance is the result of ill-considered construction. When building or revamping, don't lose sight of the maintenance work that will have to be done.

**Equipment barns**, caddie shelters and parking spaces should be screened with trees and shrubbery. Emphasize the natural features of a golf course; conceal the accessories.

**In planning** parking space for member's automobiles, figure on an acre of ground for every 200 cars.

**Responsibility** for replacing divots should be fastened on the caddies. Drill it into their heads that they **MUST** retrieve and tamp into place every divot their player takes. Don't leave it to the players alone.

**No matter** how rushed the greens-staff may be, it doesn't take long to pick up loose paper, sticks, rubbish, etc. Workmen should never overlook a chance to improve the tidiness of the grounds.

**When topdressing**, remember these two precepts: Don't apply too thick. Work the dressing well down into the turf.

**Flags** should be colorful and flagpoles brightly painted. Not only is visibility helped, but the bright colors add to the beauty of a well-kept golf green.

**If a practice green** is to be of maximum benefit to members, it should be planted and maintained identical with the regular greens of the course.

Advertising literature is full of helpful advice for greenkeepers. As a sample we reprint the following information issued by the Ohio Humus Products Co.:

#### **Better and More Economical Compost** By J. A. Smith

Practical experience, during the past few years, has shown that materials en-



tering into and the manner of handling compost can be greatly improved upon.

The primary purpose of the compost pile has been to produce a humus from decaying sod, manures and other organic matters and to have this humus, through ageing, become a fixed part of the earth in which the decay has taken place.

Since the production of good compost is one of the most expensive operations we have on the golf course and so frequently the product proves unsatisfactory, the following methods of economically handling should be of interest.

It has been demonstrated that a one-half acre plot of almost any ordinary, well drained soil, so located that it will not become easily infected with weed seed, makes a good beginning for a compost bed. This should be plowed as deeply as possible and reduced to a fine state by farm tools.

Upon this should be spread forty-five tons of good humus, or its humus equivalent of well rotted manure. This should be at once disced until it appears to be a good mixture of earth and organic matter. If well-rotted manures are used the quantities should be increased several times over the quantity of the humus indicated.

From this on, the more frequently it is stirred with the plow, disced and cultivated, the better mixture of earth and organic matter there will be and the process of ageing will be speeded up. If good humus, comparatively dry, is used, within six months a perfect, permanently mellow, easily screened top dressing will have been produced and ready for use. Rotted manures will require approximately one year of ageing before a complete decay has been accomplished. If top dressings are needed and the compost bed is wet, opening up with a spike harrow, on a bright day with a drying wind, will quickly allow the screening of the top inch or more.

Upon this area it is possible to produce approximately 500 tons of good top dressing at a total cost of less than \$1 per ton, due to the mechanical means employed. The area exposed to the weather speeds up the necessary ageing.

As we all know, greenkeepers do not merely grow grass, but have many other activities. Landscape plantings often are done by the greenkeeper. Information along this line may be found in

## You Reap *what* You Sow

You know, we've been thinking how true that old saying is. We've been looking at some fine, velvety turf which resulted from the use of our VICTORY Fertilizer with the unique Humus base which does so much to enrich poor soil.

Of course, the seeding was done with our HOVEY'S grass seed which always produces such gratifying results. In fact, we haven't enough superlatives to tell you how your greens will look if you use these two fine essentials. Let it suffice to say that you'll be delighted.

## Hovey & Company

150 Milk St.—Boston, Mass.

Han. 1454 - 55

Write for our new price list if you haven't received one.

many plant material catalogs. An excerpt from Little Tree Farms Catalog 42 will show this angle.

### Notes on the Selection, Planting and Care of Evergreens

#### SELECTION

Select evergreens to fit soils and situations. For most soils all species catalogued are suitable. On light sandy land use Ground Juniper, White, Red, Scotch and Austrian Pine, Heavy muck lands grow Arborvitae and Japanese Yew well. Near seashores plant Scotch and Austrian Pine.

For badly windswept locations specify Scotch Pine, Douglas Fir and Juniper. In shade Hemlock. In partial shade Hemlock, Douglas Fir, White and Red Pine. Under city conditions Douglas Fir, Pfitzer Juniper and Japanese Yew are best.

In foundation planting all except White, Red, Scotch, Austrian, Limber Pines and Blue Spruce. For accents and formal effects the narrow columnar shape of Red Cedar, Arborvitae and Irish Juniper. Wider upright trees are White Fir, Douglas Fir, Spruces and

Hemlock. For middle heights use the various Cypresses, Hemlock and Japanese Yew. The low growers are Creeping, Pfitzer and Savin Juniper, Yews, Mugho Pine and Globe Arborvitae.

### PLANTING

This is a simple operation and nearly always successful, if a few rules are followed. Dig the hole wider and deeper than the spread of the roots. Take off the burlap. Fill under and around the plant with good soil mixed with one-third peat moss. Pack very firmly. During the operation thoroughly saturate the soil allowing the water to be absorbed before firming. A three-foot tree requires four to five pails. About each plant leave a four-inch depression as wide as the spread of its branches to aid in subsequent waterings.

Mulch three inches deep with peat moss. Don't neglect to use peat moss when planting. Evergreens love it and we cannot be too emphatic about the benefits derived from its use. Saturate once each week during the first month and every two weeks thereafter. Superficial watering is not enough. Saturate thoroughly every fall. If plants are growing taller than desired, they may be kept down by breaking off the terminal bud each year. Side branches may be treated in the same way. If in doubt, ask us.

### OCTOBER MEETING

The R. I. Greenkeepers Association met with us at the Wanamissett C. C., Rumford, R. I. on October 7. The crowd was rather small, due to poor weather conditions in the morning. In the Golf Tournament, the winners were:

N. Sperandio—81-14-67.  
R. Robinson—99-28-71.  
M. Greene—92-20-72.  
R. Peckham—82-9-73.

The winner in the R. I. Assoc. tournament was L. E. Erwin with a 65 net.

**POSITION** wanted by an experienced greenkeeper with plenty of knowledge of economy in maintenance, and up to date methods with the newest of bent grass. Write X. Y. Z., care of the Editor.

### THE STORY OF A SOD

The writer thinks it will be interesting to all who are interested in the care of golf courses, or especially in grass growing, to know just what a one foot square sod of the wonderful No. 14276 velvet bent did in two growing seasons, and the amount of work it furnished, as well as the education gained by experimenting with it.

In the Spring of 1933 I obtained a sod a foot square and put it on an edge of a garden at my home and wondered where I would use it. Being out of work, and everyone cutting expenses, I could not find anything in greenkeeping except a position in the middle West, so I decided to take a job offered me as salesman for a roofing concern. This was far from my idea of living, as I like to work with nature, and I decided not to go to far, and quit.

My wife's father then gave me a plot of land of some four hundred feet. My nursery sod by now amounted to about ten feet where I took care of it, so I had plenty of plants for this small area. I marked rows fourteen inches apart and proceeded to plant the velvet about seven inches apart in the row, in small pieces to make it go as far as possible. I finished the piece the middle of July and found that I needed more ground as my nursery was growing fast sending up plenty of shoots and getting plenty of joints. One day the idea hit me to try planting some of the velvet in a four hundred foot piece of lawn enclosed by our Cape Cod picket fence, which I thought would be a good place to experiment secretly. This was a bad looking place to invite a nice grass like 14276 to put up, but in it went, about seven inches apart each way. By this time my wife's father had pulled up some beans and invited me to use that plot. As time went on and garden crops came out, velvet bent went in, and the last was put in a place where melons were raised and it was getting late. When I finished this piece of land it was just ten days before the ground froze, and I was wondering if it would winter-kill, as the velvet was of very small pieces. I had now a plot of three thousand, one hundred and seventy-five feet, free of weeds by constant hoeing and weeding. I kept the rows between filled with top soil and sand, but used no fertilizer as the garden had been well manured for crops and had been well cultivated.

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The following Spring I found that the grass had wintered in fine shape. I rolled the rows down to mat the grass so joints on it would catch in the soil to push things along. I watched closely for disease and have never found any except a very small amount of pink patch in the first planting. This did not worry me, however, as I claim it is very seldom seen except during a season that does not warm naturally in the Spring before hot weather comes along. Pink patch, so-called, was with us when I did farming twenty-five years ago, and farmers then gave the credit for its appearance to worms eating grass roots.

When the finished plot had been growing two seasons I sold three thousand feet to the City of Hartford to be used at Goodwin Park for nine greens to be built by our good friend Everett Pyle. Mr. Hollister of the Park Department, who bought my turf through the recommendations of Pyle and Prof. North, told me that he had never seen so beautiful turf in his life. It had grown together so firmly that strips ten feet long, a foot wide and an inch thick would not break apart if they were pulled along the ground by one end.

Pyle and his men came to my home in August to cut and move the turf, and he says that it took four men four hours to cut it and there were three truck loads to move to Hartford, a distance of seventy miles. Friend Pyle also states that it took twenty-eight men thirty hours to cut and replant on a plot of two and a quarter acres, and of course to put on the water.

After the turf had been taken away I plowed and added twenty-eight yards to soil and graded, then started to replant with the grass I had reserved. I hired a man a full week, and had my boy of fourteen help, to get some idea of greenkeeping work. When this plot was planted, I found that I needed more land, and Mrs. Robinson's father said, "Plant my onion bed if you wish, as I don't feel at eighty-three that I want so much to care for". Needless to say, I took advantage of the offer and started another fifteen hundred feet. When this piece was finished I still had more turf, and decided to cut in some of it in an eight hundred foot plot of German bent I had planted some time ago. I planted four thousand pieces in this plot, and finished up what is now six thousand feet of velvet, and

it looks wonderful and free of weeds by constant weeding and hoeing. Incidentally, my front lawn plot cut in two years ago is practically filled in today, and today, October 20th, is being cut a quarter inch and is comparable to any green, which is wonderful in so short a time.

The point which I wish to emphasize is that in two growing seasons a sod of a foot square has furnished work equivalent to 1852 hours for one man, and three days for one truck, and seven days for a pair of horses. I feel that the above foot of turf has just started on its way!

R. F. Robinson,  
Oaklawn, R. I.

**The regular November meeting will be omitted, to be replaced with the annual Frolic, to be held on November 9th at the Sudbury Town Hall, Sudbury, Mass. The Entertainment Committee is planning fun for all, for this every member entertainment, which is to be strictly informal. Watch for the notice! Plan to be there with the wife!**

Married, at Waltham, Mass., on October 5th, Diana Dion and Arthur Anderson, of Braeburn and Golf Committee fame. Congratulations, Arthur.

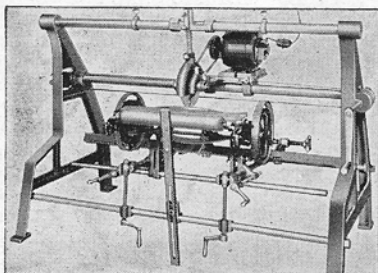
The Board of Directors met on September 27th at the Braeburn C. C., and on October 21st at the Juniper Hill Golf Club.

### YOU CAN'T GROW GRASS ON THE SIDEWALK!

(from a leaflet of F. H. Woodruff  
& Sons)

A good, fine textured lawn that will retain its color and that will resist long droughts, is a source of constant pleasure and satisfaction. Like a coat of paint to a house, it adds dollars and cents to its value.

There is an old saying among nurserymen—"don't plant a dollar bush in a fifty cent hole," and this applies equally as well to lawns. Building for permanence not only requires good lawn seed but also a seed bed that has been thoroughly prepared. Follow the few simple rules below and have a lawn that will be the "Talk of the Town."



## THE CARPENTER GRINDER WILL SAVE YOUR CLUB HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS.

Now is the time to consider preparing your mowing equipment for next season's work.

With "THE CARPENTER" installed in your shed, you can make a complete job of sharpening and overhauling your entire fleet of mowers, between now and the opening of the 1936 season. What is more; they will be sharpened exactly the way you want them.

Write us for details of our BUDGET PAYMENT PLAN.

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**Soil**—The soil used in making the seed bed should be fine and crumbly. This assures good drainage and permits deep rooting of the grass.

**Fertilizing**—Even the best soils will be benefited by the addition of good commercial fertilizer. Sheep manure and bone meal are good, but we advise the prepared fertilizers as they contain all the different foods so necessary for a successful lawn.

**Seed Bed**—After digging the soil to a depth of about eight inches, rake well, removing all stones and lumps. If you have time, let it stand for a week. This will give the soil time to settle and any weed seeds will sprout. Another good raking will destroy the weeds and will correct the inequalities in the soil. Roll and then rake lightly. Now you are ready to sow the seed.

**Seed**—When you choose a lawn mixture, you should keep in mind that some varieties of grass are for a quick growth, while others come to their maturity later in the season and help to maintain that even green that you want. All of our mixtures are re-cleaned and balanced to give a quick growth without sacrificing the later permanent varieties.

**Sowing**—Use plenty of seed (about 1 lb. to every 100 square feet). Remember—a thick grass sod is the best protection against weeds. To insure even distribution, which is important, divide seed in half and go over the ground twice, making the second sowing at right angles to the first. Sow on a calm day, for if it is windy, you may help to sow your neighbor's lawn, rather than your own.

**Covering**—After you have sowed the seed, cover with a light sifting of sand or humus, or, if these are not available, rake very lightly, and go over it with a light roller or spat it down with a board. If it doesn't look like rain, wet it well with a hose, using a fine spray to avoid washing.

**Mowing**—Depending on the weather, the seed will sprout in from five days to two weeks. Don't mow the grass until it is three inches high. This gives the plants ample time to take root. For the first few weeks set the mower high, cutting it about two inches from the ground.

**Rolling**—At least one rolling each year is necessary to preserve a healthy turf. This should be done in early spring or as soon as the soil is dry to settle the soil about the roots and to level off

any bumps that may have been caused by freezing and thawing.

**Watering**—Lawn grass can stand lots of water, but it should be applied in the evening after the sun has gone down. A good drenching twice each week is much better than a light sprinkle every evening, as it soaks down through and tends to encourage deep rooting.

**Weeds**—Dandelions and all obnoxious weeds can be kept in check and eventually eliminated through a systematic plan of care and feeding of the lawn. Weeds thrive where grass is thin or in a weakened condition. Starved or half starved grass has little chance of combating the growth of weeds. A thickly matted turf of vigorous grass having a strong root system is needed to eliminate weeds. Such a turf is not easy to penetrate. The mat of well developed roots crowds around the roots of the weeds and thus hinders its growth. All of which has a tendency to choke out the weeds. Mowing often and regularly prevents the weed from making any substantial growth and from going to seed in addition to bleeding it until it is eventually eliminated.

**Reseeding**—Every lawn regardless of how thick the sod may be, is benefited by a light seeding every spring and fall. Sow about half the quantity for a new lawn. Bare spots should be dug up or roughed up with a rake, fertilized and reseeded.

Usually it is quite difficult to obtain a satisfactory growth of grass under trees and in shady places.

Trees and shrubs draw heavily on the soil and it is very essential that plenty of fertilizer be used, both in the spring and also in the fall.

All of the above mentioned suggestions are things that would come to any of us if we would only stop and reason the whole thing out, but if you will give your lawn a little care, you can have a turf that will remain a rich emerald green well into the winter. The three things to remember are:

**Sow Good Seed  
Prepare the Soil Well  
Use Plenty of Good Commercial  
Fertilizer**

We have received notice from Dr. V. T. Stoutemyer of the Iowa State College that their annual Greenkeepers Short Course will take place on March 2 and 3, 1936, with Dr. John Monteith, Jr. as the principal speaker.



## Buy Seeds Now For Next Spring ?

**YES SIR!**

And have them delivered and paid for next year. Unquestionably savings to your budget can be made by estimating and contracting your seed needs now for 1936.

All grasses are now ridiculously low and signs of the inevitable price rise are already seen. Greenskeepers by bring this suggestion to the attention of their committee chairman will be rendering their club a real service. We are prepared to quote you on such a basis.

**THOMAS W. EMERSON CO.**

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**"New England's Largest Wholesale Seed House"**

## Worthington Mowers



### Another Worthington Money Saver

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Send for the catalog. Get the full facts on this Worthington Cost Cutting Equipment. See for yourself the many ways we can cut down your cutting costs.

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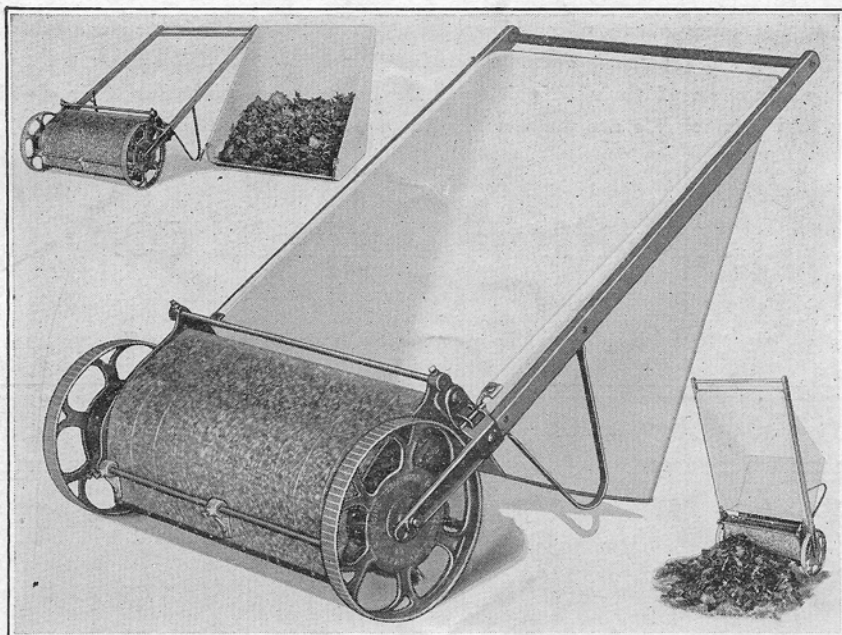
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Used and recommended by Golf Greens Specialists everywhere.



Made largely of weather resisting aluminum, making them very light and easy to run. Indispensable for quickly removing all undesirable matter from the greens, such as leaves, sticks, stones, worm-casts, ant-hills, etc. Also invaluable for control of brown patch, and in working in and removing excess fertilizer. Also very efficient in cleaning up around the Club House and Grounds. Springfield Sweepers come in Hand Operated and Tractor and Horse-Drawn Models for the Fairways.

Hand operated sizes are 28" brush, 36" brush and 42" brush.

Tractor and Horse Drawn sizes are 36" brush and 44" brush.

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