



NEWS LETTER

WORK IS FUN

—to the man who has mastered his job.

NOVEMBER

1936

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November, 1936

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NOVEMBER NOTATIONS

November-Thanksgiving-Turkey - - - have we the thankful spirit---the Frolic ---the second issue of the Australian Greenkeeper is with us, a fine and interesting magazine---Mitchell is back behind the brush--he hasn't had time to shave as he has been building a new ladies' tee on the 15th at Kernwood, with round corners so that it may easily be cut with a power mower---the end of the season--bringing in the equipment --getting the mowers and other equipment ready to be serviced for another season---Salem C. C. are installing a hoseless fairway watering system with Skinner heads---we never saw as much work on bunkers as is being done at Newport this Fall--plenty of sand in sight next season---talk up that appropriation for turf work at Waltham next year---next meeting of the R. I. Greenkeepers Association will be held at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence on Jan. 18th---the Directors met with the Entertainment Committee in Boston on the 3rd to talk over plans for the Frolic---

HOW ABOUT AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

The October meeting of the R. I. Greenkeepers Association was held on October 19th at Comstock Park, Oaklawn, R. I. and the November meeting on the 9th at Goddard Park, East Greenwich, R. I.

HINTS ON TURF MANAGEMENT

T. T. Odland, R. I. State College

Some Problems of Turf Growing in Cemeteries

Growing grass in cemeteries presents a number of problems not so often met with in growing grass on home lawns or on golf courses. Often the cemeteries are located on very poor thin soil. It is a struggle to get any kind of grass to grow.

Artificial watering is usually out of the question—at least over the greater part of most cemeteries. The grass has to depend on the natural rainfall whatever that may be.

The upkeep budget is usually pretty meager so it is up to the superintendent to make each dollar available go just as far as possible. This means that it is necessary to consider the kind of fertilizer to be used carefully so the best results will be obtained for the money spent. The same applies to seed, chemicals, machinery and other items.

The lack of sufficient fertilization, I believe, is perhaps the most common cause of poor turf in cemeteries. We must realize that grass is a crop that needs some plant food regularly if it is to show results, just the same as a crop of potatoes or corn. A light sprinkling of superphosphate once a year is not enough. Too often even that much is not done for the grass.

Requisites of Good Cemetery Turf

Before considering what we should or can do to obtain a desirable turf, it might be well to consider for a moment some of the things we think about when we say good turf. Perhaps the first thing we look for is turf that has a good green appearance for as much of the growing season as possible. If the grounds are well covered with something green we can overlook many other shortcomings. We need to select a grass or a mixture of grasses that will grow well under our particular conditions and then we should see that it is properly fertilized and cared for.

A second consideration is a smooth turf. This is necessary not only for appearance but in order to do the mowing

with any degree of satisfaction. A well graded turf area also helps materially in the drainage question.

Another consideration is that the turf should be as free from weeds as possible. We must manage some way so that the grass we plant will be able to get the upper hand rather than the other way around.

Then again we should try to have a grass covering that is not too difficult to care for. Some types of grass require considerable more attention than others.

There are other considerations which all of you no doubt have in mind but these are some with which we might begin.

Building the Foundation for Good Turf

It is impossible to obtain a satisfactory turf where there is no foundation on which to build. If we are trying to establish a lawn or other turf on soil that consists almost entirely of sand or gravel we have an almost impossible problem on our hands. A thin and poor soil can usually be improved in some way, however, before attempting to grow grass. Also we can select grasses that will do better than others on thin soil. To grow the best turf, however, we should have a covering of 3 or 4 inches at least of top soil with a foot or more of substantial subsoil below this. The material below this will be of less consequence.

We all know that this is an ideal goal that many of us cannot reach in our cemetery grounds. If we keep in mind, however, what are the ideal conditions then we have something for which to aim in trying to build up the soil conditions on our own job.

When getting a piece of land ready for seeding to grass, there is nothing better for helping to build a good foundation than a substantial covering of well rotted barnyard manure. This should be well mixed with the top layer of soil by disking or otherwise working it into the seedbed. In addition to this,

an application of 30 or 40 pounds of superphosphate similarly worked into the soil will help the grass get a good start in life. The phosphorus helps greatly in stimulating a good root growth in the young grass.

Another way to get some organic matter into the thin soil is to grow and plow under one or more green manure crops. Rye and vetch is a good combination for this.

Choosing the Right Kinds of Grass for Seeding

There are a number of turf grasses or mixtures of grasses that can be used. The type of soil, climatic conditions, money available, and personal preference are all factors to be considered. Where the soil is of a substantial character, and is well fertilized and limed, Kentucky bluegrass or a mixture consisting of a high percentage of this desirable grass, is nearly always a good choice. For conditions less favorable, Rhode Island Colonial Bent or mixture containing a high percentage of bent will be found very useful. The bent grasses will, of course, make a beautiful turf on the best of soils also.

Then for our poorest soils the fescues are probably able to survive the best. For this reason fescue is usually a favorite grass with many cemetery men. Fescue seed can be used as part of the mixture for almost any turf of this nature to good advantage. Chewing's fescue is the one usually best adapted for turf conditions. Red top is a good dependable grass for almost any condition. The seed cost is low compared with most other turf grasses and it makes a rapid growth. Probably no other grass is used as generally in mixtures for turf such as is found in cemeteries.

I will attempt to suggest a few typical mixtures that might be suitable for use in cemeteries. These can, of course, be modified to suit particular conditions or to suit the pocketbook of the purchaser.

Mixtures of Grasses for Cemetery Turf
(Figures are percentage by weight of different seeds)

Soil type	Kentucky Bluegrass	R. I. Colonial Bent	Chewing's fescue	Red Top
Loam soil—limed	40	40	10	10
Medium heavy	20	20	40	20
Thin soil		20	40	40

Early fall is usually the best time for seeding grasses. The young seedlings have a better opportunity to get established under soil and moisture conditions that are favorable for grass growth. It may be necessary, however, to plant in the spring. If this is the case, some rye grass should be added to the suggested mixtures in order to help keep out weed growth.

The rate of seeding will depend somewhat on the kind of seed mixture selected. Usually somewhere between 100 and 150 pounds of seed per acre is sufficient.

In this connection, I would like to suggest that most cemetery superintendents make it a practice to have a turf nursery where they can get sod to patch bare spots and for sodding graves. This is a very essential feature and gives an opportunity to gradually improve the turf in general if the nursery is maintained in good condition.

Fertilizers

I want to lay special emphasis on the importance of regular and adequate fertilization for turf in general. With the cemeteries so often being located on thin soil this is especially important.

In the spring of the year the turf should receive a generous application of a complete fertilizer such as a 10-6-4, 8-6-6 or similar. Usually an application at the rate of 600 to 800 pounds per acre is advisable.

Another application in the early fall of say half this amount will show good results. If water is available and we want to give the grass the best possible conditions, a summer application of nitrate of soda or sulfate of ammonia at the rate of 100 pounds per acre will be helpful. Cyanamid can be applied as a nitrogen carrier in late fall or early spring before growth starts.

The amount of fertilizer that can be used will depend upon the funds available for upkeep. The point to keep in mind is that we cannot expect to maintain a satisfactory turf if we neglect to furnish the grass with something to go on.

Often the soil is so acid that even a liberal fertilizer application will do little good. A test should be made if such a condition is suspected and lime applied if needed. A test for soil acidity can be easily and quickly made right on

the ground with an inexpensive soil testing outfit. If the grass is doing poorly and no lime has been applied for many years, an application of lime would probably show more beneficial results than almost anything that could be tried. Certainly it is useless to apply seed, fertilizer or any other practice for benefitting the turf if the soil is so acid that grass will not thrive.

There are differences in grasses with respect to the amount of acidity that they will tolerate. Kentucky bluegrass, for instance, needs a better limed soil than Colonial bent or red top. No grass, however, will do well on too acid soil.

Nothing is better for grass than well-rotted farm manure, providing a lot of weed seeds are not brought in with it. Manure helps build up organic matter in the soil. Organic matter in turn helps hold soil moisture and generally makes the soil better for grass growth.

A good substitute for farm manure can be made by raking up leaves in the fall and building a compost heap. During the summer grass clippings can be added to this. By adding sulfate of ammonia or other soluble nitrogen carrier and lime to this and keeping it moist, a material will result that will be very similar to a good grade of well rotted farm manure. Directions for building a compost pile can be obtained from any of the agricultural experiment stations or extension services.

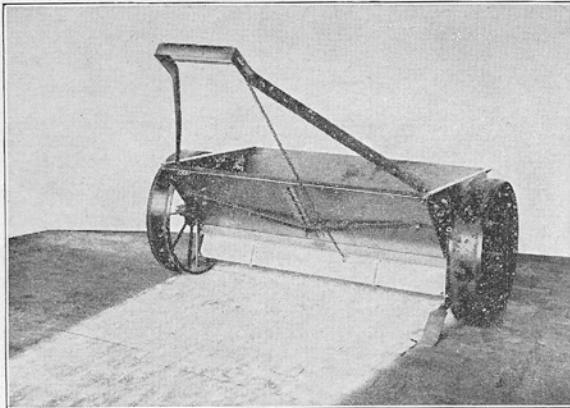
*(From a talk to the New England Cemetery Association
October 27, 1936.)*

NOVEMBER MEETING

The last outdoor meeting of the year was held on October 26th at the Marlboro C. C., Marlboro, Mass. Some thirty odd were present in spite of inclement weather. In the golf tournament, the following won prizes:

- Phil Cassidy, 89-16-73.
 - Paul Wanberg, 103-29-74.
 - N. Sperandio, 85-10-75.
 - N. Bruno, 89-14-75.
-

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KENT'S COMMENTS

Three courses in Northern New Jersey have Greenskeepers from New England. Greenkeeper Arie Hendenberg now at North Jersey C. C., an 18 hole private job, hails from Toy Town Tavern C. C. at Winchendon, Mass. Carlton E. Treat from Woodland G. C. near Boston, is at Montclair C. C., a 36 hole layout in Montclair, and your correspondent, formerly at several courses in Rhode Island, now at Passaic Co. Golf Course, a 27 hole Muni. outfit. If I have overlooked anyone, let me know in an asbestos envelope.

While we are several hundred miles south of New England, conditions here are practically the same. Southern New Jersey is similar to the coastal regions of New England, and Northern New Jersey, a fair replica of inland New England. There are more than half a hundred Colonial Historical points of interest. Agricultural and manufacturing are similar, with fabric mills along

When a country club seeks the services of a greenkeeper it is faced with the tedious task of investigating the records and references of numerous applicants, many of whom lack the proper qualifications.

Our Employment Committee offers a happy solution to this problem by placing the country club in contact thru written application or personal interview, with men whose qualifications fit them for the particular position to be filled.

Guy C. West, Chr.

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the rivers;---and like New England, many of them run only part time, or are closed entirely. Instead of Canadian French, our main foreign-language names are Holland Dutch.

There are 140 odd courses in the State, with about 30 active members in the N. J. Greenkeepers' Assn. Some of the courses are monumental monstrosities, designed or built by amateur architects with a pyramid-building complex. The result is a hatful of headaches for the maintenance job. The banks are so steep on some greens, that groundsmen, it is said, walk in town with one foot on the sidewalk curb, and the other in the street gutter, in order to keep their balance!

Clinton K. Bradley.

A quick decision has value. A sound decision is priceless.

The man who has ceased to grow has begun to die.



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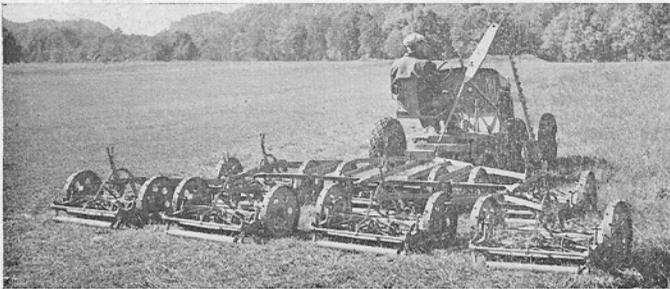
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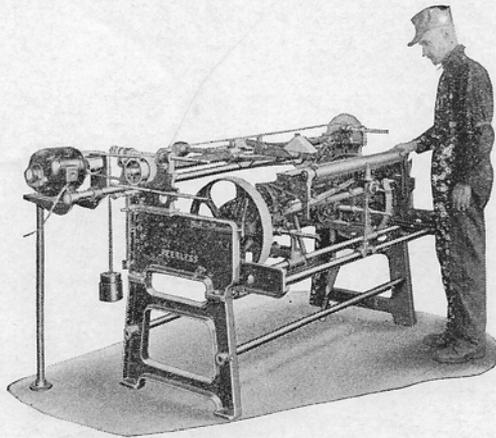
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