

## National Green Section Tournaments Announced for 1925

The encouraging results from the National Green Section Tournament held last October have led the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association to arrange for similar tournaments in 1925. A tournament for men is announced for Decoration Day, May 30, and a tournament for women will be held some time in June. Any player of any golf club in the United States or Canada who has a club handicap may compete. A silver cup will be awarded the winning players, and in case of a tie additional cups will be awarded. The competition will consist of an 18-hole match play round against the par of the course, the net handicap being based on seven-eighths of the regular stated handicap, the best scores against par being declared the national winners. A player may compete in these tournaments on another course, but the home club handicap must be used against the player's par of the course played upon, and the score returned must be entered on the records of the course visited. The entrance fee will be \$1 per player, of which 75 cents is to be remitted to the United States Golf Association for the Green Section Endowment Fund and 25 cents is retained by the local club for a prize or prizes.

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## Fertilizers in Relation to Quality of Turf and to Weed Control\*

By R. A. Oakley

Why do we fertilize putting greens? Broadly speaking, we do so under normal conditions to produce a vigorous growth of grass; under certain abnormal conditions to help grass recover from attacks of diseases and insect pests; and in general we fertilize turf to improve its quality. Let us understand clearly that the fertilizing of a putting green and the fertilizing of a hayfield are quite different propositions. In fertilizing meadows a large growth of hay plants is what is sought; in the case of putting greens it is quality of turf, which involves, in addition to vigor of growth and texture, freedom from weeds. It is important that this difference be fully appreciated.

For many years it has been known that the application of certain fertilizers or certain substances to the soil affects some plants favorably and others unfavorably when these plants are grown together in what we call mixtures or mixed cultures. The reasons for this are not all clear, but the facts seem to be unmistakable. This has led investigators to endeavor to find fertilizers that will favor the plants they wish to favor and at the same time discourage the ones they wish discouraged.

Twenty years ago the Rhode Island Experiment Station started a series of experiments to determine the difference in their effects on the bents and fescues of fertilizers having a tendency to produce an acid condition in the soil and those having a tendency to produce an alkaline condition. Plots of these grasses to which the fertilizers were applied were not kept in putting green condition, but they were kept so as fairly to approximate turf. In brief, the outstanding results of the tests were these: The plots fertilized with acid-reacting fertilizers produced cleaner—that is, more nearly weed-free turfs of the bents and of the fescues, than did those fertilized with alkaline-reacting fertilizers.

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\*A part of a paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Green Section, New York City, January 10, 1925.