

page 47). The only method, however, that seems to have met with universal success is the use of the mole trap. For success with the mole trap some care must be taken in choosing the location for placing the trap and in setting the trap properly in the burrow. The use of the mole trap is fully described in Farmers' Bulletin 1247, issued free by the United States Department of Agriculture. This bulletin describes the habits of the mole, where to set the trap, when to set the trap, kinds of traps, and how to set traps, and also the utilizing of moleskins, including skinning moles, preparing the pelts, and marketing the skins. A dozen to twenty moles may be taken in the course of a few weeks with a single trap, if properly used, by resetting it day after day at a favorable location.

Controlling Crab Grass

By Hugh I. Wilson, Merion Cricket Club, Haverford, Pa.*

In THE BULLETIN, Vol. III (1923), page 89, is described and illustrated a sweeper for collecting crab grass seed. We have used this sweeper for three years on both our East and West courses and are quite sure that the elimination of crab grass is due largely to its use. The sweeper is similar to a hand lawn cleaner, but it is made into a gang of three sweeping units, and in this way covers an area equal to that covered by a triplex mower. We are trying to get the manufacturers to put the sweeper on the market, as we consider it of value to golf courses where crab grass is a nuisance.

Our practice for the first two years was to run the sweeper over the fairway, follow with a cutting unit, and then repeat with a sweeper to gather the seed. During the past year, however, we have found that a chain harrow gives better results than the sweeper in making the crab grass plants stand up so that they can be cut easily. It may be that some other device much better than the harrow will be found that will pull the crab grass up so that it can be cut easily. We followed the harrow up with a tractor to which was hitched the cutting unit, and behind that the sweeper.

There is, however, one point which we want to emphasize very strongly, and that is, that sweeping alone will not eliminate crab grass. Where there are badly infested areas they should be seeded and top-dressed spring and fall, and fall especially, in order to assist the good grass in getting a start. One naturally can not expect grass to grow where there are no grass plants. Therefore, in using this sweeper it must be borne in mind that the growth of the good grass must be stimulated by top-dressing and fertilizing, and that seed must be applied to areas which are badly infested.

Leaf mold.—This is a splendid material to use in a compost mixture, and that is the way it should be utilized. Mix it with top soil and well-rotted manure. The longer this compost pile is allowed to stand, the better; but even if it stands only a few weeks it will give you good material for top-dressing.

* This article was prepared by Mr. Wilson in the fall of 1924 for publication in a spring number of The Bulletin.