

obviously be no progress as long as these are followed, neither for the architect himself nor for his art. To be blunt, such an architect is sacrificing his art to present commercial gain.

Perhaps the architect is not so much to blame as is the golfing public. As long as there is no criticism, he may well believe that he is producing meritorious results. A few courses built in recent years are examples of splendid landscape architecture. The influence of these will doubtless stimulate golfers to demand better work from the architects. To build artistic courses will require more of the architect's time than he takes at present. It can not be done, especially in its finishing stages, by a brief visit once a month or so. That is too much like a landscape artist hiring a journeyman painter to paint pictures for him. It can be done, of course, but the results are not inspiring.

Golf architects ought to be the leaders in promoting the progress of golf. They are not. Today many courses are being built by professional golf players that are as good as or better than those made by most professional architects. Except for a few notable exceptions in the profession, the term architect can hardly be used at present as relating to golf architects. There are also a goodly number of amateurs who have done very beautiful work which can truly be called artistic. Every architect owes it both to himself and to the golfing world to strive toward perfection. We believe it will be more profitable to him to build fewer and better courses.

There is progress for the betterment of golf architecture, but it is very slow. It will continue to be slow as long as the artistic sense is sacrificed to immediate commercial gain.

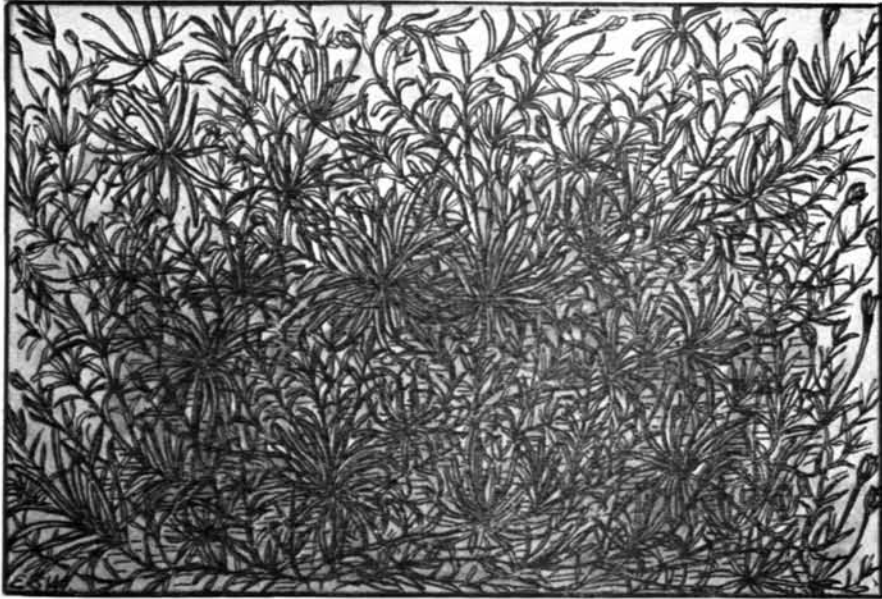
---

## Pearlwort

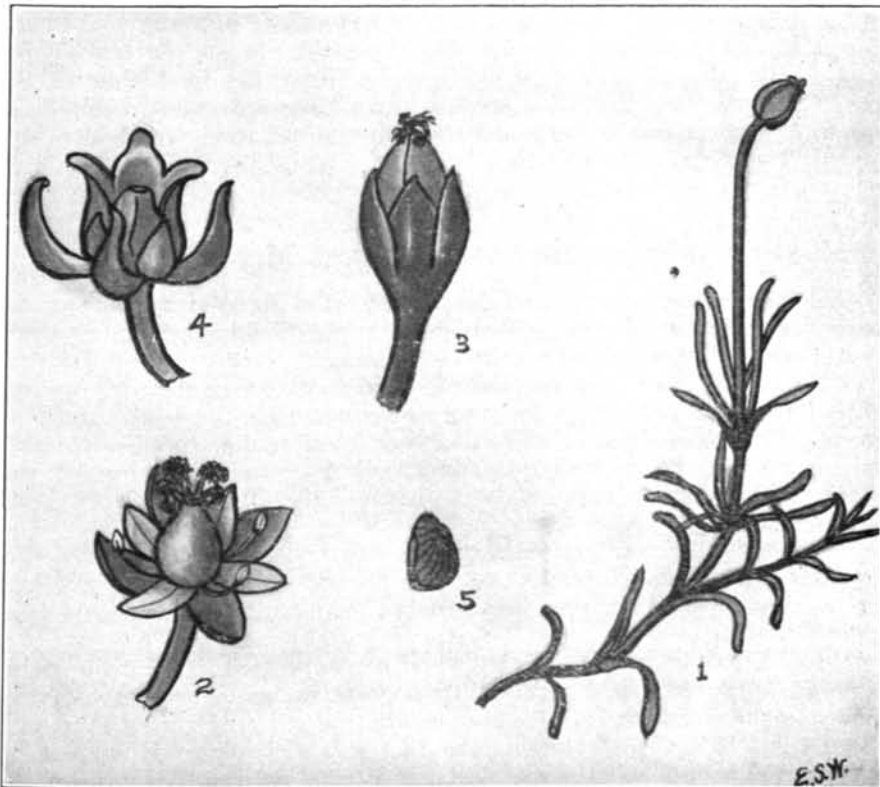
By C. V. Piper

Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens* L.) is known to occur in America along the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland to Delaware and the District of Columbia. It was recorded from Connecticut and South Carolina nearly one hundred years ago. The South Carolina record is open to doubt. In the interior it occurs at Toledo, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; and Denver, Colorado. On the Pacific coast it is abundant on putting greens at Victoria, Seattle, Spokane, Portland, San Francisco and Monterey. Wild plants however have been collected in out-of-the-way places as follows: Uyak, Alaska, *Jepson* No. 391 in 1899; Kukak Bay, Alaska, *Saunders* No. 3725 in 1899; near Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island, *Rosendahl* No. 1758 in 1907; in muck land south of Newport, Oregon, *Lawrence* No. 1562 in 1907; in red woods near Crescent City, California, *Eastwood* No. 12,299 in 1923. These undoubtedly wild plants collected so long ago strongly suggest that the plant is native from Alaska south to California. It is strange that the occurrence of the plant on the Pacific coast has been overlooked by botanists, particularly as it is common on putting greens. But the answer may be that few botanists play golf.

In the writer's experience it is always a perennial, but the books say it may live but one or two years. In very arid soils or in the cracks of brick walks it may die from midsummer heat or drought, but it is very questionable if it ever is truly annual. It is usually easy to identify it from similar species by its peculiar habit and from the fact that the parts of the flower are in fours.



Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens* L.). Part of a plant, growing on hard soil; about natural size. On putting greens it becomes much denser.



Pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens* L.); much enlarged. (1) A branch bearing a single flower; after blooming, the flower becomes somewhat nodding. (2) A single flower. Note that the parts are in fours. (3) A young pod. (4) A ripened and empty pod. (5) A seed.

Individual plants under favorable conditions are usually about 4 inches in diameter, making a very dense turf. Often they are much larger, and not rarely die in the center. Sometimes an old putting green will become 75 to 100 per cent pearlwort. This condition has been observed near Southampton, Long Island; Portland, Oregon; San Francisco, California; and at Paris, France. Such turf is exceedingly "slow" in the golfer's sense and commonly bumpy.

A pearlwort plant 4 inches in diameter will produce each season from 300 to 500 flowers, each on a short stalk. Every ripe pod contains on an average 60 seeds, or from 20,000 to 30,000 seeds to a plant. These are carried about on the shoes of the players, so that it does not take long for a green to become thoroughly seeded with pearlwort.

The idea seems to prevail that pearlwort is introduced in fine grass seeds. There is no positive evidence for this notion, as pearlwort seed has never been detected in grass seed. Indeed it is difficult to conceive how it could get in grass seeds, as the plants are barely an inch high. The fact however that the plant is more frequent on putting greens than elsewhere justifies the suspicion that it comes in grass seed.

From the available facts the following conclusions seem justified: (1) that pearlwort is native and abundant from Newfoundland south to Long Island, and perhaps farther south especially near the seacoast; (2) that it is sparingly native from Alaska to California; (3) that in general it is an introduced plant in lawns and putting greens, but it is not clear how the seed gets to such places.

Pearlwort should be cut out and destroyed as soon as found. By this means it is easily kept in check. Once it has gained headway by permitting it to make seed it is very difficult to control. When a green has become badly infested with it, it can best be eliminated by lifting all the sod off the green and reseeding or replanting. The sod removed should be put in a compost bed or heap and the material not used for at least two years. The seeds apparently live that long.

---

### Hand-Operated Compost Mixer

The accompanying cut and description of a hand-operated compost mixer, of their own design, is furnished by the Highland Country Club, Fert Thomas, Kentucky, who write as follows:

"We placed this rotary compost mixer in operation in the early spring, 1924, for the purpose of properly screening materials for topdressing our greens. We have not only effected a very great saving in labor through its use but are also in position to topdress our greens with screened material far superior to that obtained through the old process of hand screening.

"We built six new greens last year. In the process of construction the mixer was placed adjacent to the greens and easily supplied sufficient topdressing to keep six men busy during the planting of creeping bent stolons.

"The capacity of the mixer, when hand-operated, is 15 cubic yards per day. Two men are required to operate it, one spending his time shoveling the materials into the hopper and the other operating the hand-wheel. An attractive feature is the fact that the design is such as to eliminate all complicated mechanical parts, with the result that there are no adjustments to make. The main shaft is mounted on roller bearings.