

The sandy soil produced a turf of fine leaf texture which formed a relatively smooth, dry surface. Mary, Queen of Scots, was known to have played golf at St. Andrews. Grazing sheep cut the grass fairways. Rabbits were also grazed on the famous greens of St. Andrews for an extended period of time in the 1500s. It was not until the late 1700s that golf was introduced in North America.

Renaissance gardens

During the 1300s and 1400s, the use of ornamental gardens was revived as part of the Renaissance. The design concepts were geometrically oriented. One or two grassy areas were utilized in some of these formal designs for games and recreation. During the the Italian Renaissance, gardening continued to evolve and stimulated development of the very formal French gardens of the 16th and 17th centuries. The most elaborate remaining examples are the gardens of Versailles. Turfs played a role in these garden designs but the emphasis remained on flowers, shrubs, vines, trees and water.

Leadership in the evolution of gardening concepts and designs shifted to England in the 1600s. The 18th century became the Golden Age for England. This included the emergence of such great landscape architects as William Kent, Lancelot "Capability" Brown and Humphry Repton.

It was during this period that the concept of a grass lawn became a major feature of the landscape. This is probably the point in history from which the use of lawns and turf-grasses as we know them today evolved. It was also during the 1600s and 1700s that the first detailed writings on cultural practices for turfgrass appeared in the gardening books of such individuals as John Rae and John Evelyn.

First lawn mower

A major event and perhaps the single most significant contribution toward modern turfgrass maintenance was the invention and patenting of the first mowing machine for turfs by Edwin Budding of Stroud, Gloucestershire, Eng., in 1830. This original concept of a reel mower design is still in use today. Subsequently, the first published turfgrass research was conducted by the noted botanist W. J. Beal at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station around 1880.

Thus began a shift in the evolution of turfgrass maintenance from the trial-and-error methods of the artisan to the development of the science of turfgrass culture. Since then there have evolved many significant phases in the development of new turfgrass cultivars, cultural practices, fertilizers, irrigation systems, pesticides and sophisticated turfgrass maintenance equipment. □



The first mechanized reel lawn mower, invented in England.

Business

Business First or Family First?

By John L. Ward, Ph.D.;
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Businesses thrive on competition. But families thrive on harmony and equal treatment for members.

So what's a *family business* to do when it comes to the tough questions? Questions about salary, promotion, ownership and perks—in other words, questions about money, power and pride?

Given the conflicting dynamics of families and businesses,