

Rolling

By L. M.

ANY fool can use a roller, but it takes a man with intelligence to use one with advantage on a golf course.

On established putting greens, the daily use of a light wooden roller is generally sufficient—a heavy roller being rarely needed except in connection with the spring renovation work, and on newly made greens or tees, when the turf is fairly firm and the surface dry.

Some people make a practice of rolling immediately after a heavy rain, but this is very bad, for sufficient time should always be given to allow the water to drain through the top soil—otherwise, if the soil is of a heavy nature, it is liable to cake and become waterlogged and sour.

Greens should never be rolled until the frost is entirely out of the ground. If a green is infested with earth worms, they should be eradicated before rolling or their casts brushed off with bamboo poles or birch brooms. Before mowing a putting green, sweep the surface so as to remove casts and pebbles, stones, etc., knocked out of sand traps onto the greens that would damage the mower; then mow and afterward roll with a light wooden roller to put on the finish.

On a putting green, the first object is to promote a healthy, strong, thick turf, and it is only by having this that a good putting surface can be obtained. How often especially on new golf courses do we find that the excessive use of a heavy roller has flattened out a more or less smooth surface at the expense of a healthy growth of grass. A first class putting green has never been made and maintained with a heavy roller. The grass plants have to breathe, so the soil should not be pounded down hard like a sidewalk.

Often we find greenkeepers correcting the putting surface of the greens with a heavy roller instead of topdressing them with rich, clean compost, filling in the cuppy places and then finishing off with a light rolling. If the surface soil of

putting greens becomes caked, the rains drain off without percolating through to the sub-soil. A light wooden roller should be in four sections, weigh about 150 pounds and be about four feet wide.

The fair greens of a golf course should be rolled once or twice in the early spring with a fairly heavy roller to smooth down the roughness caused by the frost, but the soil should be *dry* when rolled. During the season, heavy motor mowers should not be used, because the grass often has to be cut when the ground is wet and soon the soil is packed down like a brick pavement—especially where it is of a heavy nature.

It is not often necessary during the season to roll the fair greens, but when it is, light horse rollers should be used.

The combination horse mower and roller is the best machine on new courses, but everything considered the new "Threesome" or 86-inch cut mower used for the mowing alone with an occasional rolling with an ordinary horse roller is the best arrangement.

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