

Turf Transplanting

By J. G. KANTER

A SERIOUS problem always confronting the green committee is Turf Transplanting. It is often desired to quickly change the location of a putting green, and it is therefore necessary to transplant the turf. It is also frequently desired to place turf on some part of the course in order to avoid the delay incident to seeding.

There are many ways by which turf may be transplanted, most of which are wasteful of time, labor and money and which give very poor results at best. Careful study of this problem has developed an efficient method of doing this work and one which, if carefully followed out, will give such good results as to make it difficult to detect the fact that new turf has been laid.

The first thing to do is to form the sub-surface of the new green with the desired undulations, etc. Then cover the surface with an inch coat of finely

sifted compost preferably made up of the following: for a heavy soil, one third top-soil, one third humus, and one third sharp river or bank sand; for a sandy soil, half humus and half top-soil. Humus being very highly decayed and ready for use is more desirable than even the best compost heap, but if the club has a first class compost heap on hand, which has been standing in heaps or pits for at least a year and which has been well cared for, it will be more economical to use this, and in this case the top-soil mentioned above will not be necessary, as soil is usually included in the compost pile.

After the compost has been spread over the green, secure a heavy cocoa doormat, about three feet wide and six feet long. Fasten a rope to the center of one of the narrow ends and drag and cross drag the surface with the cocoa mat until the putting green is absolutely true. Then roll with a two

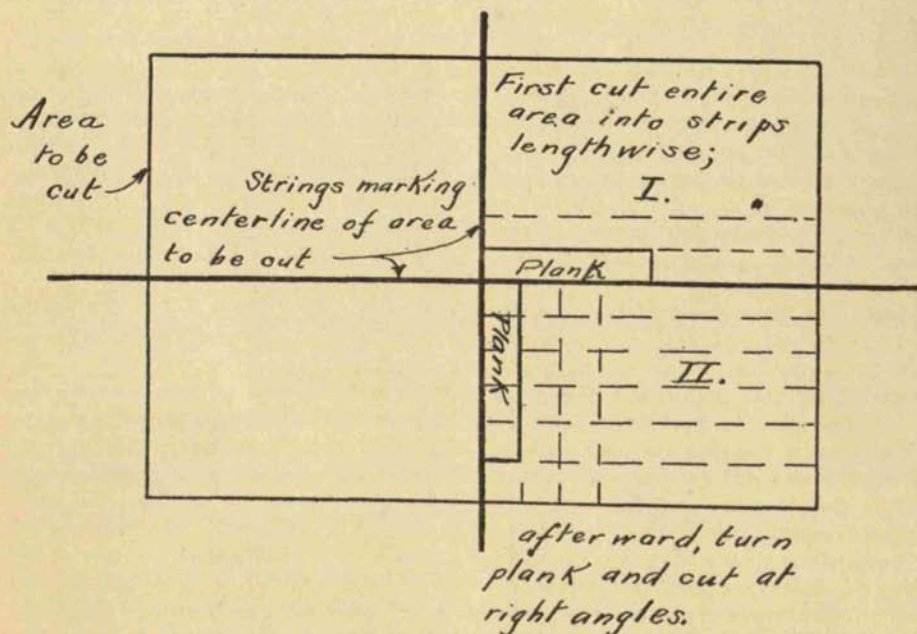


FIGURE 1 — Plan of Area to be Cut

hundred pound roller, after which it is ready to be turfed.

There has always been much discussion as to the proper treatment of the turf both before and after transplanting, and whether to cut and roll back the turf, or to cut in such a size as to facilitate the handling and eliminate breakage. I believe, however, that if the method described below is carefully followed out under competent supervision, far better results will be obtained at a less cost than in any other way.

Turf should be cut after a rather heavy rain or watered the night previous, so that it will be thoroughly moist and easily workable.

With a plumb-line lay off the dead center of the section of turf to be cut. Run another line at right angles to the first, also in the center. This divides the section in four accurate quarters (*figure 1*).

Secure as long a plank as possible, eleven and a half inches wide and two inches thick, with both the two inch sides planed smooth. A hard-wood plank of course will last much longer should the club need to do this work frequently.

Place the plank against the plumb-line and with a sharp racing iron or edging knife cut along the full length of the plank on both sides (do not cut across the strip at the narrow ends of the plank); lift the plank and place same against the outer edge of the previously cut section, and so proceed to cut the section of the turf into long parallel strips eleven and a half inches wide, running the entire length of the green.

When complete place the plank against the second plumb-line that is at right angles to the strips already cut and then cut the same as before. We have now cut the entire section into sods which are accurate eleven and one-half inch squares.

Secure four pieces of wood, one inch by two inches, two of which are to be twelve inches long and two are to be fourteen inches long. These are then fastened together so as to form a

hollow square whose inside dimensions are twelve inches by twelve inches. (*figure 2*).

Should turf thinner than two inches be preferred, use wood of the desired width.

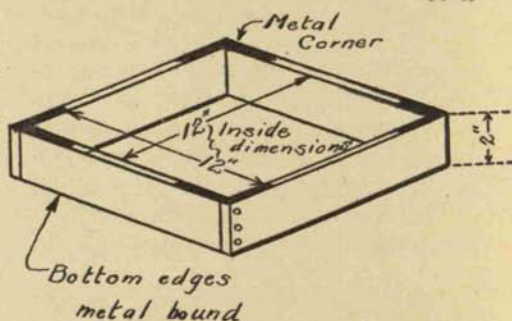


FIGURE 2 — Trimming Gauge

In order to prevent the gauge from getting out of shape the four corners should be fastened with flat iron angles as suggested in the sketch. The upper edges of the gauge should be smoothly covered with sheet metal and the nails (large head nails) or screws should be set in so that they will not catch the knife which is to be drawn over them.

We now have the green cut in eleven and one-half inch squares and a turf gauge of which the inside dimensions are twelve by twelve inches. It will be observed that the sods are half an inch smaller than the inside of the gauge. The additional width of the turf gauge is to permit the turf to slide in and out easily.

Next obtain an ordinary kitchen table, approximately three feet by six, and across the narrow end nail securely a five or six inch strip of wood, one inch thick (*figure 3*).

Place four men or boys around the table, as indicated in the sketch. Locate the table in such a manner that A will be working with his back to the green; this will enable B to take the sods from the carrier with a minimum of turning and will permit him to work much faster. The table should be moved from time to time with this object in view. The place from which the sods are being taken should be

kept somewhat to the right of B and the sods should be removed in strips running in the same direction as the length of the table rather than across, as this will save considerable moving and also increase the speed.

Place the gauge on the table in front of C, the sods are delivered to B, who places them, bottom side up, on the table in front of C, who places the gauge over the sod and pushes it across to table to A, who moves it up against the cross board. A, who is equipped with a turf knife or an old scythe blade, pulls the knife toward him across the metal top of the gauge, thus cutting off everything over one and one-half inches in thickness. This gives turfs of a uniform thickness with almost mathematical precision. D removes the gauge and returns it to C and then takes the trimmed turf from the table and places it in a pile or otherwise disposes of it. This operation is

continued until all the turf is trimmed. After carrying out this operation a few times the men will become expert and will work very rapidly.

The green has already been prepared to receive the new turf, and arrangements should be made to deliver the turf to the new green so that it may be laid at once, thus avoiding any possibility of drying out.

The new green should be laid off with a plumb-line in the same manner as the one which was cut. Place the turf accurately up to the plumb-line along its entire length across the green, allowing a space of one-quarter inch between each turf and thus turf the entire green. As the turfs are all of one size no matching is required, and it is only necessary to bear in mind the importance of leaving a space between the turfs on all sides.

Beat the turf lightly with a turf-beater, and roll with a two or three hundred pound roller. Cover the surface with a finely sifted compost and seed lightly. Work the compost into the turf and cracks by dragging the surface with a cocoa doormat. Roll once more rather lightly and water. Allow the turf to remain in this state two or three weeks and then roll and cut regularly.

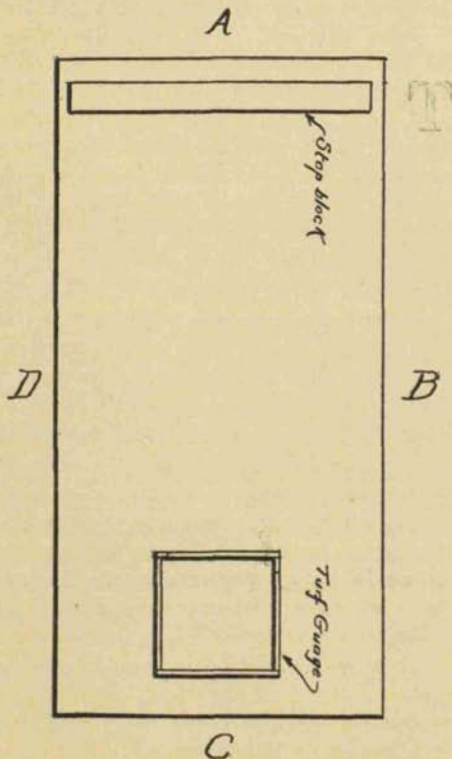


FIGURE 3 — Plan of Table

Greenkeeping Notes for the Summer Months

By LEONARD MACOMBER

DURING June, July and August putting greens should be very closely watched, systematically fed, and nursed through any severe weather. Grass suffers more from the heat than anything else, except possibly overwatering artificially, and during the Summer months most courses are hard hit by excessive wear. If turf is helped along at the right moment and in the right way, good putting greens can be maintained right through the season.

Just before the hot weather is ex-