

The above hints should be carried out for *at least* two summer seasons—three would be better—and then the Green Committee may safely think of using the material. However, before finally using the material on a green, several tests should be made in actual growth, and it would be advisable to set apart a section of land for the purpose. Tests should be made, using one area without treatment as a control, both with grass already growing and with a newly seeded area. Obviously, if the tests are satisfactory, no fear need be had as to the results on the greens. To get a line on the quality of the humus, a test might be made along with one of the commercial varieties. If the local material does not give as good results, it is either naturally inferior or it needs more cultivation. In *no* case should local material be used without a careful and comprehensive test of actual growth being made.

Divot Marks

ONE of the first things one learns about golf is the sentence, "Please replace divots."

Many golfers replace divots, or see that their caddies do so, in a very conscientious manner; a greater number do it in a perfunctory manner, and a good number don't do it at all. When a divot is taken it is quite a matter of chance whether the scar heals quickly or remains open for a year or more.

It stands to reason that all divot marks heal quicker on rich soils than they do on poor sandy soils; also a divot taken when the soil is moist or during damp weather stands a fair chance of recovering quickly, whereas if it is taken during hot dry weather it stands a very poor chance of recovering anyway until the next growing season unless given some assistance.

The best way to heal divot marks is to fill them up with prepared soil and seed in the following manner:

Take a barrowful of dry sifted soil and mix with it three or four pounds

of grass seeds specially prepared to suit the soil of the links. Apply the prepared seed and soil by dropping a handful of it into every divot mark or rabbit scrape seen, and press it down with the foot. It is incredible how quickly and thoroughly all such scars "through the green" can be healed if the work is done systematically. The best way to do the work is to send out two men with one barrowful of the soil; the barrow should be wheeled up the centre of the course, and the men should work away from it, one on either side, carrying a quantity of the soil in a bucket or other suitable vessel.

In the hot weather during the summer it would be well to use a somewhat stronger method when repairing divots, owing to the fact that the season is more or less unfavorable for the growing of grass. Instead of using the soil alone for making the seed mixture, use humus. This will germinate the seed more rapidly and exert a forcing action on it, with the result that the young plant will be better able to stand the great heat. The use of a little water when applying the mixture will also help to give good results.



JUST A REMINDER

THE PIPE (to irascible old stickler for the Rules playing his ball out of water): "Don't forget to replace the divot, sir, will you?"