

## Greenkeeping Notes for the Late Winter Months

**I**F not already done, now is the time to paint and repair tee boxes, hole and tee markers. The various implements should be examined and put into shape for the Spring. As a rule, most of the machinery around a golf course will stand a good cleaning and oiling. If any parts are broken or found to be defective they should be replaced, and if the machines are in very bad shape they should be sent to the factory or at least to a good local repairman.

Now is the time to order all Spring seeds, humus and fertilizers. If not done at once the club runs the risk of being forced to put up with the delays in shipment which are inevitable in the early Spring and will suffer on this account. Plenty of time should be allowed for shipments to be made and also for transportation. Wise Green Committees will not lose a single moment from now on in placing orders for the necessary materials.

Much valuable time will be saved later on if materials such as sand are hauled out to the bunkers where needed. It is also a good idea to manure any bare spots with stable manure or compost and allow to stand until the weather opens up.

Many clubs did very little work on their courses last season, and the results of this policy will be very noticeable when warm weather comes. An early start and sufficient materials this Spring will repair much of the damage caused by the neglect of the past year.

With the near approach of Spring it behooves the greenkeeper to be on the lookout for weeds. If these are removed as fast as noticed, a great deal of trouble later on will be avoided. Weeds are often a sign of poverty or neglect and if this is found to be the case, steps should be taken to eliminate the cause.

Lime is of great value of course for correcting acid conditions in the soil, providing the causes of the acidity are looked after before applying it. It breaks up and changes the structure of the clay particles, and improves the drainage. In heavy clay soils, such as are found in the neighborhood of Chicago, investigation by the different clubs has shown that lime may be safely applied in the form of air or water-slacked lime, or by powdered limestones and marls. The experience of these clubs has proved that in no case should the variety known as land plaster be used. It does not neutralize acidity and it has a tendency to still further compact the clay soil.

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## Courses of Today

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considered huge as compared with the tiny platforms we used to drive from. The diagonal pit which has to be encountered presents an optional carry which the bunkers, dead across the course of other days, failed to provide. Now I know that if I succeed in carrying the hazard at a point where my best effort should take me, my reward is well worthy of that effort.

I know, too, that if my shots are placed properly the modern green will surely offer an inviting approach. In past years golf did not provide this finesse, and I find a new charm in playing over a thoroughly modern course.

I realize that I am not alone in my opinion. Many other humble players freely admit that they enjoy their play nowadays far more than they used to, and these very men are those who were prone to smile indulgently when modern golf construction was mentioned only a few years back.

Now, while I am sure of my own appreciation of the benefits of up-to-date courses, I am not at all sure that every man who swings a club has been so observant as myself. I recall a case of