Green Suffers Unusual Accident

The greenskeeper must be something of a diagnostician at all times. He must be able to recognize the cause of the thousand-and-one things that can spoil his turf.

Maurice White, Woodmar Golf club, Hammond, Indiana, had a puzzling case recently when he found markings, as shown above, on one of his greens. The peculiar dead fingers of turf extending some four feet out from the center, had not been there the day before.

Investigation proved that the green had been hit by lightning in a storm of the previous night. Ordinary top dressing and seeding soon erased all marks the lightning had caused.

Use Fine Sand in Traps Near Greens

It is common practice among greenskeepers to use coarse sand or even fine gravel in sand traps. The reason for this lies in the added weight of the individual particles as compared with fine sand and hence the added resistance to erosion by wind and water.

There is no objection to the use of this coarse material in fairway hazards but beware of using it in traps surrounding the greens, for some member’s explosion shot may litter the putting surface with minute stones sufficiently large to deflect a well hit ball, although too small to be readily detected and removed from the line of putt.

Nothing will arouse a member’s ire quicker. Better to let the wind and rain carry fine sand away and replace with new when needed.

In this connection, remember that wind-blown sand, such as makes up sand dunes, has rounded grains while sand from the sea shore is sharp and irregular. Examine samples of sand under a magnifying glass before purchasing and using. Use irregular grained material where you want the minimum of erosion, such as in traps. Use rounded grains for the tees and in places where you want it to be dissipated rapidly.

Check Garbage for Stray Silverware

Are your silverware losses considerable? If they are, instruct your dishwashers to rake over the contents of every garbage can before allowing the reduction company to remove the garbage. Many a stray knife, fork, spoon, and butter chip will be recovered if this is done.

You will find employees none too willing to co-operate in this unpleasant duty and it is a good idea to have the garbage gone through in your presence once in a while.

Establish a definite parking space for members’ cars and insist that this space be used and no other. Nothing is more unsightly than a clubhouse road with cars parked at all angles and at half a dozen places.