Oak Park Uses Gasoline in Fairway Weed Fight

Ever since the ranking American golf clubs set 100 per cent perfection as the standard of course condition, the fight against weeds has been high on the list of the greenkeeper’s duties.

Among the several approved weed exterminating methods we have employed at the Oak Park (Ill.) CC, none has been more effective and generally satisfactory than the gasoline treatment.

Beginning late in summer 1939 and continuing to autumn, 1940, we have completely cleaned 12 fairways of dandelions, plantain, and chickweed by using gasoline canes. We set strings 6 ft. apart across fairways and have two men with gasoline canes walk this strip across and back, applying gasoline to the weeds. The return trip is to check any weeds that may be missed the first time over.

The operation usually is done by men who cut greens in the morning and are available for work in the afternoons. We find that men accustomed to the careful standard of greens work are meticulous in their weed treatment.

It is surprising how much work can be accomplished in a week’s time and the area of fairway that can be treated in a month. Nothing else we have tried in the canes works as well as gasoline. Regardless of how weedy fairways may be, they can be cleaned thoroughly and so the grass will quickly take over, when the gasoline cane method is employed. It does require time and patience, but I know of no other job of finely “manicuring” turf that brings forth such enthusiastic comments from members.

Norfolk Course Has Generous Rebate Policy

George Hermann’s hunch in Jan. '41 Golfdom that the use of rain checks at fee courses would be a smart move, has been a regular practice at the Ocean View public course, Norfolk, Va., since the course was opened in July, 1930—writes F. G. Bingham, Ocean View supt. “We go further than merely issuing a rain check,” says Bingham. “We issue a wind, cold, sick, etc., check, too.

“If, after buying a 9-hole ticket, the