



These views show construction and operation of the Haines Tree Root Pruner. 1. Pruner attachment on hydraulic lift of Ford tractor. 2. Close-up of Tree Root Pruner knife made from an old plow share bolted to beam. 3. Cutting tree roots along edge of green with the Haines Pruner. 4. After cutting roots, slit made by pruner is pressed down and closed with rear tire of tractor. Note three lines of tire marks; one on green, a double mark on slit and one in the trap. 5. Using the Tree Root Pruner along edge of fairway to cut tree roots that ordinarily rob the turf of moisture and plant food.

Denver Greenkeeper Designs Tree Root Pruner

By O. J. NOER

The Denver Country Club as is true of a great many other golf clubs throughout the country is blessed with a great number of cottonwood and elm trees that surround greens and tees and are found in abundance in some of the rough adjoining the fairways. As beautiful as these trees may be and as necessary as they are in adding the proper symmetry to a well planned golf course both types of trees have many surface feeder roots which extend out into turf areas—far beyond the tips of the branches—which tend to rob the soil of moisture and plant food; surfaces become hard, grass turns brown

and thins out despite adequate watering.

The greenkeeper confronted with the problem of maintaining the best turf possible under such conditions has but one alternative at his disposal and that is the periodical cutting of these surface feeder roots. The established method used by many to counteract the robbing of surface soil by feeder roots is trenching. This involves considerable manpower as well as time.

Jim Haines, Denver greenkeeper, faced with treating not one but several turf areas that were showing the damaging effects of surface feeder roots from nearby trees and at the same time was handicapped by a lack of sufficient manpower and the necessary time to do an adequate job of trenching has designed and made an ingenious device called the