

## Hydraulic Lift For Greens Aerifier

By O. J. NOER

The soil in many of the greens at the Brynwood CC, Milwaukee, Wis., is extremely compact—a heritage from construction days. No effort was made to modify and condition the local heavy silt loam soil with organic matter and sand.

The tile lines were omitted during construction and have not been installed since. As a consequence, root systems are shallow in summer and grass in the low spots becomes thin during rainy spells because the soil becomes water-logged and stays too wet. It is a job to keep the greens in good condition during hot weather.

Les Verhalen decided to use an aerifier on the greens this spring to loosen the soil and obtain a deeper rooted turf. He purchased the shaft and disc assembly with half-inch spoons. Then he made a frame from heavy channel iron and devised a method for attaching it to the hydraulic lift of a new Ford tractor. A box-like receptacle was made as an integral part of the back part of the frame to hold a concrete block to provide added weight and insure a deep penetration of the spoons. Method of construction and attachment to the tractor lift are shown in the accompanying picture: 1—Side view of frame; 2—Aerifier raised by hydraulic lift; 3—View of aerified green; 4—Removing plugs with old power mower.

The greens were aerated when the soil was firm enough so tractor wheels did not mark the surface. Since the aerifier can be raised or lowered at will, it is not necessary to go off the green to turn around. This is a distinct advantage on greens with steep banks and deep traps. The tractor is stopped on the fringe of longer grass, beyond the putting surface, the spoons are lifted and then the tractor is turned and aerifies the next strip. The holes average 4 to 5 in. deep.

An old Jacobsen power greens mower was used to remove the plugs from the surface. The method was fast and effective. One picture shows an aerified green with the Jacobsen mower and plugs removed from one side.

After being aerified, the greens were fertilized with superphosphate, muriate of potash and an organic nitrogenous fertilizer. The holes insure deeper penetration of phosphate and potash before fixation occurs. A light topdressing was used afterwards to smooth the surface.

*Golfdom*

