



Correcting Windburn Injury Without Interrupting Play

by O. J. NOER

In the spring of 1949 the greens at Ozaukee Country Club suffered badly from windburn. Grass started growth, but began to wither and die in spots soon afterwards. Injury was mostly on the knobs and higher ridges, or on the greens facing the south. The prevailing winds are from that direction. Examination of the turf disclosed a shallow, meager root system, and a thick surface mat of grass.

The season before was exactly the same. The greens at Brynwood were badly damaged by windburn that spring, but escaped in 1949. These greens were aerified twice during 1948. Examination showed deep white roots in the spots cultivated by the aerifier spoons.

Raking out the seemingly dead grass in 1948 and reseeding with bent or red top did not result in quick recovery at Brynwood. The spots were bad for play until midsummer. New growth from surviving nodes on seemingly dead grass accounted for as much or more of the recovery than the seed.

Dr. Conroy, Chairman at Ozaukee, sent the greenkeeper to Chicago to observe the operation of a Turferator at LaGrange. Prompt delivery of a machine was secured and the greens were drilled, starting with

1. Injured spots in spring on a windburned green, due to shallow rooted turf. The high spots were affected most. 2. The greens were drilled promptly in spring, and holes were left open to encourage deep root formation. 3. The green surfaces looked like this after drilling. 4. The small amount of soil around each drill hole was removed with a dandelion-type rake. 5. New white roots started to develop immediately. By midsummer they extended beyond the depth of the drill hole.

