

O. J. Noer's Turf Tips



At Detroit's Maple Lane, weights on 3-gang spiker are old railroad rails.



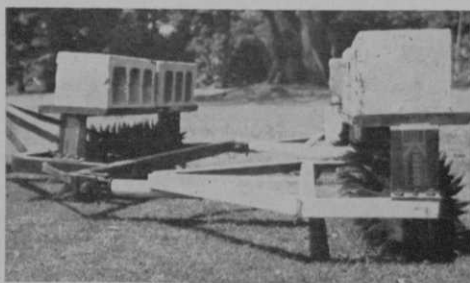
Clarence Wolfrom demonstrates 3-gang spiker on green at Detroit field day.

Use of Multiple Disk Spiker on Greens

Disc spikers are regaining popularity for use on greens. Their chief function in the North is to relieve compaction in the top inch of soil caused by player traffic and by mechanized mowing. The power driven single unit is used by many but Clarence Wolfrom at Maple Lane in Detroit, and others, use the three-gang fairway type unit drawn by a tractor.

In South Florida, clubs have turned to spike discing of fine textured Bermuda greens to prepare the seed bed before overseeding with cool season grasses for winter play. Besides preparing a better seed bed some think the shearing action of the long sharp spikes on the underground Bermuda stems is an added benefit.

In practice, the three-gang spiker is operated in a figure 8 pattern. This is done in two directions so the final pattern resembles the leaves of a four leaf clover. Greens are disked in both directions enough times to prepare a good seed bed. This is the secret of quick growth



Closeup showing sharp, long teeth on Wolfrom spiker. Weights are cast concrete.

and a fair stand of cool season grass. Good seed bed preparation is very important when bent grass, red top or blue grass is used.

Most supts. attach the spiker to a golf type tractor. Spiking is done when greens are a trifle on the dry side. The pneumatic tires are not inflated to full rated pressure. At a few clubs the wide tire, gas propelled, golf cart serves as the power unit.