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How Souris Valley Mechanizes Topdressing Operation

Souris Valley Municipal GC in Minot, N. D., is working with limited maintenance funds and must use equipment that is available in carrying out its topdressing operation.

According to Herb Creed, assistant supt. of parks, it has been using a quite simplified method of spreading topdressing material. A ball-trailer hitch is attached to a 36-inch spreader, which is pulled by a utility car. The material is hauled to and dumped on a back approach of a green. Two men spread the material, then drag in two directions with a six-foot mat that is pulled by the vehicle.

The material is said to be spread more evenly than if the spreader were pulled by hand. Six greens, averaging 5,000 square feet, are covered in one morning by two men. When the spreader is pulled by hand it takes four men to cover three greens in the same time.

Very little evidence of topdressing is left on the surface of a green. A man operating a greenmower follows the topdressing crew. Aerification and fertilization precede the topdressing operation by two or three days. The greens aren’t watered on the day preceding topdressing, and thus no tracking is evident. Creed feels that compaction is kept to a minimum because of the light equipment that is used.

No. Calif. Turf Officers