

Replace Divots or Not?

Superintendents in the Mississippi Valley area of the country apparently feel that replacing divots by golfers is still the best way to keep their courses in shape.

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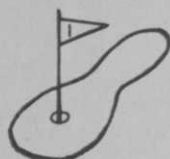


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In the May issue of GOLF-DOM, senior editor Herb Graffis wrote, "Repair of divots with soil, fertilizer, seed or even stolons is quicker, more effective, provides good playing conditions, is better looking and does a needed job without adding appreciably to the costs of first-grade maintenance. Scattered divots in a shot area quickly get to be a sloppy mess. Mowing does not shred the divots so the Bermuda of bent chunks are distributed for healing."

In a letter recently received by GOLF-DOM, Henry C. Vogt, secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association, wrote: "While it is admitted that divots do not heal in dry weather, it is also a fact that many do heal, especially in spring and fall at the time of the year when turf is softer and divots larger. Considerable educational work and the placing of signs has been the practice for many years and we feel that an article such as this does not help the superintendents maintain the golf courses."

IRS Eases Tax Guidelines On China, Glass, Flatware

The Internal Revenue Service recently adopted new rules governing depreciation of such service items as china, glassware and flatware. These rules could substantially improve the cash flow of club managers at country clubs across the country.

In the past, many facilities used an accounting system to depreciate assets known as Asset Depreciation Range. Under ADR, taxpayers selected a depreciation life for such items as china, glassware and flatware from a prescribed range of eight to 12 years. The problem with this system was that china, glassware and flatware are costly and comparatively short-lived. An eight-year depreciation schedule was simply not beneficial for many.

As a result, some operators wrote off these items directly, selecting a depreciation life that was subject to challenge by the IRS. It was proposed that IRS create shorter subsidiary asset guideline classes. This would make tax treatment more fair for those facilities which purchased a high proportion of service assets.

The result was that the IRS now provides for subsidiary asset guideline classes asset depreciation ranges

of two to three years. This includes returnable containers, glassware, silverware, crockery and linens. For further information, write the Permanent Ware Institute, 111 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago 60601.

Glyphosate More Effective To Control Perennial Grass

The introduction of glyphosate will provide golf course superintendents with a more effective herbicide for controlling perennial grasses, according to Dr. A. J. Turgeon of The University of Illinois.

"Turfgrass renovation procedures employing herbicides have often resulted in serious reinfestation by perennial weed grasses due to inadequate control," Dr. Turgeon wrote in a recent issue of the newsletter of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. "Also, soil residues of applied herbicides have delayed or precluded turfgrass establishment on treated sites."

Dr. Turgeon said glyphosate will be more effective and the absence of any soil residual activity from this herbicide allows for replanting as soon as adequate weed control has been obtained. His work has shown that premature planting of Kentucky bluegrass into treated bentgrass severs the bentgrass stolons thus interrupting translocation of the herbicide and reducing control. However, glyphosate is a substantial improvement over presently available materials and it will undoubtedly become an important herbicide for use in turf, Dr. Turgeon said.

Century Supply Corporation Opens Chicago-Area Office

Ernie Hodas, president of Century Supply Corp., Berkley, Mich., has announced the opening of a new division to serve the greater Chicago area market, northern Illinois and northwest Indiana in the field of underground sprinkler equipment and turf irrigation supplies.

Hodas said the new division will stock and distribute products manufactured by nationally known companies such as Rain Bird, L. R. Nelson Co., and Safe-T-Lawn. Hodas said Century/Rain-Aid Supply Corp. will be located at 341 Lively Blvd., Elk Grove Village, Ill. 60007.