

## D.C. STADIUM (Continued from page 5)

the USGA specifications for gold course greens, except for the modification of being able to pump water back into the system by way of the drainage pipes. This is a welcome trend away from artificial turf and should be interesting to watch in the years to come.

# A Season with a Purr-wick Tee

by

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There is quite a difference between maintaining a PURR-wick tee than a synthetic grass tee. Synthetic grass requires no mowing, only occasional sweeping, hosing and removal of broken tees. However, synthetic grass just looks out of place on a golf course and the golfers at Fountain Head Country Club complained about their feet slipping and difficulties inserting their tees into the surface. PURR-wick is more difficult to maintain than synthetic grass, but an entirely different management program is not necessary in order to maintain PURR-wick versus other natural grass surfaces. In fact our tee is maintained very nearly the same as our other natural grass tees, maybe even with a little less maintenance.

After having difficulties maintaining an acceptable No. 1 teeing area, the Green Committee decided to experiment with a carpet of synthetic grass. This tee was installed following the manufacturer's instructions, using a wooden box frame, underlaid with crushed stone, fiber pad with sand impregnated into the pad. The carpet was than tightly stretched by a local carpet installer and nailed to the box frame. The synthetic grass held up very well, however, after four years, numerous complaints and an area of worn out sod adjacent to the carpet, we decided that synthetic grass was not for us.

The location of this tee was confined to a small, sloping area. We decided to construct a tee inside a railroad tie enclosure, thereby eliminating step banks and continual

hand trimming. After consulting with Holman Griffin and Dr. Bill Daniel, a PURR-wick tee was tried.

This tee was completed in October, 1973. I have found after a Summer of use that I am still very much impressed with the performance of this PURR-wick system.

During construction, 50 pounds of sewage sludge and 10 pounds of 30-3-10 were incorporated into the top two inches of a sand and peat mixture, before sodding. We now fertilize this tee the same as we do our others, applying 4 to 5 pounds of N/M ft.2. The tee is mowed at a height of just under 1", two to three times per week, with a walking mower.

A few days after the installation of the sod, we aerified the surface and top dressed heavily with the same sand used to construct the tee. After the sand had disappeared, another top dressing was applied. The tee was top dressed a total of four times during the season and one time this Spring.

Being constructed almost entirely of sand, it was surprising to us that we experienced spots that would remain rather dry and have difficulties getting water to penetrate, while the balance of the tee would be moist.

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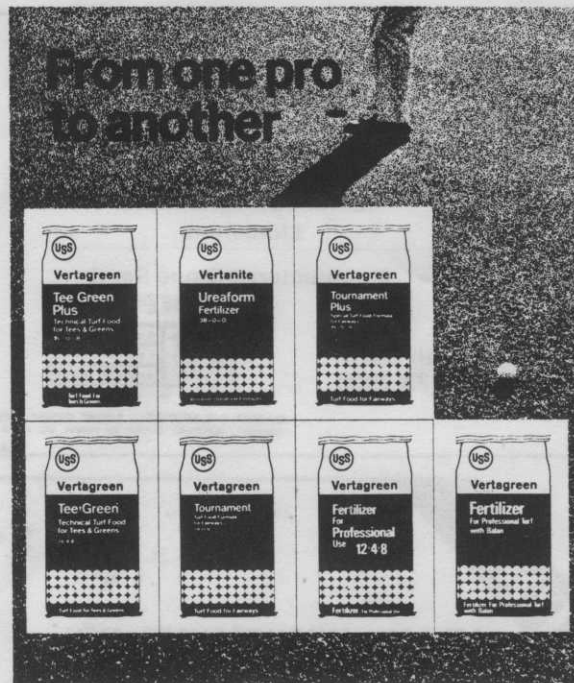


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**A SEASON WITH A PURR-WICK TEE**  
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These small areas were treated with a wetting agent and seemed to respond and hold moisture, when checked with a soil probe. During this Winter these same areas were off color and we again applied a wetting agent, after we aerified and top dressed in early April.

Generally, we now follow the same maintenance practices on our PURR-wick tee as we do on the other tees, except this tee will receive at least two top dressings of sand per year. Fungicides and insecticides are applied when the other tees are sprayed, however, I do not believe as many applications are necessary. There have been no herbicides applied to this tee. The divots are seeded and top dressed with sand as often as possible and the markers are moved almost daily.

It is a beautiful sight to see the Spring bulbs and Summer annuals blooming against our railroad tie backing and carpet of green grass. This tee has performed very acceptable to the abuse that a No. 1 tee is constantly exposed to. The entire membership, golf course maintenance staff and myself are quite proud of our tee and amazed that the surface holds up and heals so well. I only hope that we are as successful and as happy with PURR-wick in the future as we were last season.



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*"For every human problem there is a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong."*

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*"This time, like all times, is a very good one if we but know what to do with it."*

Emerson

*You often meet people willing to defend to the death your right to speak your piece. It's getting people to listen that's so hard.*