

Some "Rough" Talk

THE ideal rough is one that gives a fairly difficult lie, and also makes it possible to find balls easily.

In building a course great care should be taken that no fertilizer is put into that part which is going to be rough. The area intended for rough should be plowed and disced and then sown lightly with Sheep's Fescue.

Native Grasses Often Most Satisfactory

In many sections of the country the land used for golf courses is covered with a natural grass which makes an almost ideal rough. This grass is in form and substance a fescue in the fact that it grows in bunches, does not grow high, produces conditions that make finding a ball easy and gives anything but a good lie. This grass is known as Buffalo grass, poor man's grass, and may have other local names. In every case where a golf course is to be built on land that is covered with this grass, care should be taken not to disturb the ground which is to be used as rough. Of course this applies to ground covered with this grass which is free from brush and trees and can be left practically as it is.

The rough should be cut regularly and at the proper intervals, depending on the season, and the amount of growth. The height at which the rough is cut should be very carefully watched so as to give a difficult lie, and still make it possible to easily find balls. The length of the rough will vary, depending on the thickness of the growth. If the rough is very thick it can be cut much shorter than where it is thin. This means that in the spring and fall the rough should be cut closer than in the summer.

Growth Should Not Be Too Thick

Very often the most troublesome piece of rough that has to be contended with is a strip on the edge of the fairway that has been really a part of the fairway, and because of careless cutting, or by intention, has been allowed to become rough. These strips being right next to the fairways are the ones that cause a large amount of the trouble as regards lost balls. These strips of rough should either be included in the cutting of the fairways, or, if it is important that they be left as rough, then they should be treated as follows: The turf should be taken off and used elsewhere; the rich soil taken off and used in compost heaps and the exposed ground should be disced and planted with Sheep's Fescue.

If the rough is all very thick and hard to handle, it is wise to thoroughly disc the entire area. If this is done during a dry spell a sufficient number of plants will be eliminated to thin the growth so that it is proper for rough.

Remove Unfair Lies

In order to intelligently handle the rough it is necessary that someone carefully watch to see where the greatest percentage of bad shots go on each hole. In this way, the particular parts of the rough that need special attention will be indicated and should be carefully marked out with indicating stakes of some kind that will be out of sight but of a permanent nature. The cutting unit used on the rough will depend a good deal on the nature of the rough to be cut. If the ground is very rough and full of roots and stones it is wise to use an old fashioned horse drawn mowing machine. If the condition is good then a side bar cutter on a tractor, or a three gang mower with the knives set very high can be used.

Keep Weeds Down

Mowing the rough while weeds are in bloom will do much to eradicate annual and biennial weed growths, while perennial weeds are probably best dealt with by continual cutting of their tops or by grubbing out entirely. This method will also do much to prevent the spread of weed seeds to the fairways either by wind or surface water. If the soil of the rough is not of too light a nature and the growth of the grass is fairly thick, the growth of weeds may be checked to a large extent by burning over the ground of the rough in the fall.

White Sulphur Subscribes for Greenkeeper

In common with a number of other clubs, the Greenbrier Golf Club at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, has subscribed to THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER for the greenkeeper, Mr. Kirkpatrick. Mr. Tait's letter follows:

The GREENBRIER and COTTAGES
White Sulphur Springs
West Virginia

National Association of Greenkeepers of America
407 Caxton Building
Cleveland, Ohio
Gentlemen:

Please be good enough to enter the subscription of our Greenkeeper, Mr. J. R. Kirkpatrick, Box 114, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., for a year's subscription to the Greenkeeper, sending bill for same to White Sulphur Springs, Inc., in my care.

Yours very truly,

Harry Tait

Manager

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