

The Proof of The Greens is in The Playing

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H. C. Moore

IN writing a short article on greenkeeping, I must admit that while I am in a position to go into this phase of the golf course, I am at loss as to what is most important, therefore will try to give a general idea in a few words.

My present course is of just 9 holes, nicely trapped and boasts of the finest Bermuda greens in Tidewater, Virginia. It is well to keep the greens well top-dressed and I find that watering them at night, instead of the heat of the day, keeps the grass in splendid condition, even in the hottest weather and dryest seasons.

Traps Need More Attention

I find that the hardest job around the course is in keeping the traps in good shape, especially when they are found on the course in large numbers. On my 9 hole course, there are over thirty traps and this means care and attention at all times that I think equal to the care of the greens.

From my personal observation, I find that most greenkeepers overlook the traps and do not realize what it means to a player to have to play from poorly kept traps.

A greenkeeper who is on the job will go out of his way to meet as many of the golfers on his course as he can and get their views on what they find wrong with the course. They know lots of small things which escape the busy greenkeeper's attention that could be remedied in a few minutes with very little trouble and by

doing so, keeps the club officials in a good mood and the players in a complimentary frame of mind. That's half the battle.

Good Machinery Wise Investment

There is no play in pushing a putting green mower in the hot sun and I realize that it is not necessary to say that good machinery is a vital necessity to any course. I would suggest that the club officials leave the matter of equipment up to the greenkeeper for he knows what he needs, and when they are ready to buy, it would be wise to have the greenkeeper present. He'll save the club lots of money in a year's time.

I find a Penn Mower unusually well suited for my greens. I have used it successfully for quite a time, and find that the upkeep is very small in comparison to the others I have had the opportunity to try out.

Keep your machinery out of the weather and have it in tip top shape at all times. Work with your men and not against them.

Maples in Virginia

I believe that I have found information regarding trees that should be a great help to courses that have

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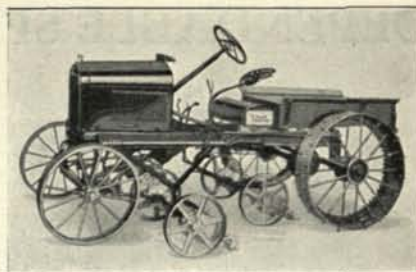
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Proof of the Greens

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few of them and desire to set more out. In the Fall of 1925, I set out maple trees on my course and at the present writing there are 53 of them living and in beautiful condition. They are hardy trees and I believe, from my experience with a dozen different varieties, that the maple is the answer to the tree question in this locality.

Dig up your maples you have chosen for planting on your course in the fall of the year, after the leaves have dropped, and be sure that you do not cut the tap-root, plant them and let nature take its course. If they don't grow, then your land will not grow grass.

The Playing Greenkeeper Knows His Greens

Last, but not least, I find that a greenkeeper who plays golf and plays over his own course, knows his links from A to Z and is in better position to improve his course and correct faults that cause dissatisfaction among the playing members of the club. With this knowledge he will be worth far more to his club than a greenkeeper who does not know the game and only knows his course from the greenkeeper's point of view, a view which is handicapped by not estimating the value and condition of the course from the standpoint of playing the game.

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