

# Firming The Fairways

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**I**N the March number of THE NATIONAL GREENKEEPER an article appeared under the heading, "Are Your Rollers Ready?" This article appealed to me as very appropriate, as we had just finished overhauling our rollers to start the spring work.

I have often heard it remarked that we do not roll often enough. This is a general feeling among the players, who also feel that by constant rolling, holes will disappear and bumps will be pressed down. This is far from being the case.

That rolling is of vast importance if done judiciously is well known, but there are some conditions where more harm than good will be done with a roller. Soils that are well or imperfectly drained, heavy and adhesive clay soil, light soils, and the fact that some grasses on a golf course will stand more rolling than others,—all these and other conditions determine when and how much rolling should be done.

One thing we should bear in mind is that with the advent of the tractor on golf courses, we began to get a certain amount of packing that was not previously the case, and this continual packing affects heavy clay soils in particular.

## Triple Gang Fairway Rollers Efficient

While we devote ourselves to the fairways first, we contrive on re-crossing to roll a fair amount of the rough, which tends to improve the adjoining rough area from every point of view.

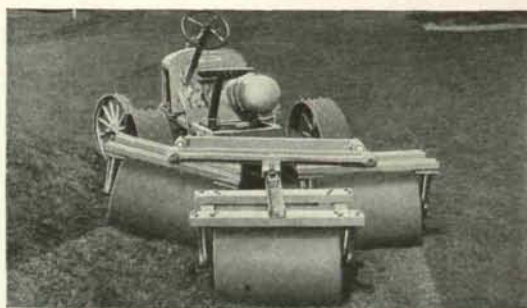
Which is the best type of roller is perhaps a moot point. We use for tractor work a three-section or Triplex type, which few question as being the most satisfactory type. We operate two of these gang rollers, one heavy and one light. Each of the drums on our heavy roller weighs about 1000 pounds, and they are four feet three inches long, two feet nine inches in diameter. The larger drums are to be preferred to the smaller solid type, or so I believe. The light roller we use was constructed from an ordinary three-drum farm roller, and for clay soil this we prefer.

## Converting Farm Rollers for Fairways

I may say that this light farm roller though new we had not used for two years, as it was a waste of time to pretend to roll with it. Some ten feet in width, it was supposed to "get" over the ground, and it did. But has it ever occurred to the young or inexperienced greenkeeper how much turf is actually pressed by a roller of this type on the undulating grounds of the average golf course? Doubtless there are still many of them used, but unless one has a perfectly flat surface, they are a thing of the past if best results are to be desired. For the benefit of anyone who may be in-

clined to convert such a roller, the cost would be somewhere around \$60, and can easily be done.

Like nearly every other course, we have both the small iron and wooden rollers of four sections for use on the greens. The wooden rollers are very useful if kept in shape, and in great favor, as the "give" of each section enables one to follow the roll and run of the green. To keep these wooden rollers in good shape, we make it a practice each season to go over any cracks



*Three-gang fairway roller similar to that described in this article. This type manufactured by Worthington Mower Co., Stroudsburg, Pa.*

with a little paint, then fill with putty, and paint over the whole. This treatment will keep them in good condition for an indefinite period, and they clean easily and do not pick or gather material on the rollers like those in a neglected condition.

With the small iron roller, it is well to keep an eye to the cotter pins that hold the frame to the axle, as often these get worn and drop out, resulting in the loss of the bearings. I have both heard and seen such rollers in operation, and pitied the worker. "Music hath charms", but not that which emanates from a dry roller. Grease and oil are both cheaper than machinery. A coat of paint may seem to some like fine feathers, but I can assure the doubtful ones that the use of paint is often the means of finding a loose rivet or bolt, and either can spell disaster.

A discarded bed knife, or better still a piece of hoop iron, will greatly facilitate the cleaning off of any roller.

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