



JOE VALENTINE

Sodding a Putting Green

How a famous Philadelphia greenkeeper worked out this important problem successfully

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BEFORE cutting sods, make sure that they are moist enough. We use two boards—one 10" wide and another 12" wide. We follow the edge of the board so the men can cut them straight, with the edge knives. To lift them we use the American sod lifter.

The sods should be placed in the frame 12" x 14" and one inch thick, and should be trimmed with an old scythe blade, so as to get an even thickness. Before these sods are laid, we make sure that the surface of the green is perfectly solid, and to get a satisfactory surface the soil should be raked and rolled five or six times.

As soon as the surface of the green is sodded, we have the men pack them down with the back of a shovel, roll them with a roller that

weighs about 400 pounds, and then put on them a rather heavy top-dressing. We work the top-dressing in with the back of wooden rakes and then water them.

After this work, the green ought to be fit to play on a few days after the completion of the job.

My main recommendation is to get the surface of the soil as perfect as possible so that the sods, after they are laid, will not show any depressions.

Another important point which I want to emphasize is that, if you are going to rebuild a green and save the turf, never pile the sods, but spread them out; they will not get heated, and will recuperate quickly if there is any sickness, and will keep for an indefinite time.

JOE VALENTINE AND HIS CREW SODDING A PUTTING GREEN AT THE MERION CRICKET CLUB, PHILADELPHIA'S FAMOUS CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE

