

Sand Greens

Their Construction and Care

By DON SPARKS

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I AM writing you a few paragraphs on construction and care of sand greens as commonly used in the southwestern states.

Sand greens should be at least fifty feet across and level when they are finished.

First, place temporary stake at center of green, where cup and flag staff should be permanently placed when the green is finished. Fasten one end of cord to this stake. Measure twenty-five feet of cord from stake. In this way a perfect circle can be made. Cut outside of the circle with a tiling spade. This will give a definite outline for the green fifty feet in diameter.

Beginning at the center of the green, spade out a layer of dirt about six inches deep; working from the center to the outside, decrease the depth to five inches. This allows a slight drainage from the outer edge of the green to the center from which tiling is laid to lowest point on the outside of the green. The earth removed may be used for leveling or constructing bunkers near the green to save expense of hauling away.

After the dirt is removed, cut a ditch for a

four inch tile from the center of the green, so that the tile will be just flush with the top of the cleaned off surface. After the tiling is laid, spread a layer of finely crushed rock or chat over the fifty foot circle space to a depth of three inches. After the rock is leveled off, place one inch of sand or gravel over the entire surface.

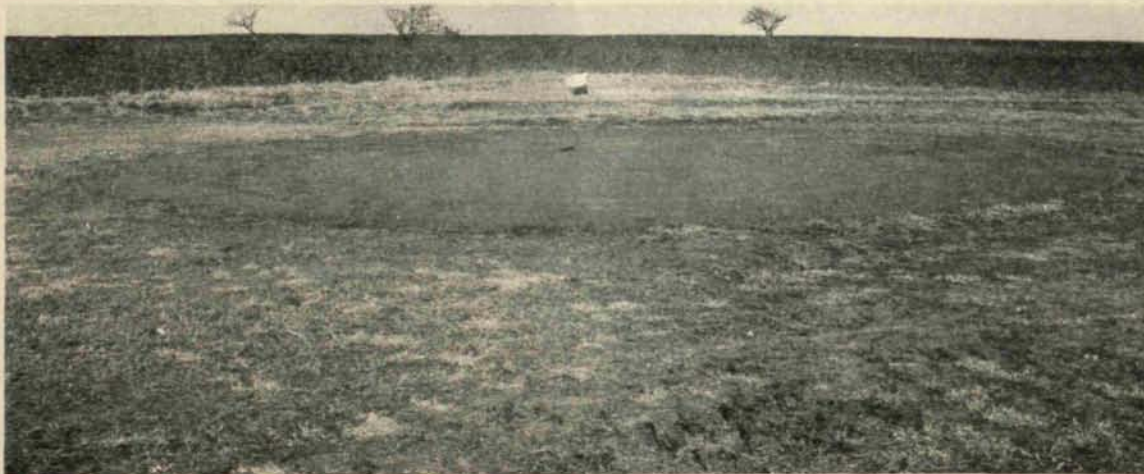
After the green is tamped, it is ready for a coat of an inch of oiled sand so that the green may be kept smooth and the oil prevents the winds from blowing off the fine sand. The oiled sand should be prepared before it is spread on the green.

The sand should be screened. This may be done by pitching the sand on a screen while it is being loaded. Level off the top of the load. Pour waste or crank case oil over the top of the load, using

about one-half barrel of oil to a yard of the sand. This cut oil will readily mix with the sand. This oiled sand should be from one to two inches deep over the entire surface of the green. Place a heavy screen at the mouth of the tiling to prevent sand from washing out.



DON SPARKS
Oklahoma greenkeeper



A TYPICAL SAND GREEN IN OKLAHOMA

Strangely enough the depth of sand governs the speed of the ball so that great care must be used in the construction and upkeep of these putting surfaces

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Never drive a wagon onto the green, but throw the sand from the wagon from points around the green. This scattering of the sand helps to even it up and thoroughly mix the oil. Use a garden rake to level down the sand and then use a light roller to pack it.

If the foregoing directions are followed, a sand green will be as near perfect as can be had which will be permanent and as good for putting purposes as can be made to approach grass greens. Sand greens after use should be gone over and smoothed out with a drag that can be made from a small heavy rug.

The approach to the green should be sodded with bermuda grass by spading up and putting in roots of the grass and then smoothed down. The bermuda grass will stand drouthy sections and will do well even up into the oiled edges but will need to be trimmed frequently to keep it from growing or spreading over on the green.

Ordinarily, greens constructed in this way will last a season without further sanding with oiled sand. But after heavy rains, the sand has a tendency to pack and become hard. Then it

is necessary to use a harrow that is made by driving spikes into a two by four about one-half inch apart. The spikes should be sharpened. Use the spiked side to break up the hard pan and the smooth side to smooth down again.

After rains the oil may be washed from the sand. Then it is necessary to reoil the sand on the green. Use a sprinkler and work up the sand with the harrow and then smooth down. Loose oiled sand should be kept well smoothed about one-half to an inch thick on the green so that a ball will stick when pitched onto the green. The purpose of the oil is to hold the sand together and give an even and consistent surface to putt over.

It is necessary for players to have small individual smoothers to smooth out a putting path after they are on the green. A round stick about eighteen inches long straight and about the size of a broom handle with a hinge in the center that attaches it to a shaft about like the putter shaft is used.

Sand greens are less expensive than grass greens as they do not have to be watered and mown. They are suitable for the semi-arid regions where it is difficult to grow grasses that are suitable to putt on. They are good the year around which is not always true of grass greens in the south and west.

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