Putting Green Construction

By John Sheridan, Greenkeeper The Chagrin Valley Country Club Chagrin Falls, Ohio

THE construction of a putting green is the most important work on a golf course. It depends greatly on the soil conditions. The plan of construction I have reference to is for heavy clay.

The top soil which is available on the green site should be put in a pile out of the way and lay for at least three weeks. By doing so the soil heats and many weed seeds are destroyed. The green then can be shaped as required with the material which still exists on the green site, or out of traps which have been planned close to the green.

The pitch and size of the green depends greatly on the length of the hole, for instance, holes ranging from one hundred and twentyfive yards to two hundred and twenty-five yards shouldn't be too large, but should have the most

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pitch, not only to hold the ball but to insure quick surface drainage in wet weather so the green will never get too soft to allow the high pitched balls to punch it full of holes. This type of green for short holes shouldn't have more than sixty-five hundred square feet of putting surface and a pitch of one foot in forty. Other lengths may have a pitch of one foot in forty-five or fifty and a putting surface up to ten thousand square feet.

When the green is rough graded it is advisable to allow it to lay for a while in case it should settle out of shape. One extra foot to every four should be allowed in deep fills.

Tiling the Green

THE green is now ready for tiling. A main line is placed up the center from back to front with four laterals on either side, herring bone style, using four inch golf drain tile placed at a depth of eighteen inches from the surface of the finished green and covered with six inches of cinders and back filled.

The top soil should be now put on if possible no less than six inches. An application of as much as twenty tons of well rotted manure ploughed in and well disced up is advisable and for clay land an application of twenty tons of sand disced in.

The green should be allowed to lay for a

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while so as to let the weed seeds germinate. About ten days before planting time an application of one hundred pounds of sulphate of ammonia is applied and disced in.

Hand Rake Before Seeding

THE green should be hand raked to remove all small stones and turn the surface. The soil just before seeding should be kept moist to insure quick germination. If bent stolons are planted it should be done on a dull day or late in the evening. The stolons should be evenly spread over the ground and covered with a light application of fine top soil applied with a topdresser and lightly rolled and watered.

The surface of the green should never be allowed to get dry and in a very few days of favorable weather the grass will begin to show. When the ground is well covered topdress it down, and encourage the runners to take hold. All it needs is an occasional topdressing and cutting with a tee mower if the runners should get too long. An application of one hundred

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pounds of Milorganite every couple of weeks will help out wonderfully and in four months of favorable weather the green should be in nice shape for play.

Chicago Greenkeepers Meet

The first dinner-meeting of the winter season was held December 5th at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, by the Mid-West Greenkeepers Association,

Reports of all committees were asked for by President John MacGregor. Alex Binnie, vice-president, made a report in behalf of the advisory committee stating that in the future more attention should be paid to actual greenkeeping problems and recommended that these problems should be discussed on the floor. He stated his opinion that such action would greatly increase the value of the association. Much discussion followed on the use of arsenate of lead for grub control and weed elimination. Some interesting opinions were expressed. It was suggested that more experimentation might be in line.

A nominating committee to select candidates for the coming election of officers was named as follows: Matt Bezek, chairman, Beverly Country Club; Peter Stewart, Lake Shore Country Club; D. W. Danley, Glen Oak Golf Club; R. Thode, Glen Acres Country Club; and William Howard, Exmoor Golf Club.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 2nd, at the Great Northern Hotel at which will take place the annual election of officers.

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