Fall Is the Time to Work

Experience proves that work done in the fall brings fruit in the spring

By LEWIS M. EVANS, Greenkeeper
Cedarbrook Country Club, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia

I RECENTLY asked a greenkeeper in charge of a wonderful course just what he thought of an extensive fall program of work and his answer was that his course this year was finer than ever due to the fact that he laid the foundation for its present condition last fall.

I do believe that greenkeepers as a whole are commencing to realize that work on the course in the fall can be done better and that the result can be seen the following spring. The great volume of work that each spring brings is governed by weather conditions and should the spring be a wet one much of that work must either be hurriedly done or not done at all.

Spiking Greens for Seeding

MY PRESENT plans are to start my so-called fall work on or about the 20th of August when I do my first seeding of greens. I first spike the green with a spike roller to a depth of one-quarter of an inch (two ways), and these holes serve as seed pockets. I mix three pounds of bent seed in about six buckets of sand and this is broadcasted on the green and thoroughly poled in.

This I follow up with twelve buckets of finely screened compost and this is broadcasted on and poled in. The small amount of sand insures a more even distribution of the seed and the compost is just enough to cover the seed and yet not enough to invite an attack of brown patch.

The latter part of September I again seed using the same amount mixed with sand and this I follow up with a general composting, using about a yard of compost to a green. The latter consists of soil, well rotted manure and sand.

In late October or November I shall spike the greens as deep as the machine will spike them and compost them with a mixture of screened mushroom soil and sand mixed half and half. This latter composting is the one that you can add your slow acting fertilizer, also your ground or hydrated lime. My own choice will be a half bag of Milorganite and fifty pounds of hydrated lime to a green.

Plugging Out Clover

I MIGHT add that just before this last composting is a good time to plug out clover and substitute good plugs from the grass garden and by spring they will be well sealed in and ready to go along with the rest of the green.

In conclusion, I would advise a very extensive fall program on the course for the reason that the work can be done more thoroughly and the following season will justify the additional cost and labor.