

# Tees, Greens and Bunkers

*A discussion by the greenkeepers of the Central Ohio District Golf Association*

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WE WERE asked to give a talk on construction of tees, greens and bunkers.

This we considered was a rather large consignment for one day for the average greenkeeper. Therefore, we did not attempt to make a speech, but rather to have a general discussion of the fundamentals of construction.

Our first order of discussion was bunkers. Each hole must be bunkered as an individual. No set rule can be made, and, in our opinion, only the bunkers at the green and a few that are outstanding should be made when the course is constructed, others to be added later. We consider it all wrong to bunker 175 yards right and 200 yards left to catch the average player, and then give a wide open fairway from 225 to 250 yards for the pro or better

player unless arrangements can be made in making tees to cover the mistake.

There are all kinds of bunkers and we feel they should be made to conform to the general typography of the course. We think a bunker should be a hazard and not part of the green from which to putt, nor part of the fairway from which to play a brassie. Whether a bunker wall is cut similar to the adjacent approach, fairway, or rough, should be left to the individual club according to the typography or amount of available funds. Where the existing soil is sand, as Pine Valley and a few other courses, building bunkers is comparatively easy. Where the bunkers are bricked the cost runs quite a bit more. We consider the three main points in building bunkers are to make them fair to the average player, to conform to the characteristics of the course, and that the upkeep be not excessive.

Next we discussed greens, which are either the pride or the bugbear of every greenkeeper.

There we have an endless variety of grasses to choose from. We may have the finest grass plot in the world and still not have a putting green. We will not try to discuss which grass is the best for we think that should be governed by locality. To have a putting green, the grass must be erect and not grained in any way. There must be a minimum of marking with heavy play, and they should hold a ball without being a bog.

The United States Green Section is experimenting this year with different soil mixtures. (Mr. McCallip and Mr. Geo. McClure joined the discussion at this point and gave some interesting data concerning the soils and the depth to which the mixture should be carried in the construction of a green.)

We do not believe the experiment has gone far enough to determine definitely what this should be. We feel that the depth will be governed by the underlying sub-soil.

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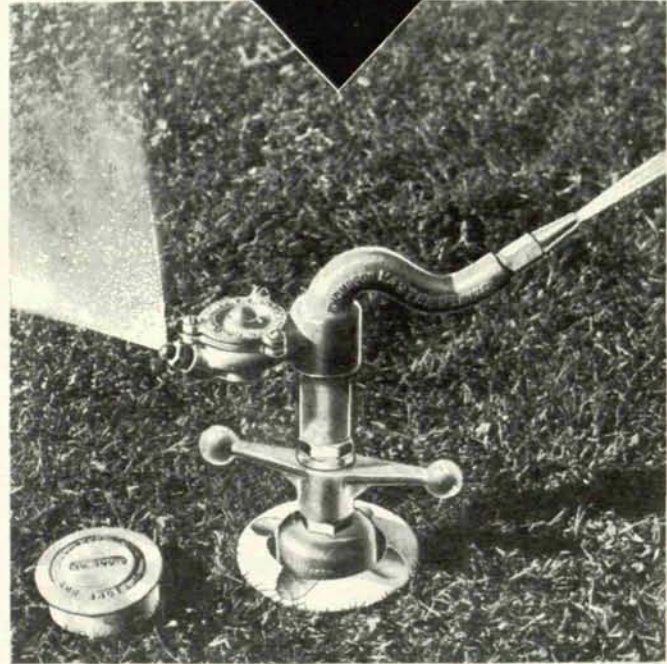
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There are possibly nearly as many methods of caring for greens as there are golf courses and any of them are good if the desired result is obtained and the membership is pleased. One thing we would like to add is that the game of golf is played before you get to the green and a green should not be a hazard. No green should have a pitch of more than three per cent, for more than this will cause a ball to gather momentum on a well-cut green. There should be undulations to add to the beauty; but we do not feel the greens should be freaks.

Last we discussed tees and as several wanted to test the tees, greens and bunkers of the Mound Builders course this discussion was rather brief.

We believe the tees should be the determining factor in the length and difficulties of a golf course. Tees should, if possible for beauty and minimum of maintenance cost, be large and as nearly as possible conform to the characteristics of the surroundings. One per cent slope on tees from front to back is all that is sufficient for drainage. We have often seen tees made after the box pattern, when by moving them from ten to twenty yards you have an absolutely natural tee available, which would add materially to the beauty of your course, and also simplify your upkeep.

If you want to keep your membership happy, and that is what we are all striving for, go out and smooth the grooves out of the bunkers, put the holes in an easy place on the green, and let them play your 445 yard holes at about 390 and 400, and most all will come in with a low score and if the minor details such as cups, towels, ball washers and the hundred other things around a course have been looked after they will call it a perfect day.



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