



LIFTING SOD BY THE OLD HAND METHOD

**I**N PREPARATION for the Western Golf Association Amateur Championship, which is to be held at the Portland Golf Club, July 13th to 18th of this year, it was desired to remodel and re-sod one of the greens. As the completion of this work with the most modern equipment afforded such a striking comparison both in the matter of time and cost with a similar change made on one of the other greens sometime ago, we are passing on the methods employed and costs for the information of others, as all clubs—and the greenkeepers in particular—are interested in keeping their maintenance and construction costs at a minimum.

With this article are two photographs; one showing the April, 1931, operation and the other showing the older method, and in each case the amount of sod removed and re-laid was the same, of an approximately 6,000 square feet area.

As will be noted in the photograph of the older operation, a crew of five men was used; one man to cut the sod along a board with an edger; two men to remove the edged sods with sod lifters; and two men carrying the sods to the leveling and trimming frame and slicing them to an even thickness with a scythe blade. With this method the capacity did not exceed 2,000 square feet of 12"x15" sods per day; in fact the records shows that it took just a trifle over three days to remove, trim and level the sod ready for re-laying. Likewise with the small sods, it took the same five man crew just a bit under two days to re-lay the green surface. Incidentally, the records show that the labor cost for the removal and re-laying of the sod was \$102.50, with an elapsed time, as stated above, of five days.

Compare the photograph of the 1931 operation with that of the older operation. You will note that the new method used only a three-man crew; two men on a hand-power sod cutting machine called the "Sod-Kut," and one man rolling the cut sod into four to five-foot lengths. It is most interesting to note that, except for the cross-cutting into these easily handled lengths, absolutely no trimming or leveling was necessary,

# Re-Sodding of Putting Greens

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as the sod came from the machine with straight, even edges and a uniform depth immediately available for re-laying. It is a matter of record that the entire 6,000 square feet of sod were cut in less than three hours.

This sod-cutting machine cuts an exactly uniform 13½" width in long strips, which are then cut into four to five-foot lengths for easier handling. A four-man crew was used for re-laying and this was accomplished in a little less than a day, a greater speed being made possible by the four to five-foot lengths. The records show that the labor cost for the removal and re-laying of the sod in this operation was \$21.00.

Certainly this is a striking comparison, particularly since the sod handled was identically the same type; the same labor scale was in effect at both times, and relaying conditions were equal. The saving was \$81.50 in labor cost and the work was accomplished in three and one-half days quicker time.

This information is passed on with the thought that it may be of assistance to other greenkeepers in the solving of their problems; and, in this connection, the writer takes this occasion to express his thanks and appreciation for the many helpful suggestions he has received from other greenkeepers through the columns of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER.



LIFTING SOD WITH THE NEW SOD-KUT MACHINE

The author states that 6,000 square feet of sod was cut in less than three hours with only three men.