

Fairway Irrigation

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FAIRWAY irrigation although a rather new project in golf course maintenance, is winning its way up to the top of the list of necessities on the modern golf course of today.

Only a few years ago the golfer was satisfied with whatever nature provided in fairways. The golfer of today is different. When he comes out for his round of golf he expects the fairways as well as the greens to be soft and easy under foot and covered with a thick mat of grass even though it may have been weeks since nature has provided rain. If his own club fails to provide these conditions he will likely look for a club that does.

In order that the fairways may be kept in this condition through the entire summer, fairway irrigation of some sort must be provided. It may be an inexpensive home-arranged affair or it may be a modern one-man hoseless system. Regardless of which it is, it most likely is regarded as one of the biggest assets the club has, and does more to increase revenue in all divisions of the club than any other single item.

Most every golfer is familiar with the conditions on a golf course where the fairways are not watered. In the spring everything looks fine, but when you make a closer inspection the grass is thin, and weeds are plentiful. The grass seeds that are sown come up to a good stand; dry weather comes along and the young grass withers up and dies.

During the summer months the grass is dry and crisp, thick and bunched, then walking over these hard fairways is very tiresome and causes many a sore foot.

But on the course where fairways are watered the conditions are very different. Well-watered fairways become full fledged sisters to well-kept greens. The grass keeps that velvet green color all summer

Veteran Greenkeeper Discusses Irrigation



CHESTER MENDENHALL
Out in the Kansas country the question of irrigation is paramount. Mr. Mendenhall knows what is needed and his advice is absolutely authentic.

despite the long dry periods without rain. The young seedling grass is able to survive the dry weather and the fairways soon have a nice thick mat of grass, and then walking around the course becomes as much pleasure in August as in June.

TWO METHODS OF WATERING FAIRWAYS

THERE are two methods of watering fairways; they are known as the hose and the hoseless systems. The hoseless system is the more modern of the two; it is equipped with pop-up sprinkler heads permanently placed along in the fairway. When the water is turned on they rise up out of the

ground and water the desired area, and then when the water is turned off they again pull themselves down out of sight. This system is the most expensive to install but the less expensive to operate, and does the most thorough job of watering.

With the hose system, outlets are placed along each fairway at intervals so that the entire fairway may be covered with a hose and sprinkler. The sprinkler selected should be one that will cover a large area. With this system men are employed to move the sprinklers at regular intervals.

WATER SYSTEM IS FIRST THING TO CONSIDER

WHEN installing a watering system the first thing to be considered is the water supply. This may come from the municipal water supply or it may be pumped from wells or a lake. In case the water is taken from the municipal water supply it may be necessary to install a booster pump to bring up the pressure to a point where the sprinklers will operate satisfactorily.

If the water is to be taken from wells or a lake, pumps will have to be installed large enough to sup-



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ply the demand. Any pump manufacturer will gladly furnish you with information as to the size and kind of pump needed to furnish the amount of water needed at the desired pressure.

The next step is the installing of the water mains through the course. These mains should carry a large volume of water which will reduce the friction losses and help to hold up the pressure at the sprinklers. There should be a number of outlets along each fairway as this will greatly reduce the amount of hose needed and also reduce the amount of labor required to move the sprinklers and hose.

The size of hose used is a very important item. I have found from experience that 3/4-inch hose can be handled for about one-half the expense of handling one-inch hose, and if the lengths of hose are not too long 3/4-inch hose will give plenty of water at the sprinkler.

WICHITA USES HOSE SYSTEM

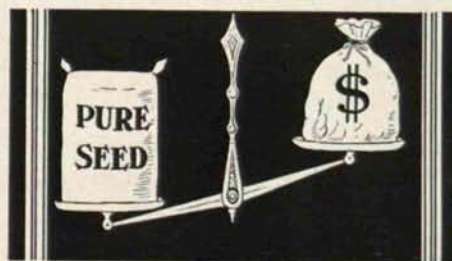
WE ARE watering our fairways with a hose system. To start with our system was only designed to water the greens and the approaches, but when the approaches were watered the results were so amaz-

ing that we soon added on until now we are watering all of the fairways.

The results have been very pleasing. Our water comes from the city water supply, which makes it necessary for us to use a bolster pump to increase the pressure. The water is distributed over the course through two mains, one a five-inch and the other a two-inch. There are outlets along the fairways one hundred and fifty feet apart. We have thirty-five traveling Economy sprinklers each equipped with one hundred and fifty feet of 3/4-inch hose.

With this equipment one man is able to water all the fairways in three nights. All the watering on the course is done at night so that there is no interference with play. In the morning the sprinklers and hose are all moved off the fairways into the rough and moved back on the fairways again at night.

In conclusion I will say that a good fairway watering system is as big an asset as any club can have in this period of reconstruction. It will increase revenue in all divisions of the club. It will help hold old members as well as encourage new ones.



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