

# Turf On Polo Fields

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**T**HE easily maintained polo field is the one that has been constructed properly and by that I mean good drainage, good sandy loam soil and seeded down with the best of seed.

A polo field should have practically the same soil construction as a putting green, the top soil should be of the same "inbetween soil"—neither loose nor sticky, a soil that will not pack but will expand after being pounded by the horses' feet.

You can drive a truck over a well-drained putting green and if the soil is of the right texture the wheel tracks will gradually disappear because the soil will expand back into its normal condition. There are, however, very few fields built that have the proper soil conditions but by top dressing each fall this condition can be remedied to a great extent, but at considerable cost.

One of our fields at the Kirtland Country Club was constructed on a clay loam soil and after the

first three or four games it was rough and bumpy all the rest of the season. In order to overcome this condition we top-dressed with clear sand, which corrected this condition to a great extent, but we still have to disc his field each fall to level off the surface for the following year. Discing two or three ways is not only a good way to fill in the depressions but a fine thing for the turf as well.

## WATERING IS MOST ESSENTIAL

**T**HE regular cutting of a polo field together with the application of water when needed, is most essential and the question of moisture is a deciding factor. We have tried both ways of maintenance—the dry field and the wet field, but have proved beyond a doubt that a damp or wet field is by far the best method. No matter how much wet weather we may have in the month of June in this district (Northern Ohio) we can still play polo without injury to the field—it is during the months of April and May when the damage is done by playing on a wet field.

During the dry period we always water the field the day or night before a game. In applying the water care must be taken to insure an even distribution because too much water in one spot is bad



SHERWIN FIELD, WAITE HILL

for the horses. It is hard on them if they hit a soft spot and then a hard spot.

#### POLO IS A FAST AND DANGEROUS GAME

**P**OLO is a very fast game and a dangerous one—everything should be done to have the field in perfect condition and an even distribution of water is essential.

One of the worst things in a polo field is large patches of clover, which are very slippery. To guard against this condition we burn the field early in the spring with sulphate of ammonia by applying it in a dry form early in the morning, while the dew is still on the leaves, and the sun does the rest.

Early in the spring and through the month of June we cut the field one half an inch in height and

as the dormant season comes on we raise the mowers to three-quarters of an inch cut.

Tamping the field after a game is another operation that does a lot for the maintenance of the field, if done properly, by a crew of men who are experienced. A field that is damp should be tamped back directly after the game and all divots replaced and any turned-under sod pulled out and tamped back. The depressions in the turf that you find after a game will in twenty-four hours nearly return to normal and especially after a rain or an application of water.

The maintenance problem will vary with the location, weather, kind of grass, soil construction and drainage. These all enter into the problem and will be the deciding factor in determining the cost of up-keep.

- February is the Seventh Annual Show and Convention Number of the National Greenkeeper.
- It contains the official program of the Show and Convention and is distributed free at the Registration Desk to every one who attends.
- As an advertising medium it excels all others.
- Reservations for space will be received up to January 15th.