

Fairway Watering From the Mower Manufacturers' Viewpoint

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Reprinted from address delivered at the Annual Greenkeepers Educational Conference in Chicago

YOU probably have long ago become convinced that irrigation by any of the accepted systems of watering the fairways that are now being so widely introduced, will enable you to maintain a far more uniform and desirable growth of turf than has ever been possible when depending solely upon the natural rainfall. Many of these irrigation systems have proven eminently satisfactory. They arrest the very serious effects which our summer droughts have always had upon our fairways and bring about an improved condition that cannot fail to be of immense benefit to the general interests of golf.

Entirely apart from all that may be said in favor of artificial watering, a few questions have naturally arisen regarding its effect upon the maintenance account, particularly with respect to the mowing machinery. It has been asked for instance if it will not take more time and wear out the mowers and tractors faster, if a heavy growth of grass is to be cut during the whole season, than if this grass were thinned and died out as it always has been by our annual summer drought? The answer to this is that while the machines may have to cut more grass than before, the conditions surrounding the mowing operations will be far more favorable.

No one knows better than the groundskeeper, that the number of hours that mowing machinery is in use, is not the only factor that enters into the subject of its durability. There are many others and among them is the kind of soil over which it travels and the state of the ground surface at the time the cutting is being done. If the soil is more or less sandy or its surface particularly dry, there will always be grit or dust thrown up by the passing of the machine. This gets into the knives and threatens to a certain extent other exposed running parts.



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One of the pioneers in the invention and manufacture of mowing machinery.

The amount of this flying sand and grit is greatly diminished, of course, if the ground is moist. In fact it has been found that the watering of the fairways causes sand and other abrasive substances to remain undisturbed during the cutting operation.

As this watering continues throughout the dry periods, which have always been so hard upon the mowers, less wear will undoubtedly result and less depreciation, than has ever heretofore been the case when they have had to run through the dust and sand of the dried-up grass of the midsummer season.

It is also a fact that the time which the machinery will take to cut the grass on the watered course will not be any longer necessarily than on a dry one, because certain weeds continue to grow on the fairways during the drought. These stand out conspicuously and seem to flourish, no matter how burnt and dry the grass may be. They are unsightly and often interfere with the lie of the ball. To keep the weeds down, the operation of the mowers is required to travel over the course nearly as often as during the season of frequent rains.

WHY NOT SPIKE THE FAIRWAYS?

IN DISCUSSING this interesting subject of irrigation the well-known effect of water upon the surface soil in conjunction with mowing machinery should not be overlooked. Wet soil, of course, packs down under the weight of the mowing apparatus and becomes baked under the influence of the hot sun. This packing effect which prevents the necessary aeration of the roots, has been found by many investigators, to prevent to a greater or less degree the proper and natural growth of the grass. As the surface will be in a saturated state much more fre-

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quently through this watering process, it is not at all unlikely that experience will show that the equipment of watered courses may have to include some form of machine to combat this baking effect.

Some one of the many forms of spikers may have to be called upon. They are being strongly recommended for greens by prominent investigators, so if artificial watering is adopted, why should they not be as desirable for the fairways? From a machinery standpoint this may be easily accomplished and the time required for spiking an entire course will add but little to the work of the maintenance force.

Asphalt for Trees

The Allied Products Company, Terminal Tower, Cleveland, Ohio, wish to announce to groundskeepers who have charge of the care of trees that they carry in stock an asphalt preparation in 5-gallon steel pails.

They are also producers and distributors of peat moss and peat humus and are agents in the Cleveland district for the famous Ohio lawn mower made by the Ohio Cultivator Company, Bellevue, Ohio.

Inquiries will be given prompt and accurate attention.

What Potash in Soils

An outfit for determining the available potash in soils has just been offered by the LaMotte Chemical Products Co. of Baltimore, Md. It is a complete portable outfit which can be used in the field or laboratory in studying the potash requirements of various soils. The results obtained are given in pounds of potash (potassium) per acre.

It is interesting to know that accurate tests of the soils can be made without any special training on the part of the user. The outfit is shipped complete with special glassware, carefully standardized reagents and a booklet of full instructions.

Cleveland Meeting

Twenty-four members of the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers attended the monthly meeting held February 13. The main speaker was Professor George M. McClure, of Ohio State University. He spoke mainly on fertilizers and brought out many good points which were discussed with interest. Frank W. Ermer, president presided.

Minnesota Notes

By H. E. STODOLA, Secretary

THE February meeting of the Minnesota Greenkeepers' Association was held at Minikahda club, Monday, February, 13. Seventeen members were present.

The National convention was discussed by the members that attended. Some of the members felt that there was repetition in the conferences. They claimed that some of the things were heard at other conferences. Very true. But there is bound to be repetition when the same subject, golf course maintenance is discussed.

Many of these subjects are becoming second nature to us because of repetition. We learn by repeating. Therefore, any subjects that are repeated are worth repeating and that is how we learn.

The Golf show brought comment from every member. The gang mowers on greens are carrying out the fairway idea. Time can be saved but that point has been conceded for some time. However, the question still holds whether power mowers can do as good work as hand mowers.

Greens are the heart of the golf course. No matter how fine the layout, tees or fairways if the greens are not very fine the course is not high class. Therefore, if better greens can be maintained by hand mowers at some additional expense, you will always have greenkeepers who will continue to use hand mowers.

MAINTENANCE STANDARD MUST BE HIGH

GOLF courses should be maintained on a high standard and every cent that can be saved by equipment can be used on other parts of the course. But as hard pressed as many greenkeepers are they continue with hand mowers on their greens because of promoting better growing conditions. This district uses more hand mowers than power mowers on the greens because of superior work, fully realizing



H. E. STODOLA

that some much-needed money could be saved by power mowers.

The sprinklers displayed at the show were all looked at closely. Smaller-sized nozzles should break up the water better and give more efficiency with less pressure. They also do away with dead ends on water lines and forming loops, stabilizes the pressure throughout the line.

Many clubs in this section have cut down their electric bill. That means less pumping on the course for watering. It is a problem for thought because the more kilowatt hours used the more per kilowatt. Figure it out.

Chairman Feser made it very plain that every greenkeeper should keep maintenance figures so he has a basis for a budget. He emphasized that the greenkeeper should know where he stands all the

time. With figures to back his statements he can stand shoulder to shoulder with his Green committee chairman and discuss means of saving that are reasonable.

HITTLER DISCUSSES FAULTY CONSTRUCTION

ONE of our members came over 250 miles to this meeting. He was Jacob Hittler of Duluth. He told us of some of the troubles caused by faulty construction. On his course the top soil is not over four inches deep. The construction foreman plowed most of the fairways eight inches deep, turning under the good soil and bringing dead clay to the surface. Then the greenkeeper had to raise grass on this subsoil. It is things like this which a greenkeeper has to overcome that the player knows nothing about.

There were three hours of lively discussion which covered the Convention, gang mowers on the greens, water systems, budgets and faulty construction. The next meeting will be Monday, March 13, at 1:00 o'clock at the Minikahda club.

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