

Fairway Watering

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THE long, dry spell recently ended has emphasized the need for a fairway watering system if we are to have reasonably good lies for our second and approach shots. The Grounds committee has kept this problem in mind for the past seven years and whatever pipe has been installed during that time has been laid with a future fairway watering system in mind. The watering of greens and tees is a separate problem and will not be discussed in this article.

The earliest fairway watering system known to your committee is that which I saw at the Los Angeles Country Club in 1919. Regular lawn type sprinklers with hose were employed and were permitted to run through the day. The grass was kept in splendid condition, but there was a great deal of interference with play.

An improvement in this is the system developed at the Minikada Country Club at Minneapolis and first seen by us about 1922. This is known as the "Sea Serpent" method and our club purchased one of these Sea Serpents about 1924. This sprinkler is in reality four sprinklers on a chassis of pipe and guy rods mounted on wheels so that it can be pulled about the fairway. This unit proved of great value when No. 7 fairway was re-seeded and has been used to some extent on Nos. 1 and 7 fairways.

We soon discovered, however, that it was very difficult to move this unit from place to place, especially with our deep gulleys and steep hills. Moreover, it was frequently molested when left on No. 1 fairway. For these reasons, a second unit has never been purchased. For clubs without deep gulleys or steep hills and where club property may safely be left out at night, this method is giving satisfaction and is being employed now at Meridian Hills with reasonably good success.

Another system is reported in use at the Highland Country Club, at Jackson, Mich., and on several other courses. Its watering unit consists of a sprinkler mounted at the end of a pipe about 25 feet long. This pipe swings around in a circle with the opposite end as the center of the circle. This gives the

sprinkler a coverage of a circle 100 feet in diameter. The units are not very heavy so that they can be moved from position to position with reasonable ease, but they are rather too bulky and heavy to take inside at night.

As a rule, only the principal playing areas are watered. The first 150 yards is seldom irrigated.

WHAT IS THE COST OF INSTALLATION?

THE question naturally arises as to what is the cost of installation of a fairway watering system. Some clubs have had to spend more than \$60,000 for an 18-hole installation. The lowest cost for 18 holes with which we are familiar is that at the Highland Country Club which we have been told cost approximately \$16,000.

At Highland, they have a source of water easily available as well as a source of cheap power and it is probably that they did not have to build a special pump house. In the case of the more costly developments, a large part of the money has been spent for reservoirs, wells, pump houses, power supply, pumps, etc.

In our case, we are fortunate in having a city water supply and in having planned for the past several years for fairway watering. The mains are already laid for Nos. 1, 6, 7 and 8. The watering system for No. 1 fairway, including the sprinklers, was installed at a cost of less than \$200. Other fairways, however, will cost more due to the fact that the piping was already laid on No. 1 with the exception of the short laterals, and the area watered is rather small.

"TRAVELER" TYPE HAS MANY ADVANTAGES

IT is the present opinion of the committee which, however, expects to study the matter in greater detail before reaching a final decision, that Nos. 5, 7 and 8 fairways could best be taken care of by sprinklers of the Economy Irrigation Co. "Traveler" type. Most of the pipe for this use is already installed so that it would only require a small amount of pipe, a sufficient number of hose bibbs

and three "Travelers" together with the necessary hose. Nos. 2 and 9 fairways are so short as not to require watering.

It is now believed that the same system which was installed on No. 1 would best meet our requirements on fairways 3, 4 and 6. This system would cost slightly more than one using the "Travelers," but it has the advantage that the sprinklers can be put under lock and key when not in use and experience has shown that on the upper 6, when equipment is left outside, it is likely to be damaged. It is regrettable that this is so, but on several occasions in the past equipment left out at night was found damaged in the morning.

Another advantage of this system is that it requires no hose and there is nothing left in the rough to interfere with play. On Nos. 5, 7 and 8 it should be possible to remove the "Travelers" to spots where play will almost never occur, but on Nos. 3, 4 and 6 this would be difficult and costly. The "Traveler" on No. 5 could be placed in the tool shed when not in use.

The committee believes that where sprinklers can be allowed to run all night and then left in the rough or a nearby shed all day, the "Traveler" type of sprinkler is the cheaper but where sprinklers must be transported a considerable distance and used in early morning only, the Buckner system is the cheaper in first cost in operation.

The use of "Travelers" on Nos. 5, 7 and 8 and the Buckner Snap Valve and slow motion sprinkler system on Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 6 would give a total overall cost of less than \$3,000, a cost which is exceedingly low in comparison with that of other clubs. The installation need not be made all in one year but could be spread over two years. For instance, we could supply a "Traveler" for No. 8 and a snap valve system for Nos. 3 and 4 for a modest sum.

Trade News About Turf Culture

CHESTERTON, IND.

A public park for Porter along the banks of the Little Calumet river, west of Waverly road, is in prospect. The tract will comprise from 13 to 25 acres and is held by five property owners, all of whom have accepted tentative proposals to combine their holdings into one tract.

Alec Carlson, Chester Simmons, and Walter Sexton have been appointed as a park committee by the Porter Chamber of Commerce and are working out the details.

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SWEETWATER, TEXAS

This city has been asked for the services of 200 members of the Civilian Conservation Corps for the purpose of making a park of 500 acres on the shore of Lake Sweetwater.

Worthington Builds New Mower



EDW. H. WORTHINGTON

EDWARD H. WORTHINGTON, formerly vice-president of the Worthington Mower Company has resigned and taken up active work with a new firm to be known as the Crown Mower Co., with temporary offices at 168 East 74th Street, New York City. As its president and consulting engineer, Mr. Worthington believes that many of the difficulties which greenkeepers, superintendents, etc., of golf

fairways and lawns have encountered in the past can be largely, if not entirely eliminated. Mr. Worthington has had 17 years' experience in the gang and power mower field and says he feels justified in making the assertion that the advent of the "Crown Unit" for fairways and lawns will create a considerable sensation.

Among its features will be the non-restriction of the use of the Crown Unit to its own multiple gang frame. The units which are 30 inches in cutting swath may be used in frames of Toro, Worthington or Pennsylvania types.

A simple design for removing the fly knife reel I know will be hailed as a great convenience to the maintenance problem. (Patent pending.)

A single hand adjustment which is positive in its action causing constant parallel and rigid bed knife action is a feature well worth investigation in itself. (Patent pending.) A reversible special alloy double edge bed knife steel is used.

The large steel roller revolving on high grade bearings is regulated by hand adjustment. The adjustments are graduated positively from 1/2 inch to less than 1/16 inch and yet by shifting the roller brackets, the height of cut is gauged from 1/4 inch to 6 inches. This will enable the operator to adjust at will to any height of cut required.

It is lighter than any 30-inch unit on the market of comparable design and yet its box construction eliminates entirely weaving of the side frames, a fault quite common and detrimental in many standard units in the field.

The machine requires no oil or grease! It is packed with a Crown lubricant and guaranteed for one year.

Sturdily constructed throughout, the maker believes it is the finest product ever presented on the market.

Descriptive catalogues and prices will be available shortly.