

Editorial Note by William B. Davis, Environmental Horticulturist,
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Many times when I talk with various superintendents who are experiencing problems with their greens they give many reasons why they can not follow a long-range program to solve their golf course problems. We still feel that properly planned and carried through a topdressing frequency program is one of the best solutions for most California golf courses. You might be interested in what Charles Nolan, Superintendent at Inglewood Country Club, Kenmore, Washington had to say at the Northwest Turfgrass Conference this past September. His specific program may not be the answer for your greens, but he has developed a program that works for him and he greatly reduced his problems while giving his membership better golfing conditions.

SAND TOPDRESSING AT INGLEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB By Charles Nolan

The topdressing of turf is certainly nothing new to golf course superintendents. For my part it goes back some 30 years, only in my part of the world it was called mulching. We as superintendents are facing ever increasing play on our courses. The golfer is demanding better playing conditions, faster greens. This coupled with inflation, puts us in a position where we should be ever searching for new and better ways to give our patrons the course they are paying for, let it be public or private. As we all know, there are many ways to achieve one's goal or to cut a blade of grass.

Before I set out on a topdressing program, I met with Dr. Roy Goss of Western Washington Research Station and some fellow superintendents to hear and see what they were up to in regards to topdressing. After some research I set out on a sanding program. The goal was to restore the greens at Inglewood Country Club or be faced with starting at the hard pan and rebuild. The ongoing sanding program at Inglewood achieved that goal.

So you can better understand why we started on a sanding program, here are a few brief facts about Inglewood Country Club.

Built in 1918, the greens were constructed from existing soils. No drain tile was, or ever has been put in. Inglewood Country Club is located in Kenmore, Washington. We have a rainfall of 35 to 160 inches per year which occurs during the fall, winter and spring months. Here at Inglewood we get some 45 inches of rain. The summers are typically dry, but golf is played 12 months a year. What the original depth of soil on the putting surface was, I can only guess at 12 inches or so, but in 1970 it was 6 to 7 inches. I believe that through aerifying and cup changing, as much as 6 inches of soil has been removed from the putting surface. The soil structure was broken down so badly that the greens were closed most of the winter months. In fact, they were maintaining 36 greens