

CHAPTER IV

TEES

Tees—How to Make—Turving or Sowing—Treatment—Winter or Sand Tees—Mats

Tees

Tees are undoubtedly the most troublesome part of a Golf Course, partly because they get so little attention, but chiefly to the fact that they get considerably more hard wear to the square yard than any part of the Course. If a tee is to stand well, it is absolutely imperative that the soil shall be so porous that it cannot retain moisture in excess. If it does it cannot remain stable under foot, it is bound to move as the players take up their stance, and the turf will quickly wear out.

At short holes they get extra punishment, divot after divot goes flying into the air, until the surface is quite denuded.

How to Make

When making tees, particularly on retentive soil, the utmost care should be taken, not only to see that the subsoil drainage is good, but also the surface drainage, by breaking down the holding nature of the soil, by the addition of graded breeze or cinders. See Chapter XVIII.

One cannot definitely state the quantities required for the purpose. Try various mixtures, water them, and see if it gets away quickly, tread them to see if it puddles up, and do not be satisfied until the right mixture is found.

It is useless to put in a cinder foundation and finish off with soil that is naturally able to retain sufficient moisture to make it soft, without altering its mechanical condition.

Tees should not be raised above the surrounding ground level, unless it is done for some definite purpose such as to improve the drainage, to obtain a level surface or to enable the players to see the bottom of the flag pin.

Turfing or Sowing

Turf is best, provided that it is really old, and has a strong root mat, but, failing this, seed should be used.

Treatment

It is an obvious truth to point out that several tees should be made to each hole, the more in reason the better. The tee plates should be changed before the turf is used to destruction, and when put out of play should be repaired, with seed or turf as the case may be. There is no right season for a small job like this, take a chance, it is surprising how often they come off, but do not take it if the weather is dead against you, wait until it changes, and then carry on.

Winter or Sand Tees

Good Winter tees can be made on heavy wet soils by stripping off the turf and adding as much sand or fine ash as the soil can take.

Tees made in this way give a clean, firm stance, and offer no resistance to the club, which cuts through it like cheese, and they are very easily repaired by raking, top-dressing and rolling.

Another way is to make them of sand mixed with clay in such proportion that it will bind and yet remain firm and porous. I believe that this class of tee will become more popular every year in cases where the soil is difficult and there is much play.

They need not measure more than 9 feet square, and are as easy and cheap to make as they are to keep in order.

Mats

The success of mats depends on how they are used, and to get the best results they should be placed on a well-drained foundation, flush with the ground, and simply saturated with sand until they are almost lost.

In this way, clean, firm, unresisting tees can be made out of very harsh material, in fact, the players will hardly notice that they are playing on mats.

At least one well-known firm of Golf Architects prefer this kind of tee to any other for winter use, as in their

opinion it affords the exact amount of "give to the feet" that is desirable, and no more.

For particulars of mats see Supplement.

