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If possible one machine should be on hand all winter for topping any growth which occurs in mild spells. Last winter considerable growth took place and some greens particularly in the south of the country were very woolly indeed at times.

#### REPLENISHMENT OF COMPOST SUPPLIES

It is necessary to maintain continuity of supply year after year and compost production must be thought of as routine work on good courses. Those who do not already make their own compost should try to launch a system this winter by building up heaps of layered top soil and leaf mould or other organic matter. Certainly the work is arduous and it is worth inquiring whether finances would permit acquisition of helpful equipment such as a tractor fore-end loader.

#### BUDGETING

Whilst the staff are busy with manual tasks (probably one or other of those already discussed) the head greenkeeper will require to devote a good deal of attention to budgeting for the coming year. Costs continue to rise steadily and estimates should therefore be slightly generous and there is of course always a risk that the committee will prune one's estimate in any case.

#### TREES

A great deal of money is spent each

year planting trees on golf courses and it is pleasing to see how in a very few seasons these young plantations enhance the scene. Young trees planted during the autumn or very early spring usually establish most readily provided the weather is reasonably open when the operation is carried out.

In some cases trees are a hindrance to turf maintenance and occasionally it is necessary to lop offending branches where these shade or overhang greens and tees. When planting saplings in the past insufficient thought was given to the mature size of the trees and one is sometimes forced to fell half-grown timber because of its proximity to fine turf areas.

If not kept in check self-sown trees can imperceptibly crowd around important turf areas and drastic thinning must be carried out in these instances.

It is often not appreciated how far tree roots ramify in search of nutrients and moisture or how much they can leech turf. Poplars are notorious in this respect and should not be planted within a day's march of fine turf. Where root invasion of, for example, a green occurs, it is necessary to trench deeply between the tree and affected turf so that offending roots can be severed. The risk of suckers developing on the detached roots can be minimised by

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