

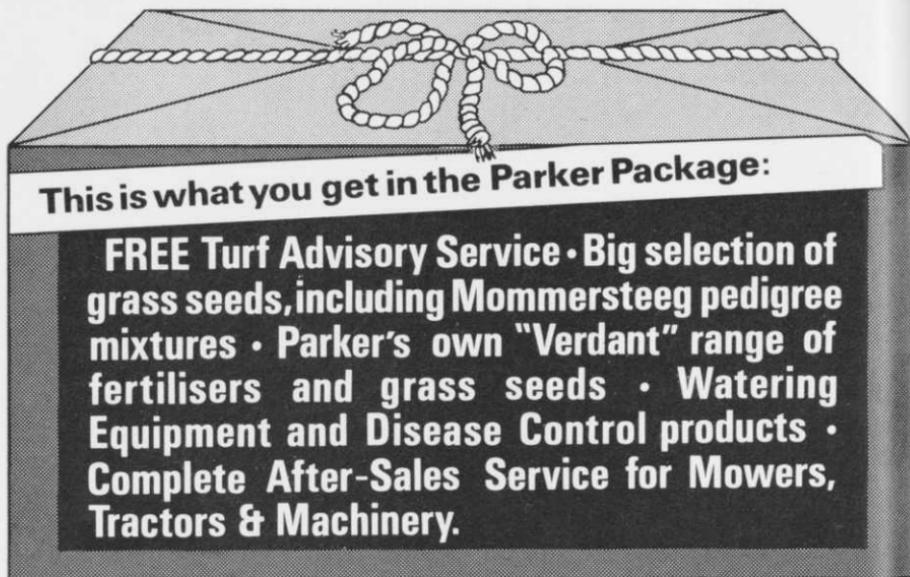


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THE BRITISH GOLF

GREENKEEPER

HON. EDITOR: F. W. HAWTREE

FOUNDED 1912

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF GREENKEEPERS, GREENKEEPING AND THE GAME OF GOLF BY MEDIA PROMOTION LTD ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

No. 336 New Series

MAY 1973

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Front Cover Picture:

Putting on the 12th green at Hoylake.

EDITORIAL AND SUBSCRIPTION OFFICES: Addington Court Golf Club, Featherbed Lane, Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Telephone: 01-657 0281. SUBSCRIPTION RATE: £1.25 for 12 issues post paid. Published during the first week of each month. All rights reserved. Reproduction of original articles and photographs in whole or in part is prohibited. This Magazine shall not, without the written consent of the publishers first given, be re-sold, lent, hired out, or otherwise disposed of.

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Every week, groundsmen and greenkeepers write to me from all over the country, worried about the state of their turf; and the effect it's having on their players.

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Meanwhile, may I suggest a stout padlock?

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The British Golf Greenkeeper

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The 28" and 34" Groundsman are now available in both electric and kick-starter versions.

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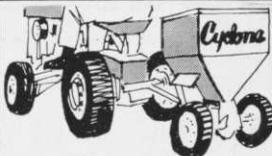
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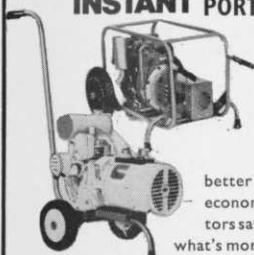
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Tee Shots

A LOT OF OLD FRIENDS met again at the 42nd Annual Fine Turf Conference organised by the University of Massachusetts in Springfield, Mass. during the first week in March. Professor Joseph Troll was the organising genius with the active co-operation of his staff and the New England chapter of the G.C.S.A.A.

We met Leon St. Pierre, editor of the Chapter's Newsletter, who showed us round his course at the Longmeadow Country Club. The signs of spring were already beginning to make members hope that golf would not be too far away.

Dr. Dick Skogley was also at the conference. He was in England some years back with Fisons on a sabbatical and hopes to come again soon if he can fit into a useful programme of research.

We also met Eb Steiniger who has been at Pine Valley for the last 30 years or so and still likes it as much as the first day he went there.

About 700 attended the conference and it was also a useful meeting point for superintendents and would-be recruits to maintenance teams who had just completed one of the courses arranged by the University.

* * *

I.C.I. have brought out a new slow release nitrogen fertilizer the Gold-N. It assists growth and colour by releasing nitrogen slowly and continuously over a period of between 3 and 6 months. It thus has special importance on difficult sites prone to leaching. It comes in 56lb bags and the nitrogen is essentially present as urea – an organic amide. The Chipman Chemical Company of Dorking has already started contract spreading.

* * *

Work will start shortly on the new Hilltop and Manwoods Scheme planned by the City of Birmingham in a big sporting complex. Golfers will have both an 18 and a 9 hole course.

* * *

The City of Leicester is also adding a further 18 hole Municipal Course to its present facilities. This one will probably be done by the Parks Department itself with the assistance of consultants.

* * *

Note for the Diary

Park Administration Conference and Exhibition, Victoria Park, Hackney, 24–25 May 1973.



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Heat - A Solution to Soil Compaction

Dr. B. P. Warkentin is professor of soil science at Mac Donald College of McGill University, Montreal, Canada. His research interests are in water in clay soils. He received his Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. G. P. Laflamme teaches soils at the Institute of Technology, La Pocatiere, Que., Canada. He received his M.S. degree from McGill University in 1971. As part of his thesis work, he carried out the studies described in this article on stabilizing soils against compaction. This article is adapted from 'Heat to Stabilize Fairway Soils Against Compaction,' published in the February 1972 issue of The Greenmaster, whose permission was given for this adaptation.

by **B. F. Warkentin, PH.D.**, and **G. P. LaFlamme**

IN THE COURSE of managing turfgrass, the golf course superintendent must contend with both man and nature. The former plays a major role in creating the problem of soil compaction, for it is traffic that compacts the soil on the fairway.

Compaction is much greater on wet soil than on dry soil because the soil aggregates are weaker when they are wet. Therefore, adequate drainage is the key to keeping fairway soils from becoming heavily compacted.

Inadequate drainage is the cause of most fairway compaction problems. But even with good drainage, some clay soils with weak aggregates will become compacted. With the increasing traffic on most golf courses and the increasing demands of players to play under wet conditions, we have to think very seriously about stabilising fairways against compaction.

The worst damage from compaction of wet soils occurs in the top inch or two inches of the soil. The soil aggregates are squeezed together, eliminating the large pores through which water and air move into the soil. This decreases the infiltration rate, leaving the surface wet and leading to even more compaction. When compacted soil dries, it becomes very hard. Bare spots or weeds tolerant of these poor growing conditions appear.

It is prohibitively expensive to replace soils on the fairway with soil mixtures that resist compaction. This practice is reserved for greens, tees and other special areas. We then must look for ways of increasing the stability of the soil in place on fairways.

Since compaction occurs primarily at the soil surface, we need to think of stabilising only the uppermost layer. Materials such as lime, flyash, water repellent coatings and organic soil conditioners have been used for stabilising soils. Each of these amendments works under certain conditions; an amendment should be used only on the basis of soil tests or on the basis of experience with similar soils. Clay soil aggregates can also be stabilised by heat.

Heat Stabilisation

Heating has been used occasionally in the last 40 years to stabilise soils for road bases. The method has been used successfully in Australia and in other countries. Special equipment is required to move a flame over the soil, or to lift a layer of soil, thoroughly heat it, and redeposit it as the machine moves along. The temperature required for stabilisation depends upon the kind of soil and is usually above 500 degrees F.

Since heat stabilisation has been shown to be successful in changing certain properties of soils, it could also be useful for stabilising fairway soils against compaction. We tried soil heating on an experimental basis, both in the laboratory and in the field near Montreal