

ARTICLE FROM "THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER" BY FRED BYROD, SPORTS ED.

Submitted by C.O. Borgmier

Having troubles with your lawn these days?

If you are, you have plenty of company—professional as well as amateur.

Most harassed are superintendents of golf clubs throughout the Philadelphia district, for most of whom the weather in recent months has been a king-sized headache — and, for that matter, still is.

Long, super hot, humid stretches rotted out expensive grasses and then crabgrass took over in what Joe Valentine, superintendent of Merion's famed East course since it was opened in 1912, calls the "worst summer for us I've ever known."

One of those hardest hit was Manufacturers Golf and Country Club, which Thursday took the virtually unprecedented step of completely closing its course for reseeding.

"This was a difficult and costly move, but we decided it was the only thing to do," Bob Everitt, club manager, said. The entire course — fairways, greens and tees — will be aerated and reseeded. The course will remain closed until there is good turf again, which will knock out all play there at least through October.

William F. (Bill) Gordon, Doylestown golf architect, agrees with Valentine as to the turf problems posed by the weather. "I don't recall any summer like it since the late 20's," he said.

While no other club has taken as drastic a step as Manufacturers, dozens of other courses are in deplorable, burned out condition. Many clubs are faced by heavy costs to restore them, and almost all will have to exceed normal maintenance budgets.

The bent grasses of fairways have been the most affected. On the other hand, fairways and tees of U-3 Bermuda have resisted damage.

Merion, which has started an extensive program of reseeding, as a result declined a request to make its course available for a series of matches in a new television "world championship" tournament now being filmed at outstanding courses throughout the country.

If the dates are suitable, other matches in the TV tournament — possibly the final, which carries a \$60,000 melon for the winner and runner-up — will be played at Merion in the spring.

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