

RUB 'O THE GREEN

by Tim Miles

Golf Course Superintendent

This has truly been an unusual year for golf activity. Today we plowed four inches of snow off the parking lots and upon checking my records, I discovered that the first week of December in 1970 we mowed the greens and tees. As you know, this has been an unbelievably wet year. This year, for example, we pumped about 10 million gallons of water through the irrigation system. In 1970 and 1971, we pumped nearly 30 million gallons of water each season. In this issue I would like to present some statistics relating to the golf course.

1. The irrigation system can, at maximum, pump 36,000 gallons of water per hour or 864,000 gallons per day.
2. To supply one inch of water to the fairways, greens and tees, we have to water for nearly 23 straight hours.
3. One inch of rain from Mother Nature on all of our property is equivalent to over 3½ million gallons of water.
4. Our two lakes will retain approximately 3½ million gallons of water.
5. It takes nearly 20 tons of high quality fertilizer to keep the greens, tees and fairways in good health.
6. It takes an expenditure of nearly \$4,500 to overcome the ravages of insects, weeds and diseases.
7. Approximately 17,000 man hours are required to maintain the grounds of the Joliet Country Club.
8. The grass on the golf course supplies enough oxygen to sustain approximately 8,500 people and it also serves as a unique air cleaner.

There are many more statistics which might interest you. There is one, however, which psychologically might help your game next season. If you are a golfer who doesn't like the rough, lakes or sandtraps, keep the following in mind. Of the 132 acres on the property, over 44 acres are contained in the greens, tees and fairways. Therefore, before you even swing the club, you can rest assured that you have a better than one in three chance of staying in the fairway!

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Dear Ray,

Each month I write an article for Klub Klips, our club newspaper. I use the column, Rub' o The Green, as a communications tool and for educating the general membership about some of the problems faced by the grounds department. This particular article was written not to educate any member but to enlighten some of them. I feel members and board directors sometimes tire of listening to our problems/headaches and this article attempts to promote a positive note or tone rather than a tone of negativism.

Sincerely,
Tim J. Miles

EDITOR'S NOTE

Your article under the title "Rub 'O The Green" is an excellent one. This brings the kind of information to members that I am sure they appreciate and you did it in a few words. How nice it would be if all Superintendents would make reports such as yours and send me a copy for the Bull Sheet. It would be very educational and interesting.

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