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REPLACE YOUR DIVOTS

The May 1975 issue of *Golfdom* carried an article, "no need to replace divots on the golf course." A similar statement of this kind appeared in one of our Chicago daily papers several years ago. The man that was responsible at that time for those remarks is no longer in the Chicago area.

The Bull Sheet editor, having had sixty years experience on a golf course, takes exceptions to statements of this kind. Before making an attempt to write a reply I decided to get some information from other Superintendents and also from the people who play the game for the sport, exercise and other reasons. They all agree divots should be replaced and they gave many good reasons.

I am sure that divots that are replaced on watered fairways and tees in the Northern states one will find that the largest percentage will grow. Chances are this would not hold true on unwatered fairways during July and August. Usually the soil is so hard a divot worth replacing seldom occurs. The article states that the Walsh Brothers never were able to get divots to grow satisfactorily. If my memory serves me correctly, these were unwatered fairways. So we are talking about two different circumstances.

A divot taken on a watered fairway would leave a greater impression than one on a unwatered fairway. Therefore it appears to many that the proper thing to do is replace the divot. Let the ball roll over the divot and come to rest on a clean cut area rather than a divot hole that requires an iron to dig out the ball. Also, a fairway looks so much neater when divots are replaced compared to a landing area and approach covered with hundreds of unreplaced divots. Then the fairway mowers come along and increase, the number ten fold.

One of the ethics required of the golfer has always been, and I am sure still is, replace your divots. Part of a good caddy program and training is how to properly replace a divot.

If it is useless to replace the divot why did it take three fourths of a century to find out that it is useless?

I hope all the divots on your golf course are properly replaced. This will make the golfer following you happy.

—Look afar and see the end from the beginning.—

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COMING EVENTS

August 6, 1975—ILCA Field Day, Burr Oak Nursery, Grays lake

September 16, 1975—University of Illinois Turfgrass Field Day, Urbana

September 23, 1975—University of Illinois-ISFA Pot Plant School

December 10, 1975—Illinois Turfgrass Conference, Ramada Inn, Champaign

January 12-14, 1976—Mid-Am, Arlington Park Towers, Arlington Heights

January 15, 1976—Pesticide Clinic, Holiday Inn, Rosemont

February 9, 1976—Illinois Seminar For Commercial Arborists, Sheraton O'Hare, Rosemont