

**BROOKSIDE SOIL TESTING  
and  
IRRIGATION WATER ANALYSIS**

includes complete report, and recommendations for producing quality turf on golf courses.

**ADVANTAGES:**

- Improve the environment of the grasses and eliminate turf diseases
- Decrease the money spent on pesticides
- Reduce thatch and eliminate fairway renovation
- Less money needed for high cost fertilizer
- Healthy turf attracts more golfers and increases income

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**THE WAY IT WAS**

A good many years ago, I don't exactly remember how many, but it must have been about thirty, I was inspecting the course on the first of July and noticed that areas of bent on the fairways were wilting, in fact, dying although the course had been watered. I thought a thorough job had been done, but upon examination, I found that water had barely penetrated into the tremendous thatch and mat in the bent. Actual measurement showed that it was all the way from an inch to over an inch and a half. As far as I could see, there was nothing else to do but open up the turf to let water in. We had on hand at Exmoor a Kentucky drill seeder which to me seemed to be the ideal tool to do the job. The drill has disks set three inches apart and slightly dished to turn the soil slightly to allow seed to get into the ground. We filed these disks to a sharp edge, but without any weight they would not penetrate through the mat into the soil below. Finally, after adding 700 pounds of sand and a man's weight, we were ready to go. The machine did a fine job with the disks penetrating two to two and a half inches. Of course this tore up the fairways to a more or less degree. Some of the players that day were horrified at what I was doing to the fairways just before the Fourth. However, a heavy roller followed the disk and laid the turf back down again. I don't believe it was necessary to play winter rules. The cuts healed nicely and before long all evidence of the operation disappeared except that water now penetrated and the bent came back in fine shape.

This discing has become a routine fall job and I can say that every year less and less weight was needed until today, no weight whatsoever is used. Over the years the mat has disappeared until today there is practically none in fairway bent.

I remember reading some years ago about a course in the east where a number of fairways had to be torn out because of the same condition described here. It is possible that these fairways could have been saved if treated in time. Of course, this is just conjecture, but that's the way it was.

**Bill Stuppel, Retired Supt.**

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