

Question: What is the maximum recommended slope or pitch that can be designed into a putting green for good surface drainage and for fairness in putting?

Answer: Generally, the maximum recommended slope is 3 percent. This is not to say, however, that some fine and challenging greens do not have slopes that exceed 3 percent. There are always exceptions to every rule, and there are those who will defend greens exceeding 3 percent to the very end ... that's what makes the 19th hole so interesting!

Question: How much harm can we do by playing the regular greens this winter?

Answer: Weather conditions change so rapidly that it is difficult to give an unqualified answer. If the ground is frozen solidly or thawed beyond the depth of one inch, there is no cause for alarm as far as soil compaction is concerned. However, some grass blade damage may occur as foot traffic crushes the frozen blades. Real injury occurs when the ground thaws at the surface but not below one inch. Traffic then causes severe soil compaction, a tearing of roots from the plant and a squeezing and displacement of the soil, causing very uneven putting surfaces. The decision to play or not to play regular greens must be flexible and must rest with the superintendent, the Green Chairman and his Committee. And it may have to be changed within a few hours on any given winter day.

Dear Ray,

Time has a way of melting away, before you know it, spring fever will run rampant.

"SPECULATION"

Yuletime is over, January a part of the past. February being a short month, one wonders, How long can Winter last?

The maintenance shop is busy, buzzing like a bee. Plans are formulating in the mind,

To grace the nearing season's spree. Time for speculation, to start the season right. Ready to face the starting time, With equipment shining bright.

Now is the time, lest we be late,

To assist Nature to open the season's gate, With Spring.

Superintendently, Kenneth R. Zanzig, Green Garden C.C.

The Musser Foundation directs its financial aid toward Fellowships which are committed to Basic Research. Most Fellowship Grants are applied to Doctor of Philosophy studies. In this way we train a leader, enrich the world's turfgrass literature and assure the future of Applied Research.

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