

The Case for Spikeless Heels

A letter from a man in Syracuse crossed the desk recently bringing in to focus another reason why the spike can be dangerous. Laurence Sovik was playing in the New York State Open Championship in 1926, and Walter Hagen has a locker opposite him at the Onondaga Country Club in Syracuse. As they sat before their lockers one day changing their shoes, Sovik noticed that there were no spikes in the heels of Hagen's shoes, and that the heels were made of rubber. Why? wondered Sovik, and so he put the question to Hagen. "You must have some reason," Sovik granted.

"Sonny", Hagen replied, "there is a very good reason. After playing 18 holes I always thoroughly enjoy playing the 19th. Frequently it is necessary to walk across a concrete or terrazo floor, and you only have to slip and fall once to understand why I have rubber heels on my golf shoes."

Since then Sovik, too, has worn rubber heels and no spikes on his golf shoes, and he is pleased to report that it has not affected his golf game one whit — not the first 18 or the one that follows. "It has been my observation," Sovik writes, "that real damage is done by heel spikes — particularly by those who drag their feet. There should be a rule forbidding the use of heel spikes. They are not more necessary than a second tail for a cat."

from *The Golf Journal*, May 1974
contributed by Mel Lucas, Jr.

Initial Mowing of Kentucky Bluegrass- Perennial Seedling Turf Mixtures

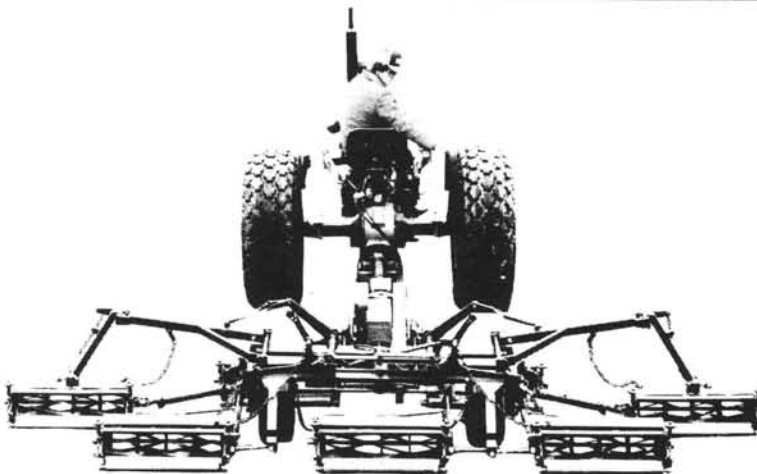
A.D. Brede and J.M. Duich

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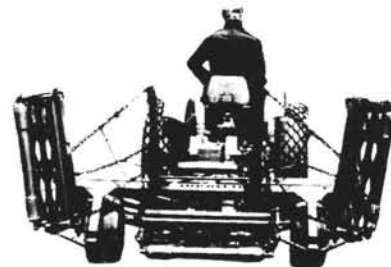
Kentucky bluegrass and turf type perennial ryegrasses combine well in the lawn to form uniform appearing turf with favorable genetic diversity. Balanced mixtures of these are difficult to obtain because of the more vigorous seedling growth of ryegrass relative to bluegrass. Clipping practices and composition of the seed mixtures have been studied at Pennsylvania State University.

Kentucky bluegrass was generally more prevalent where close mowing treatments were used shortly after emergence. Commencement of mowing two weeks after planting (nine days after emergence of the ryegrass) was favorable to the bluegrass. At this time there was a fifty percent foliar ground cover. Mowing at 3.8 cm (1.5 inches) required at least ninety five percent bluegrass in the two species at two months. Mowing at 1.3 cm (0.5 inch) two weeks after planting needed only fifty to seventy five percent bluegrass seed to achieve the same result. Shoot density, shoot size and leaf area index of Kentucky bluegrass in mixed stands tends to decrease with an increase in the initial height of cut and/or with weeks after the first mowing. Density and size of perennial ryegrass shoots tended to increase under these conditions.

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