

Director's Column



Golf Course Mounding

by Ray Schmitz, CGCS
Supt., Flossmoor Country Club

I would like to pursue the subject of mounds on the golf course and some of the problems involved in their construction. Mounds are very popular with golf course architects at this time and we as golf course superintendents must be informed as they will be included in most golf course remodeling designs.

Mounds can be described as raised areas of grassed over earth and used to define and direct the playability of the golf hole and provide safety from errant golf shots. Their size can be small to very large and the height can be low to very high. Placement can be virtually anywhere on the golf course.

To build a mound the contractor takes a dozer to the area marked off for the mound and begins to remove all the top soil that can be salvaged for the topping of the mound once the clay base is in place to the desired height. This is where the problems come in for the golf course superintendent. In the process of moving the top soil, any irrigation pipes and wires that are in the way are ripped out along with any drainage tile that you never knew was there. If the pipes and tiles are not ripped out they will probably be broken by the constant pounding of the dozer tracks and the tires of the scrapers that haul in the clay base and topsoil. Once the topsoil is pushed aside and saved for later it causes the grass underneath the pile to be destroyed. In order to calculate the costs for restoration (seeding or sodding) one should figure twice the area of the size of the mound that is to be built.

Mounds also drive up the costs of any remodeling project. At Flossmoor Country Club one new green is being built and new tees on six different holes along with two lakes. Mounds are to be put into their designated places on four different holes and placed along the sides of the practice range for definition. Cost for building the mounds is roughly 66% of the costs for the entire project. Golf course superintendents are aware that architects usually get paid on a percentage of the total construction costs.

I assume that a golf course architect when drawing up plans for a new golf course or remodeling an existing one will take into consideration some of the problems mounds can cause for the people who have to maintain them once the contractor has left and all of the final payouts have been made. Considering the large amount of money that is being spent on the mounds I hope I will begin to accept mounds and become a proponent of the concept.

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November 14, 1990

Mr. Fred D. Opperman, CGCS
Editor, The Bull Sheet
1022 Shady Lane
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Dear Mr. Opperman:

We are in receipt of your packet of 13 magazines from the files of the late Raymond Gerber. Please be advised that these are a most welcome addition to the O. J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection, based here at MSU. We are quite delighted to receive them and can assure you that they will have a good "home" as a part of the finest publicly accessible turfgrass literature collection in the world.

Two of the items, in particular, are of special significance:

- 1) The February, 1928 issue of The National Greenkeeper, and
- 2) The 1957 Conference Issue of The Golf Course Reporter

Both of these items were not held previously by the collection. One indirect implication of this is that the articles in these issues are not indexed in Dr. James Beard's Turfgrass Bibliography: From 1672 to 1972, and are thus "invisible" to anyone seeking to identify citations on any topics concerned. We will, in time, index these items in the USGA Turfgrass Information File so that they can be identified. In general, we only add older citations to USGA TGIF when they are not in the Beard bibliography, as our higher priority is to index and abstract those items published since 1972.

Enclosed please find, with our compliments, two sample reports, which may be of interest or use to you, from USGA TGIF. The first is an author index for The Bull Sheet for 1986-1987 and the second is a subject index of the same time frame. We can produce such spin-off indexes with relatively little effort, once the bibliographic records exist within USGA TGIF.

Enclosed please also find descriptive information regarding the online file (USGA TGIF), holdings (Noer Collection) and activities of the Turfgrass Information Center. Please call if you have any questions about them.

Again, thank you for your interest and follow through on that interest. It is a good contribution toward making the turf literature universally accessible and will act as a fine memorial to Mr. Gerber. We will so tag the materials.

Sincerely, For better turf,


Peter O. Cookingham
Project Manager

POC/cc

