

"Ask Me Another"

By NOAH LOTT

WHAT problems of turf development and maintenance are troubling you? Write "Noah Lott," care of GOLFDOM, about your difficulties and he will give you some expert advice through these columns. There is no charge for this service. Don't hesitate to ask, for your troubles may be the same as others are experiencing and the answer will help others as well as yourself.

Q. The plugs of grass where our greenkeeper changes the cups usually die, leaving numerous brown spots about the green. How can this be avoided?

A. Several mistakes can be made in changing the cup which might cause the turf to die. It is difficult to guess which one or ones your greenkeeper commits. It is entirely unnecessary to have the plug of grass die. There are many greenkeepers who change the cup on their greens as often as three times a week who never lose a plug and you cannot pick out the spots where the cup has been a week before.

One of the most common mistakes is caused by having the green too wet when the cup is changed. Where the cup is changed in the morning after heavy watering at night the soil is altogether too wet to be handled. Tamping the wet soil from the new hole in the old one is making a puddled soil which will not grow anything. Some greenkeepers take fresh dirt with them when they go around to perform this task and discard the dirt from the new location until it has had a chance to dry out so it will crumble. Where there is poor drainage the holes sometimes fill with water during the night and not all of it drains away before the dirt is tamped in. Such a condition is almost sure to cause trouble in a clay soil if dirt is tamped into the water.

The remedy is to have the dirt which goes into the old hole just moist enough to pack without puddling. This can be determined by squeezing a handful of it. If the

resulting ball can be rubbed into crumbles it is all right, but if it packs into a pasty mass it is not fit to use.

Q. We have some nice large oak trees on our course which appear to be dying. Several large limbs have already died and we fear they are all going bad. We do not wish to lose these trees if it can be avoided. What do you suggest?

A. You had better try the same treatment a St. Louis club used a few years ago under similar conditions. Starting back some ten or twelve feet from the trunk of the tree, dig a hole about two feet in diameter and about the same distance in depth. Dig about six or eight of these holes in a circle about the tree. Fill the holes up to about six inches from the top with fresh stable manure and cover over with a layer of soil, leaving a depression of two inches. Then have the men who do the watering make a practice of keeping these holes well watered, that is fill them with water every time they water the greens. The trees no doubt are suffering from lack of nourishment. Feed them and you will note a change for the better.



Photo Underwood & Underwood
The ingenious helmet for the mower operator saves the club damage suits and the operator headaches—or worse.