

Hot Weather Hints on Course Care

By JAMES FOULIS, JR.

Water Approach Areas

IN CUTTING fairways one must use judgment, especially in extreme hot weather. I never cut the grass shorter than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, to avoid burning, then only once a week.

I aim to keep the approaches sprinkled at least 50 feet in front of greens so that players can depend on their balls stopping on their approach shots, whereas if they are not watered and kept in the same condition as the greens one player might pitch his ball a few feet short of the green and find his ball in a bunker beyond, then again, his opponent might pitch his ball just a foot or so on to the green and stop short of the flag. The former player may have played the better approach of the two and has to pay the penalty of playing out of a bunker and probably losing the hole through no fault of his but because of the conditions of the approach.

Care for Tees

Tees should have almost as much care as putting greens in the way of top dressing, fertilizing and watering.

I give our tees a treatment of sulphate of ammonia once a month and keep them repaired at all times by having a man put plugs of sod—raised in the sod garden—in all divot cuts.

No "Lightning Greens"

In my estimation, the present-day greens are cut altogether too close, which makes them lightning fast and is quite discouraging to the players.

They should have a certain amount of nap on them so that the ball will have a chance to hold itself, especially in short putts.

Mowers should be kept sharpened at least once a week and adjusted to cut the same length, which means uniform greens. Badly set and dull mowers will do great damage to the turf, especially in hot weather, as they tear or bruise the grass instead of cutting it clean, and then the sun will burn more readily.

It is a good thing to leave the grass-catcher off the mowers in dry weather once in a while and let the cuttings fly. This will protect the roots of the grass from the hot sun. In all cases greens should be well watered every second night for at least six hours. If given only a light watering this encourages the roots of the grass to remain at the surface, which is just the reverse of what is wanted.

To produce a perfect putting surface, greens should be cut four different directions, such as north and south, east and west, and so on. This will make the grass grow straight up and be more like the nap on a carpet.

Putting greens are just like babies—you have to be continually nursing them. I give my greens a tonic at least once a month and I have been told by the guests of Edgewater members our greens are perfect—that there is no excuse for missing putts.

The biggest nuisance I have to contend with is ants. It keeps one man busy feeding them with cyanogas, which I have found to date to be the most effective "dope" to exterminate ants. It is a slow, tedious job but surely gets them. We insert a twenty-penny nail down through the middle of their nest, then drop as much cyanogas as can be put on a little fingernail in the hole. We then close it up and it's "Good-bye, ants."

If your club wants a manager, professional, or greenkeeper, advise GOLFDOM. We are in touch with competent men who are available for these positions, and will gladly serve in getting them to submit their qualifications to proper officials in clubs having vacancies.

There is no charge for this service.

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236 No. Clark St.

Chicago, Ill.