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Golf Drainage Engineer

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ASK ME ANOTHER

By NOAH LOTT

OUR greenkeeping expert answers two of the questions of general interest received during the month and confesses lack of definite information on the third. Perhaps some other greenkeeper can help him out.

Noah Lott will solve your problems, too, if you will put them up to him thru this magazine. The service is free and his answer will not only help you, but other greenkeepers faced with a similar problem. Ask Noah Lott.

Question: Will cutting the grass close on our putting greens make the roots grow deeper in the soil and thereby give them more resistance over the winter?

Answer: No. There is a balance between the green leaf and stem growth above ground and the root growth below the surface. Both the leaves and the roots of grass are constantly changing. Cutting off the top growth causes a corresponding smaller growth of roots. If you want to have the roots grow deeper, as for going into the winter, let the grass grow a little higher throughout the late fall.

Question: Our creeping bent stolon greens, and especially those which receive pitched shots, are so torn up and punctured after each week-end's heavy play that they are scarcely playable for several days. What is the trouble?

Answer: If you have a good variety of bent the trouble is probably due to a soft condition of the soil. Try top-dressing with the poorest clay you can obtain. If this clay is pasteey, mix in enough sand to overcome this fault. Clay tends to make a firmer green.

Question: We top-dressed three of our greens with compost which had rotted for over six months. In just a few days, these greens were heavily infested with small brown-patch. The other greens were not affected. The compost must have caused it—what do you think?

Answer: We have observed a similar compost on two or three courses and would welcome the opinion of greenkeepers on this subject. It seems reasonable to suppose that compost, full of germs working on the decayed organic matter it contains, might be heavily infested with brown-patch spores as well. May not the grass clippings which often go into the compost pile carry the disease? Let's have some other actual instances, if you happen to know of them, bearing on this point.

Midwest Greenkeepers Start Advisory Service

GREEN-CHAIRMEN in the territory of the Mid-West Greenkeepers association have welcomed with enthusiasm the announcement of the association's advisory service which now is available to courses having difficulties with their turf culture and maintenance.

The service is one for which no charge other than actual expenses is made to clubs whose greenkeepers are members of the Mid-West Association, and is tendered as one of the association's many and

valuable contributions to the betterment of greenkeeping.

In announcing the service the Mid-West organization states:

"For the purpose of promoting the welfare of our organization and its members, as well as of golf in general, we are now maintaining an advisory committee for the purpose of overcoming such physical difficulties as may arise on the various golf courses from time to time. Members of advisory committee of seven are chosen from the rank and file of our members, and are all greenkeepers of experience who have proved their abilities in every branch of golf activities, and are able to diagnose its ailments.

"Whenever time permits it is our purpose to visit members desiring advice, and, if possible, to correct their troubles—troubles that perhaps cannot be judged correctly unless a personal visit is made.

"In order to construct and maintain golf course and club grounds efficiently it should be realized that the elements of many trades and professions are combined in the craft of green-keeping. A modern, successful greenkeeper must be, not solely "a greenkeeper," but must be a man of broad vision and keen judgement of future problems. He must combine artistic taste with a practical temperament. He must be a gardener, a nursery man and a mechanic. He must have a practical knowledge of soils, vegetation, and their diseases and cures, as well as that of drainage. He must have the ability to handle labor, and other qualifications too numerous to mention. For this reason we have tried to appoint men on this committee possessing these qualifications."

Patented Tees Become Standard Equipment

EXPERIMENTING with enforced use of patented tees and discontinuing the supply of sand in tees has been one of the many interesting innovations in maintenance methods that has attained fairly wide vogue during the past season in the north. A number of the leading metropolitan district clubs established the policy and even some of the fee courses in big-city territory did away with sand without having any marked complaint from the players.

On a cost basis it is difficult accurately to determine the saving, if any, effected by the general use of patented tees. There are a number who maintain that the club can give away patented tees and still be ahead money as compared with the cost of keeping sand supplied at the tees. Estimates of the cost of maintaining a sand supply at 18 tees during a season vary from \$250 to \$530 a season, the estimates including labor, cost of sand, time of sand and water supply trucks.

With ball washers at the tees and patented tees supplied to the players, estimating the cost of the patented tees supplied at around \$3.50 a thousand in large quantities, some of the figures supplied GOLF-DOM indicate a saving of approximately \$250 a year is effected.

There have been many methods of distribution of the tees tried, and the results indicate that it is not the best plan to give patented tees away freely to the players. The hoarding instinct, and sometimes, downright hoggishness, are overdone when the patented tees are made available without any cost to the players. One club in the Chicago District does up 100 in paper sacks that are sealed with patented clasps, and sells them to the members for 25

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