

Weeding and Watering Open Spring Session in South

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NOW that another spring has rolled around and the dormant Bermuda grass has again taken life, we are just as busy as bees whipping the course into its usual fine condition. Although we play golf the year around in Dallas we usually divide the year into two seasons—the living and the dormant. Just as soon as the first killing frost strikes the Bermuda it turns overnight from a verdant green to gray. It remains dormant until about the first of March when its tender shoots start to come to life again. During the dormant season our greens are top-dressed with a sharp contractor's sand screened through a one-eighth inch mesh screen. We apply about one and a half yards to the green or just enough so we are not putting on sand but rather on the gray Bermuda grass itself.

During the winter all greens are matted every day and I might add they sure make a fine surface to putt over until that perky weed—winter grass—puts in its appearance around the middle of January. Where it comes from we have as yet to determine but it is prevalent in Southern Bermuda greens.

Its very fine sprigs appear first but it soon develops into a full sized plant large enough to see and eradicate. It is now time to battle this parasite, so we employ about twenty-five men and boys and make war on it. In about ten days the battle is won and the Bermuda is well on its way. Winter grass cannot stand the heat and if left in the greens will die out in May without any harm to the green except for the fact it tends to make a bumpy putting surface.

Trying to Burn It Off

At present we are experimenting with burning it off with a pear burner—a large form of blow torch operating on a mixture of gasoline and kerosene. We are confident this will prove a very satisfactory and economical method.

At the present time we are watering our greens lightly twice a week but as the season grows on we increase until in

June we are watering every other night from eight o'clock at night till five o'clock in the morning.

Our soil here at the Brook Hollow Golf club is of a sandy nature. For the past three years we have been applying sulphate of ammonia at the rate of fifteen tons a year on our fairways and tees. This year we decided to vary a little and feed the grass otherwise.

We had sent over from the Fort Worth stockyards 650 tons of well rotted manure. This we spread over all our fairways and tees and left to wear into the soil.

We assisted nature by pulverizing with our fairway mowers and also helped to water it in with our fairway sprinklers. After each cutting and watering we rolled with a two ton roller. We left this application on all winter and right now conditions are just about perfect for playing. We operated on one fairway at a time and completed it so as not to make it too unbearable for playing. Our wonderful membership bore with us almost to a man and now we are reaping a reward with verdant green fairways and tees.

This method will have to be repeated about every four years at Brook Hollow.

We start watering our fairways in earnest about the first of May and water continually day and night—except of course during a rainy spell—until about October 15. We have fifty-five sprinklers in use on our greens, tees and fairways. Our daily water consumption during the hot summer weather is about 700,000 gallons. Luckily our only cost is for the electricity to pump it, for the Trinity river runs directly through our property. These figures sound enormous to the multitude living north of the Mason-Dixon line, but it has to be done here in Texas if one wants green fairways, greens and tees.

IN making new year's resolutions, don't forget the one about keeping your greens free from weeds. A week or so delay in spring action on weeds means misery later.