

Watch Weather-Man in Spring Work

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I REALLY believe that the normal greenkeeper views the prospect of spring with a certain amount of fear, and I have to confess to being in this class. It is not the great volume of spring work that is alarming, but it is the thought that the weather man and that will o' the wisp, the Ideal, play such important parts.

Each spring, with hope renewed, we prepare to attain our ideal before the season has ended, and the further we progress the higher our standards get, so our ideal, labor and plan as we may, always keeps ahead of us.

In planning this spring campaign for the attainment of the ideal I would place rolling the greens and fairways first on the list. Right away we are confronted with the weather. It must be right before we can roll. The way I determine the fitness of the ground for rolling is to see if any water seeps up in my footprints as I raise my heel. If it does, the ground is too wet. You can get decided help by watching the weather reports. Did you ever know that if the weather man doesn't forecast accurately from the wealth of data at his command, at least 80 per cent of the time, soon he is out of a job?

Next to the rolling I put the first composting. This is the most important composting of the year as it must shape up the greens after the battering of the late fall

and winter. Once again weather conditions govern, for the ground must be in proper condition.

Then comes the repairing of damage done by storms and such work as the general cleaning up of benches, etc., the repair of washes in the traps and placing of sand in the traps to replace that which has either washed away or blown away during the winter months. It is true that this cleaning may be done under conditions that are far from ideal, but the hauling away of trash, the hauling of sand, etc., still are dependent a great deal on weather conditions.

It is my opinion that the courses in the Philadelphia district last year were in better condition than ever before because the spring was a most unusual one and work along the above lines was started and finished much earlier than during previous springs.

I have not mentioned the mowing of greens and fairways which, of course, is a vital detail and is utterly dependent on the ideal weather condition.

The more thought you give to your spring work, the more you realize how completely you are at the mercy of the weather man. Pray that he treats you kindly, and be ready to take complete and prompt advantage of whatever good "breaks" he gives you.

HOW many golf clubs can show a financial statement that reflects a business-like condition? The new president can apply effort to showing improvement in the statement of his year as compared with that of his predecessor and he won't go far wrong in his service to his club.

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