

mulch of compost keeps this upper layer moist and adds to the feeding ground of grass plants.

It can, therefore, be seen that there is a multiple effect from the use of compost, and that the compost pile plays a very important part in the life of a golf course, and rather than give up the practice as many have done, it must be encouraged to the very limit.

Compost Extravagances

Now that we have touched on the importance of compost, what is the history of the average compost pile? Ninety-five per cent of compost piles are made in the open and, therefore, can only be worked when thoroughly dry. Which means the best days of summer, when the course is



Two years ago Riggs Miller built a compost shed 28 ft. by 75 ft. that paid for itself in a year

calling out for a dozen and one other things to be done. The result is, more men are hired in order to catch up. Whereas, if there is a compost shed large enough to carry out all the operations necessary, the compost pile can be made inside in the fall, and be ready to work in the spring, irrespective of weather conditions. You are then in a position to top-dress as soon as the weather opens up, something obviously impossible to do if your compost pile is not sheltered.

Speaking from experience, the amount of money actually saved by having a compost shed (to say nothing of the satisfaction of being able to top-dress when you feel like it) is hard to believe.

I built a compost shed in the fall, two years ago. The size is 28 feet by 75 feet (four feet wider, i. e., 32 feet by 75 feet, would be ideal). The first year I stored about 450 cubic yards of compost, sufficient for two seasons. The following spring we screened and prepared sufficient

compost to top-dress a month earlier than usual. Since this time we have always had at least 100 cubic yards of compost in readiness; all of which has composted a year at least, and this without cost, because we do this on rainy days, so that the labor employed would otherwise have to be charged to lost time. Not only this, but we have been able to dispense with three men without feeling their loss, thus saving \$3,500 a year in wages for the club.

Saving Costs

On most courses men are paid by the week. On rainy days they either go home or sit around the barn. Mr. Chas. H. Hart, C. E., green-chairman of the Siwanoy Country club, who is a keen student of costs, tells me the item of waste time amounted to \$2,317.32 over a 3½-year period. This sum would build, or at least go a long way towards building, a compost shed. It would certainly pay the interest on a very handsome service building, paying, as a dividend, the actual cost of making compost. Which, as in my own case, amounted to \$3,500.

New York district never has had such a phenomenally wet season as this year. We have had the normal year's precipitation in three months. Nevertheless our top-dressing program has not been interfered with, on account of having, at all times, a good supply of prepared compost.

The fall is the ideal time to take care of these problems, as maintenance work is at a minimum. A fall program can include, besides architectural changes and compost, the sodding of tees, sanding of bunkers, the levelling out of odd corners, and the drawing out of mounds, etc., so that the tractor will be able to cut places now mown by hand, or anything that will increase the efficiency of the men and add to the pleasure of playing.

I do not mean to assume for a moment that upkeep costs will decrease, but I do insist that very much more can be gotten for the sum expended, if the clubs will modernize their facilities.

IF your club plans to add more bird-houses around the grounds before next summer, buy them now and get them up. Birds object to newly-painted domiciles and will rarely use them until they have weathered for several months. It is a mistake to wait until spring to erect bird-houses.