

It would seem, therefore, that in the Chicago district at least with a course built on poor soil that the average yearly operating cost should not exceed \$2000.00, and that with better soil with less area in fairways than Evanston has this amount could be considerably reduced.

## Audubon Tells Details of Fairway Conditioning

INTERESTING details of fairway conditioning practice followed at the Audubon Country club, Louisville, Ky., are revealed in a letter written by A. G. Chapman, Audubon's green-chairman, to M. H. Godby of Christchurch, N. Z., who wrote Mr. Chapman as a follow-up on a green Section Bulletin's story on the Louisville experiment.

Mr. Chapman tells of the method and results:

"For what it is worth to you, I am glad to advise that we have been using the spiked roller on all of our fairways for two seasons with satisfactory results. However, our number four and number fourteen fairways were so heavy with clay that the ordinary fertilizer treatment (consisting of nitrogen which we put on in the form of sulphate of ammonia; phosphoric acid (we used acid phosphate) and potash that we got from tobacco dust) did them very little good. The other and better fairways responded to the spiked roller and fertilizer treatment fine. We now have much more of the better grass (principally Blue grass) and less of the weeds and undesirable grass.

"On numbers four and fourteen, which baked into the concrete condition every summer, the spiked roller has helped them but we are now going to put on some old stable manure that has been screened. The process will be to roll the surface twice with the spiked roller and then put on about six tons of screened manure per acre and then run the spiked roller over them twice more. With this treatment and light seeding in the spring of the year we believe we are going to change these two fairways into first class sod.

"I have had a number of experts look at these two fairways and the information that appealed to me most was the conclusion by several that the trouble was lack of humus in the soil. The spiked roller going over them every fall will cause the dead grass on the surface to run

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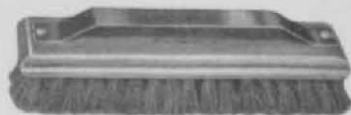
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into these holes and when it finally decays will place the humus two or three inches below the surface. This is a rather slow process and we are aiming to hurry it up by using stable manure in addition to the grass cuttings that would naturally go into the holes after rolling.

"There are people in this country that perhaps have forgotten more than I know about a golf course, but the spiked roller which costs about \$100 and takes a man with a tractor about two and a half days to go over all of the fairways, and considering the cost, speaking frankly, I cannot understand why it is not done by every good golf course in the country. It certainly puts the humus below the surface of the ground (that is most desirable) and it has a tendency to take out divot holes and rough spots in the fairway, materially improving the sod.

"We have read very little, if anything, about the use of acid phosphate but this fertilizer, it seems to us, has increased the root growth and makes the grass stand up under a drought much better. It is available and inexpensive up here and we would certainly recommend the use of the spiked roller and phosphoric acid in some form in the fall and spiked rolling and nitrogen in some form in the spring. As stated before if you will add to this a little stable manure on poorer spots and perhaps get some kind of a fertilizer with a little potash in it, we are quite sure that you will see a decided improvement in your fairways.

"If the chemicals referred to are not available we believe a liberal use of manure with the spiked roller will cure the concrete condition, keeping in mind the grub prevention, if you are troubled with such things down there, and some check on the weed growth.



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