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Ypsilanti, Michigan

Dame Nature As a Greenkeeper

By FRANK W. CURRIER
Greenkeeper, St. Thomas Golf and Country Club

TO THE article of D. Fountaine in March GOLFDOM I would like to add a few remarks, but not to criticize, as his article is quite sensible. I don't believe in the curing method, but I believe in the preventive method, as there is a cause for all these grass complaints.

I will consider winter-kill first. You will always find the conditions he mentions on heavy clay or loam courses simply because the water does not get away, and total draining would be an expensive and almost impossible method on some rolling courses with limited funds. The practical prevention, I believe, is to keep rollers off altogether after rolling in the spring. Then, again, light tractors should be used only on heavy courses. It almost seems to be forgotten that when these heavy tractors roll these courses twice a week the soil is simply packed down to

such an extent that water cannot get through it and there is no air in the ground. There is only one remedy; if you must use heavy tractors see that you use the longest studs in the wheels that you can get. They will perforate the ground, let air in and keep loosening the ground, which will help quite a lot. With a light tractor and long studs ice will never bother.

The next subject is brown-patch. Mr. Fountaine asks about trying "Dame Nature." I might say I have been advising this for 2 years now. I don't think there is need for such things as winter kill or brown-patch. They are, I believe, mainly improper soil conditions promoted by the misuse of different chemicals used today in greenkeeping.

It is no use trying "Dame Nature" with a green that is already contaminated with brown-patch or winter kill. It would not be giving "Dame Nature" a fair show. Rebuild a green and stick to "Dame Nature's" methods.

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