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Fall Construction Work Is Important

By PETER STEWART
Greenkeeper, Lake Shore C. C., Sec. Midwest
Greenkeepers' Ass'n

MY chairman and myself have gone over the golf course and we have decided to do quite a lot of changing this year. We intend to build three new greens and also re-vet quite a few traps. I took notes of all the work that is to be done and am drawing up the plans for the greens, including elevations and traps, making clay models which I will submit to my chairman for his approval.

Having so many greens to build it is necessary to get quite an early start because in building new greens it is important to get the greens shaped up with loose soil before frost comes.

I have seen quite a number of greens, tees and traps that have been built in the very late fall when the ground was frozen. Large pieces of frozen earth were put in the greens, then a few nice days come along and we have our greens practically finished, except for sodding or for seeding, whichever it may be. We then say, "Let's go and have this one sodded." We think we have a beautiful green as it looks fine, but in the spring of the year we begin to see depressions in the green. This is caused by the frozen pieces of earth settling down after the frost has come out. Then what happens? We have been very disappointed by not getting an early start or letting it go over till the following spring till the frost is thoroughly out and the ground settled.

After the green has been built to the rough grade there is the preparation for seeding and sodding. It should then be tilled and, also, it is very necessary that the green have good surface drainage. The top soil should consist of at least 6 to 8 ins. of good loam. Then add sand at the rate of 5 cubic yards per 1,000 sq. feet and 1 cubic yard of well rotted barn-yard manure per 1,000 sq. feet—all well disced together. This should be kept well disced every 3 to 4 days to keep down weeds, then immediately before seeding the green should be "hand raked." The same applies to a sodded green.

On our course we have some very beautiful traps but, from the golfers' standpoint, they do not penalize a bad shot that may happen to run through, so therefore, we have decided on re-vetting this fall.