

HERE IS MINIMUM IN greens equipment FOR NINE-HOLE COURSE WORK

Probably a thousand of the smaller golf clubs in the country are trying to get by with a hopelessly inadequate stock of maintenance equipment because they have the wrong idea that the necessary equipment for the maintenance of a nine-hole golf course costs far more than they can afford. This is the conclusion arrived at by a well-known golf course supply man who has made a study of the small town golf situation for some years.

With the constantly increasing stream of interurban travel and the persistently mounting standards of golf course maintenance in the metropolitan districts, the smaller communities have been subjected to influences that are showing in the better maintenance of their courses. Many a visitor to nine-hole courses lying somewhere "out in the sticks" is favorably impressed with the manner in which some of these courses are kept. Much is to be said for the greenkeepers at a number of these courses who manage to do creditable work with a sadly deficient amount and character of equipment, but they are fighting losing battles until their clubs realize that skill and diligence are more than offset by lack of working tools.

Essential Equipment

New clubs in the smaller towns always are confronted with a financial problem. The one solution is enough interested and enthusiastic players to support the infant enterprise. If the course is reasonably well maintained, travel over the early rough going is made speedy. As the most rigidly restricted list of equipment necessary to operate the maintenance department of a nine-hole course, the supply man suggests the following:

- 1 agricultural harrow
- 1 agricultural mowing machine
- 1 three gang mower with tractor hitch
- 1 tractor
- 2 greens mowers
- 1 tee mower
- 1 ordinary lawn mower
- 2 wheelbarrows
- 1 sod cutter
- 1 hole cutter
- 9 hole rims

- 9 tee markers
- 9 flag-poles
- 9 flags
- 1 steel mat
- 2 ball washers
- 9 settees
- 9 sprinklers
- 1 dump cart
- 1,000 feet hose
- Necessary rakes and shovels

This list is cutting the corners close but it means the difference between a cow pasture and a golf course in many cases. Counting the tractor in for around \$700, the total cost of the above equipment would be in the neighborhood of \$2,000.

A vital detail of the picture that is not shown in the above list is an equipment barn. If the above equipment is treated with ordinary care, its cost per year is well within the buying power of the most modest of the courses in the hinterland, and it will pay magnificent returns in increased enjoyment of the course. But, if this equipment is left scattered around and exposed to the elements as is much farm equipment, then the buyers are throwing away a good part of their money, represented in bigger depreciation charges. In the smaller towns an equipment barn can be built new for \$300 to \$400, but usually there is a building on the property occupied by the golf course that can be turned into a very satisfactory equipment storage place for a very small sum.

GOLFDOM suggests that officials among the smaller nine-hole clubs check their stock of equipment with the list given above, and see what they really need to be properly prepared for course maintenance. Recall that the list given here is the minimum array; it will enable the greenkeeping end of the small establishment to get by. *

STUDY of night mowing may point out the way to saving in maintenance. One expert tells us that a time study of day mowing on any course will reveal an amazing amount of time wasted by the necessity of stopping and standing by while shots are being played.