

# Woodmont Bent Raking Tool Ends Green Misery

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**N**INE new greens were planted to Washington strain bent at Woodmont in the fall of 1926. They developed satisfactorily during the 1927 season and gave us no concern until November 21 when they were attacked by small brown-patch. Seven greens were affected. They healed up quickly the following spring and were in good condition until November 18th, when the same seven greens were attacked by brown-patch, this time more severely. As it was very cold at the time and within a few days a heavy fall of snow covered them for the winter, nothing was done to control the disease.

The greens made a good recovery in the spring of 1929 and were in good condition that summer. We had some of the dry, brown areas that caused so much trouble that year, but I don't believe they have anything to do with this story.

In the fall of 1929 the greens were rather densely matted, the result of trying to keep putting conditions as near as possible like the other nine, which were of mixed grasses.

During the latter part of August we began to experiment with half of one green to determine the best way to relieve this matted condition, also to see if it had anything to do with our annual visit of November brown-patch. After experimenting with a good many different kinds of brooms and rakes, we found that raking with spring-toothed raking tools, followed by mowing with a power machine seemed to give the quickest and best results. The half green thus treated was practically taken down to the ground. It started to recover immediately and by the time cold weather arrived was nicely covered again.

After play had stopped for the year, all the greens were given the same treatment. However, we found that it was too big a job to go over the whole nine as thoroughly as we had the half green. We also found that no matter what kind of a broom or rake was used and no matter

how carefully the work was done, the result was a sort of corrugated effect, and when we had finished the greens looked very much like wash-boards. I heard a good deal about them in the spring.

In the winter of 1929 the half green was riddled by brown-patch, which came again in November. The other greens, having very little green grass on them were not affected.

## Devises Raking Tool

When we began work last spring, I suggested to Frank Froelich, who handles the workmen on our course, that he use his mechanical ingenuity to devise a raking tool. After several disappointing efforts, Frank made one that would work about as we wanted it to, and after further changes and improvements have been made, we now have a tool that saves us time and money, and saves our boys from back-aches.

The tool consists of two pieces of hard maple, bolted together. They are 3¾ inches wide and 19 inches long. In the lower piece are set, through bored holes, four rows of 20-penny spikes, sharpened and staggered so that no two will be in line. To the ends are attached hangers, which can be adjusted up and down. They hold castor wheels taken from a mower. The hangers were made for us by a blacksmith. We found that the machine would dig in if used without adjustable wheels, also the depth of cut could not be controlled.

This tool is attached to the front of a power mower in the usual way of brush attachments. It will remove 40 or 50 bushels of growth in two hours' time, tearing and cutting through the stolon growth without ridging or making corrugations in the green. We are very glad to have it and are glad to pass this information along so that everyone who needs such a machine can have it too. We consider it very highly because the brown-patch passed up the raked greens last fall.