



View of the tenth fairway at Brynwood C. C., where Bob Farmer puts into practice the policies he describes below.

Construction Finishing Touches Save at New Course

By R. E. FARMER

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LAST YEAR was a good dry year and since the turf was growing very slowly we got along without much mowing; however, with a wet year there is more demand for cutting units of all sorts and also tractor power to operate them. But whatever the weather is like, a greenkeeper must learn to take advantage of such natural forces if he expects to make a showing with the least possible expense.

It seems to me where a new course is taken over, care and study should be given to maintenance methods. There is always plenty of construction work to be done on a new course. If its condition is to be gradually improved, attention should be given to what is necessary in the way of maintenance, which depends to a large degree on what the members expect. By stressing the importance of finishing construction work in the early stages of these newly-built golf courses, much expense can be saved.

One of the most costly elements of golf course maintenance is weed control. Hard-shelled weed-seeds lie in the soil as long as 30 to 40 years and still germinate when brought to the surface where light, air and moisture promote their growth. In the fairway, fertilizers will encourage grass so that it can compete against the weeds. Continual close mowing in the rough will discourage many kinds of weeds. Frequent topdressings with black soil full of weed-seeds should be avoided. Arsenate of lead discourages many kinds of weeds as well as the worms. A good supply of sand in the traps discourages weeds. Weeds along the roads and in the out of way places should be scythed down before they go to seed. After turf becomes established the chances for weeds are greatly reduced. Fairway irrigation favors the growth of turf throughout the season which helps to reduce the quantity of weeds.

Careful supervision of course machinery, especially changes of oil and proper adjustments of the mowing equipment, saves considerably on the repair bills at the end of the year.

Success can be obtained whether you rotate your men, divide your course into sections or classify your different operations. The important thing is careful training of men in the beginning. The quality and quantity of work each man does can be judged easily in any of the above manners of working.

Careful feeding of the greens is important. Overfeeding creates the proper conditions for plant disease and causes untrue putting surfaces in vegetative bents. Methods used in fertilizing greens are quite varied and the simpler methods often prove quite satisfactory.

Cutting down on the size of greens reduces the amount of labor and materials involved in topdressing, mowing, watering and weeding. (Your members should not mind smaller putting areas, since small greens develop more accurate golfers than large greens).

Scything the bunkers of the greens and tees requires less time than using a bunker mower, especially with bluegrass. A mat can be used in the traps to smooth off the foot tracks. Two men can remove the dew from the grass blades of a green by dragging it with a 100 foot length of hose much quicker than one man can switch it with a bamboo pole.

The more one grooms a course, the more it costs; so you can see that the essentials come first.

It's Wise to Make Course a Winter Haven for Birds

By FRED W. SHERWOOD

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WITH WINTER coming along let us not forget the birds. True it is that there are abundance of berries on the hawthorns and other fruit bearing trees which will last for quite a time. But don't you think it would help greatly and give comfort two ways if we took a little piece of ground and made a bird patch. Sow millet, buckwheat, or any other quick growing grain. It will assuredly help to sustain and feed the birds when the hard frosts come and King Winter takes charge of affairs.

Did you ever think what a struggle for existence man or beast would have if insect and rodent life were permitted to mul-

tiply without check? Over twenty years ago the U. S. Bureau of Entomology said the annual loss in this country from insects came to the stupendous sum of over one billion dollars.

A large percentage of our birds are insectivorous and consume great quantities of these pests. One seventh of our native birds eat the seeds from weeds and I have yet to see the golf course that didn't grow weeds. Think of the enormous price golf clubs have to spend each year to curtail the ravages of beetles, grubs, moths, cutworms, etc.

Our friend the robin is a wonderful bird to have around our golf courses. Not only is he our friend, but the farmer and market gardener ought to welcome him. Presumably robins migrate to warmer climes in winter, or at least migrate to where the ground is free from frost. When he returns in spring it is a pleasure to see him as he settles down to real hard work until fall, just working for his grub as it were.

A learned professor once said a robin ate fourteen feet of worms per day. This was determined by actual test. When you see him on one of your greens tugging, pulling, and seldom, if ever, breaking his victim, doesn't your heart go out to him with a warm feeling that there is a real friend working for you but not on the payroll?

Consider again that figure on the robin's appetite mileage. If you have 500 robins each eating 14 feet of worms a day for 200 days, your feathered members of the course force have accounted for 265 miles of worms during their activity of 200 days in the north. This array of worms, if left alive, would account for a lot of greens injury and missed putts.

Women's Play Cuts Per Capita Cost of Golf

WONDER IF anyone has given much thought to the per capita cost of golf club membership being greatly reduced by women taking up the game? Cash payments to golf club for dues and initiation fees have not been increased during the last two years. Actually these costs per player have been reduced approximately 25 per cent in this period due to wives, whose initiations and dues are included in husbands' charges, making use of club's playing facilities.