

Greensmen Wrestle Costs to Win Decision Over Budget

Cut Grass--Not Greenkeeper Hidden Neglect Dangerous

By HUGH MOORE

THE ROUGH is the most practical part of a course for a greenkeeper to start his program of economy by allowing it to grow a little longer and not cutting it nearly so often. I find that a good many courses could lengthen out the rough from the tees, thus cutting down the expense on fairways. Any program of beautification such as: planting flowers, ornamental shrubs, trees and hedges may be entirely discontinued during depressed times. Care should be taken, however, of flowers already planted, but only to a minimum, for after all flowers or shrubbery on a course do not help to make a successful shot.

Raking of traps could be reduced to an absolute minimum; perhaps raked once a week. The grass on the mounds and backs of traps could be left a little longer.

If the fairways are in good condition, expenditure for fertilizing could be eased up but you will have to pay eventually. Expense of watering could be reduced by using good judgment, especially when you are getting a fair amount of rain. I have seen greens, tees and fairways watered right after a rain, when they absolutely didn't need it. I would suggest that a certain portion of the fairways where the second shots are played over be converted into well kept rough on a certain number of long par four and five holes. This rough could extend across the fairway and the length should be decided on by the greenkeeper. No doubt this might be a hardship to some golfers but it is one way of economizing and will not affect the better players. A second suggestion on this would be to make the fairways narrower wherever possible.

There is very little economy to be practiced
(Please turn to page 58)

By ROBT. FARMER,

Supt. Brynwood C. C., Milwaukee

THIS IS AN era of reduced budgets. Greenkeepers are forced to work on a reduced scale. Clubs know what it has cost to maintain their grounds in the past. If the department operates on less money than is represented by a lower wage rate then something will be neglected.

The general appearance of a golf course is of primary importance. When a member brings a guest out to play golf he is anxious to have things looking neat and orderly. The greens must be putting good in order to score. The fairways and rough must be freshly clipped so that there is a small percentage of lost balls. The tees must be pleasantly maintained so that the starting point of each hole inspires; and last but not least, the traps must be nicely raked, since explosion shots are a necessity only in holes or heel tracks.

The requirements of such a maintained course are the green-chairman and greenkeeper's troubles. Criticism is the meter to gauge the condition of the course. The message is usually first imparted to the chairman and then on to the greenkeeper and his men.

Many are the troubles of the chairman but if the general appearance is good, many troubles are eliminated. Little do the members, and many times the chairmen, realize the upsets the greenkeeper has in the course of his usual day's work to hinder such progress.

Work necessary to keep up the general appearance of the course may be called routine work. All courses vary as to the number of working hours necessary to keep them in good condition. One course superintendent may require 600 working hours while his neighbor superintendent can keep his course with 500 working hours. Some of the factors that enter into such a variation of the working time are wooded areas, water areas, built-up greens

and bunkers, and large trap areas, all of which require much hand work. Even what is considered routine work on one course may be handled in simpler and entirely different manner on another.

In analyzing the weekly schedule one finds about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the time spent by the men is in cutting, trimming or mowing, weeding, fertilizing and topdressing and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the time is spent in repairing and improving. It is this particular operation that will be neglected if the budget is reduced to any extent.

As I have just mentioned, the golfer wants the general appearance the same as ever; but little does he realize the time spent in keeping the irrigation system in first class working order. What about the tractors and mowers that have to be checked over and resharpened 2 or 3 times a season? There also is the course equipment that needs repairing during the season. These are some items that enter into reduced maintenance budgets which are not so visible yet if neglected, cost the club much more money when they are not taken care of promptly during the season play.

Save Clubs, Men's Jobs

By CHARLES ERICKSON
Supt., Minikahda C. C., Minneapolis

FELLOW superintendents, we are pushing into another season which has looked good to me in one way because we have been getting some good rains. However, we need more badly. Early this season it looked as though we couldn't see anything of it. It runs away and the sun comes out and dries it up. So we have started the old battle with the water hose.

I hope we won't experience the same trouble we had last year. It surely was a hard one to contend with, and it would be worse now in these hard times when we have to keep smaller crews, but we will all just have to put our shoulder to the wheel and work, and fight, and make the best of it for our good clubs.

I do not believe that our section, the Twin Cities, up at the North Pole, has suffered as much as many other clubs in the east, but I am sure we all feel it.

We have lost quite a number of mem-



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bers in the greenkeepers association who could not stand the strain, but we fellow greenkeepers have cut down wages a little and also have been working on an eight-hour basis. Some of us have smaller crews to work with but still so far we have given them a good golf course of which the members are proud, and I hope we can continue if the "pest" isn't too hard.

I know our little group in the Twin Cities is fighting for our good clubs and we figure this way; if we lose a club we lose a greenkeeper and we cannot afford that. We have to give everyone a chance to make a living, but I have found that an eight-hour basis will help considerably and there isn't much difference in the work, I still seem to find enough work to keep up with the help.

Cut Greens, Not Greenkeepers

(Continued from page 56)

ticed on the maintenance of tees, for a good tee is essential. About the only economy I know of would be the reduction of watering and fertilizing.

As for greens there is practically no economy to be practiced, as they are the most essential parts of a golf course and should be kept in the best of condition at all times. If you have good greens your players will always be happy. They will overlook the bad fairways, the rough that is high and the traps which haven't been raked in a week, for a good green stands out in making and holding the reputation of a course. Perhaps a greenkeeper could use a little discretion in watering and fertilizing, as I believe some greens are watered and fertilized too heavily,

especially in severe hot weather. A general economy can be practiced on the greens by taking each green as a separate project and treating it for its needs individually, instead of doctoring all when only one is in need of extra care. This also may apply to tees or fairways.

The best economy of equipment is good care and operation by experienced men.

A general economy may be practiced on a course in regard to purchases and labor. Such requirements as fertilizer and seed possibly may be purchased at certain times of the year at a saving. The larger clubs can save by having their own mechanic to keep the equipment in the best condition, rather than have it deteriorate beyond use. Economy may be practiced where experienced men are not needed; for instance, with a little careful instruction anyone can remove weeds from greens or rake traps.

In my opinion any further economy practiced on a course, as a whole, would be injurious.

There is one economy, which is being practiced generally throughout the country, which I do not approve of, and that is the cutting, severely, of the greenkeeper's salary. The president of each club, also the players, know that the backbone of a golf course is the greenkeeper. Show me a course without a good greenkeeper and I'll show you one that isn't fit to play on. A great extravagance is occurring on a large majority of the golf courses by members of a committee who all have different ideas as to the requirements of a course and because of this many things are purchased which are not needed, which may not be used at the time and which may never be used. For instance, I know

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of a course where there were two drinking fountains purchased, over the protest of the greenkeeper, and after they were installed the committeemen were convinced that it would require the continuous running of the motors of the pump-house, to supply pressure to make them operate! Therefore this equipment was a total loss at approximately \$300.

So I would suggest in line with economy; hire a good greenkeeper, put him in charge of the course, make him responsible for results, give him a good chairman to work with—one who is reasonable, one who is fair in his decisions, one who will take the blame for his own mistakes and not put it on the shoulders of the greenkeeper. Most of all, pay the greenkeeper for being a greenkeeper, for in this he will save you many times his salary where a cheap man usually proves very expensive.

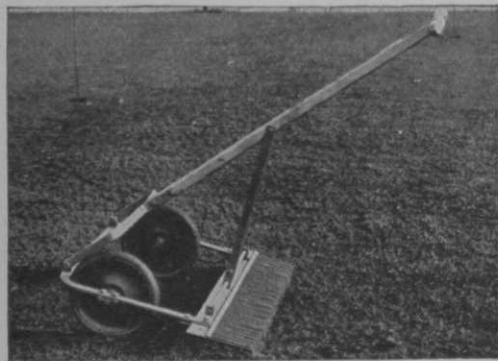
Has Hunch on Eradication of Brown-Patch

By ARTHUR BOGGS
Kirtland Country Club

For 3 years I have had the co-operation of a chemist and laboratory facilities

checking the efficiency of various chemicals in controlling and eliminating brown-patch. Turf troubles of this description are due to fungi and the problem presented is the destruction of this mold without injury to the turf. A very great deal of work has been done on this subject by other investigators and numerous chemicals have been tested and tried for checking the growth of the fungus or eliminating it altogether. It is believed that the alkalinity or acidity of the soil, the kind of fertilizer used and climatic conditions are all important factors which have to be taken into consideration when studying plant diseases of this kind. Furthermore, different types of grass vary in their resistance to the ravages of the fungus.

During the past year we have approached this question in a manner similar to that used by sanitarians for the eradication of diseases in general. We have isolated the fungus which is the principal cause of our brown-patch trouble in pure culture and have subjected it to the action of different chemicals to test its resistance. The results from this work have convinced us that the organism is sensitive to a group of chemicals which have not heretofore been used, so far as I am able to determine, for the eradication of this turf pest. One of these chemicals according to early tests is more than 600 times a destruc-



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tive to brown-patch fungi and other unicellular organisms than pure carbolic acid.

We have made practical applications of this chemical and the results have been so outstanding that I place this preliminary report into the hands of greenkeepers without delay. Briefly, our method of procedure has been as follows: Different quantities of the chemical were dissolved in 50 gallons of water and the greens treated in the customary manner. Before the spray was applied cultures were taken to determine the presence of the fungus. Three days after spraying, further cultures were taken and it was found that the addition of as little as 1 2/3 ounces of the chemical were sufficient to eradicate all traces of living brown-patch fungus from a green of 5,000 sq. ft. in size.

It should be added that this test was made under strictly controlled conditions. In our practical experiments we were careful to allow small portions of the greens to remain untreated so that the effect of changes in temperature, humidity, etc. could be observed while the treatments were made. It is yet too early to state definitely how long a single treatment will render a green sterile so far as fungi is concerned, but the outstanding results secured thus far from the use of the chemicals convince us that a continuance of this study is desirable.

Chicago, Ill.—Frederick Klapproth, pres., Chicago Lumber & Box Co., recently said: "The old proverb—'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure'—is certainly true, yet it is interesting to note how little attention golfers pay to possibility of becoming infected with athlete's foot. Week after week they walk barefooted in the locker-room and then wonder why they pick up an aggravating infection.

"When the comfort and convenience of wooden sandals is taken into account, it seems to me it would be a lot easier to buy a pair of these sandals and wear them when walking to and from the shower room, thus avoiding the possibility of picking up athlete's foot which may result in considerable expense to the individual in the way of medicines and antiseptics, and sometimes even results in large doctors' bills. Taken in this light, wooden sandals may be regarded as a form of insurance."



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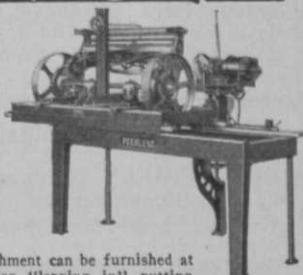


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