

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.
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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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