

Able Greensmen, Equipment and Records Boost Park Golf

By W. W. PAAPE

Maint. Engr., Pleasure Driveway and Park Distr., Peoria, Ill.

THIS DISCUSSION of municipal golf maintenance is based on the last 5 years' experience of the writer in maintaining an 18-hole course on which over 75,000 play each season and the maintenance of another 18-hole course on which over 50,000 play each season. It is readily understandable that two courses enjoying such a heavy play present many problems of upkeep and management.

Due to the success with which these courses are operated, and their excellent condition at all times, many requests have been made regarding systems and methods of maintenance employed.

Any person to be successful in maintain-

ing a golf course to that degree of perfection demanded by the ever increasing number of golfers has work clearly outlined. Efficiency and economy of operation must be strictly adhered to, a thorough understanding of the many problems arising must be obtained, and good judgment exercised in foreseeing and preparing for future requirements.

Educate the Staff

The selection of the working personnel and their fitness to the work required of them is a topic on which a great deal might be written, and one to which I give a great deal of credit for the success I have enjoyed. The more stress the greenkeeper can place on educating his workers to carry out their duties with thorough understanding of their work, the more cooperation he can expect.

At the start of each year I set a definite period of a half hour each week, for what I call a school. At these times the men are called together, and I make a special effort to explain in detail all the degrees of maintenance, from the proper adjustments of hand mowers, thru the characteristics of the many worms and bugs, why certain treatments are used, their action, recognition of brown-patch in its earliest stages, treatments required, why certain fertilizers are used and their reaction, and all problems of working conditions with which they will have some connection.

The extent to which this small amount of time spent is a success is best appreciated thru the brown-patch season, and the knowing that whatever duty a man is to perform, it will be done well, and its relationship to the whole maintenance program clearly understood.

Keep Condition Charts

In the past year when the different forms of diseases were playing havoc with many greens, and a number of widely varying opinions given as to cures, the smart greenkeeper had before him a chart show-

COURSE		GREEN NUMBER		YEAR	
SOIL ANALYSIS					
DATE	APPLICATOR	ANALYST	TEST	OTHER CHARACTERISTICS	
INSECTICIDE TREATMENTS					
DATE	KIND USED	AMOUNT USED	HOW APPLIED	RESULTS AND INFORMATION	
FUNGICIDE TREATMENTS					
DATE	KIND	AMOUNT	APPLIED	RESULTS AND INFORMATION	
FERTILIZER TREATMENTS					
DATE	KIND	AMOUNT	APPLIED	RESULTS AND INFORMATION	

One chart, similar to this, is used for each of the 36 greens under Mr. Paape's management. Soil analyses are taken three times a year—in early March, to tell him what each green needs; in July, as a check on the results of the year's fertilization program; and in September, just prior to the fall fertilizing. The chart is printed on medium weight cardboard and is about 7x10 in. in size.

ing the entire treatment a green had received from the start of the season.

At the start of each year, I have a soil analysis made of each of the 36 greens under my supervision, and the findings are placed on yearly charts kept on each separate green. Using this method, every pound of fertilizer, fungicide treatment, top-dressing, sanding, perforation, direction last cut, and any work performed is down in black and white.

Chances of damaging by over-fertilization are reduced to a minimum. At any time during the year a clear picture of the work accomplished and results obtained are before the greenkeeper. In conjunction with each chart is shown the result of two inspections made by the superintendent in charge of each green under his supervision every morning and afternoon.

The value of this phase of work is easily recognized with the rapidity with which fungus diseases are detected and treated. The writer will be glad to elaborate on these two valuable aids, and to send copies of charts and progressions to any of the readers of this article to whom the above systems are of interest.

It may seem to some that I place considerable importance on small details, but experience has taught that the greenkeeper who conscientiously performs the smaller items of maintenance, has met with very gratifying success in management of the whole.

In my system of maintenance, I am particularly proud of my equipment, not so much as to its make or kind, but the condition in which it is kept. To be caught in times of emergency with equipment that is sorely needed but is not in first class working order is an experience I have

COURSE												
Reference No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A. M. Inspections												
P. M. Inspections												
Top Dressing												
Fertilizer												
Can Material Used												
Application												
Time App.												
Hours Worked												
Team												
Approach												
Notes												
Notes												
Notes												
Notes												
Notes												
Weather												

Where a man is in daily contact with his course, a chart such as this might not be necessary. But where the maintenance work is through foremen, a report of this character is most valuable and paints an accurate picture of the day's accomplishments. The chart, printed on medium heavy cardboard, is about 8x14 in. Additional columns, enough to devote one to each hole of the course, appear on the chart; only the left half is reproduced above.

never enjoyed, and furthermore, would not stand for.

Each fall an inventory is made of every piece of working equipment, its condition stated, repair work necessary, and recommendations for replacements made. During the winter months, all equipment is overhauled and painted and with the advent of the golfing season the knowledge that every tool and machine is ready to give you 100% efficiency during the season tends both for economical and efficient performance of work.

W. J. Rockefeller, Inverness Veteran Greensman, Is Dead

Toledo, O.—Wm. J. Rockefeller, greenkeeper at Inverness Golf club for the last 29 years, and responsible for much of the construction work on the course, died here Sunday, Feb. 7, after a lingering illness.

"Rocky" was a greenkeeping pioneer who saw his profession advance from a stepchild of farming into recognition as one of the most exacting of agricultural pursuits. Many of the country's noted greenkeepers had worked for him as youngsters

and to the end of his active days he kept in close touch with his proteges.

He was active in the organization of the National Association of Greenkeepers and was on the USGA Green Section advisory committee.

Several days before the beginning of the 1931 Open at Inverness Mr. Rockefeller suffered a sharp decline in his health and was unable to attend the championship, to his deep distress.

Mr. Rockefeller, a year prior to his death, wrote his memoirs as a veteran greenkeeper, which appeared serially in GOLFDOM.