



# SOUTHERN

## Course Maintenance

# TIPS

## for Young Pro-Greensmen

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### THE AUTHOR

... of this timely article is one of those fellows who has had to work out his own destiny at pro-greenkeeper at a club in one of the smaller, active Texas towns.

He sets forth his practice in the hope it will help some of the young fellows upon whom smaller clubs must depend for first-class operation. Jenkins doesn't maintain that his practice is the last word in scientific greenkeeping. He says it works for him and if any of the fellows have criticisms or suggestions to make, he will welcome their comment.

Jenkins is chairman of the greenkeeping section of the Texas PGA and responsible for the educational program this organization is conducting with the ambition of bettering the maintenance of Texas golf courses where lack of money and experienced operation now handicap efforts to advanced practices.

**I**N THE SOUTHWEST the next few months (November, December, January and February), is the time to give your greens a good heavy dressing of sand, soil and manure from the compost pile: 1 yd. of manure, 1 yd. of soil, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  yd. good sharp sand. Two to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubic yds. of this compost, spread well, gives a 5000 sq. ft. green a dressing. My reason for this is that usually we get our severest weather in January and February. If you give the green a good heavy dressing of the above compost in November and December, it helps to keep the roots of bermuda grass warm and protected from the frost as much as possible.

During a fall such as we have had this year the worms have not been so bad, but I notice now they are starting to be annoying. Before dressing your greens it would be beneficial to give these greens a good dressing of calcium arsenate,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. to sq. yd. As soon as you have finished putting on the arsenate, topdress it and the first rain will wash it in good.

This has been a great fall for making improvements around the greens by the man who has a small course and a very limited check book to work on. It has been an exceptionally good fall to look after parts of the course where you are troubled with seepage and flood water in winter.

I have one or two places on the course which give me lots of trouble in winter and early spring so I have taken advantage of the dry fall. I have a ditch which is an inlet to our lake and where the water makes its own way. I have cut it open to the width of 10 ft. by 2 ft. deep, have taken all that good soil out and put it around a green which has been greatly improved by this work.

Every ditch around my course which takes care of flood water I have ploughed and cleaned out. Where I had bad seepage across a fairway I cut a ditch in the rough 2 ft. wide by 18 in. deep below the level of the fairway diagonally to the boundary ditches to eliminate soggy fairways and I have found from past experience this gives wonderful results. All soil from ditches, which is practically virgin

soil, can be used three ways; improve around the greens, build surface traps and, lastly, the best use of all, put on your compost pile.

### Improvement Policy

I have made improvements around one of my greens, also built 5 grass tees 30 ft. long by 10 ft. wide, with all soil taken out of the ditches I have cleaned this fall. I mention this as I know there are lots of other pro-greenkeepers who have not got the help and money to buy tile, etc. This hint may help them to overcome such difficulties at little cost, and at the same time keep your club directorate and members in good spirits.

I have found that at times I start something which turns out rather a larger proposition than I anticipated and I can't finish it for lack of funds. I stop there and usually in a few days some of the influential members want to know what is wrong. I tell them I have no funds to go further. They very often see to it that I get money to finish as they see the benefit the work will be to the club and its members next season.

Had I gone in the beginning and told them what I would like to see done they, in all likelihood, would say, "No, it's too big a job and we have no money." My advice to young pro-greenkeepers is just to start those plans you have in mind for the betterment of your club and course, and when the directorate sees you are anxious and sincere they will stay behind you and help you out every time, for they realize every little improvement is enhancing their property.

### Watch Equipment

After the first frost and the grass is dead I would advise young pro-greenkeepers to give their fairway mowers and the rough field mower a good wash with the hose, taking all the mud and dirt off every part. Then when it is clean and dry, take every part asunder even to opening the gear casings and taking every cog-wheel apart. Then build a fire and boil a large tub of water and lye. Put in every part of your mower and clean all sand, soil and foreign substances from them; take them out and dry well, then reassemble. If any parts have to be renewed it gives you plenty of time to get them. When all fixed up, just get some paint (green) and give them a coat. Then you have all your machinery ready to go in the spring. You will find this care of the machinery every

winter will make the machinery last as long again. I may state this is my method and my fairway mower is still running after 6 years' service. I do the same with my green mowers, one Toro push mower, 6 years old, and a Jacobsen power mower, 4 years old. The latter has been in the factory once, overhauled, and all worn parts replaced.

These are small methods which save your club lots of money. Your club directors notices them and will give you all credit due you for helping to run the club on economical lines.

### Be On the Job

I have heard visitors from small clubs who have a young pro-greenkeeper complain he is not much around in winter, away playing on neighboring courses or killing time in town. Don't do so. Remember your club gives you a salary and they want a little in return and you will find these few little hints I have given will help to restore any lost prestige with interest.

Perhaps you may think the salary is not at all encouraging; but the only way to build up your salary is to show your members what you are worth, not only as a golfer and teacher, but by being an economist, having all machinery up to standard point and making little improvements on the course. Then when you make application for an increase in your salary you will get more consideration than if you had played golf or hung around street corners.

## Club Managers Convention at Chicago, Feb. 27-March 2

**D**ATE FOR the next annual convention of the Club Managers association, to be held in Chicago, has been set for February 27, 28, March 1 and 2. Thomas P. Jones, Harvard club, Boston, is president of the organization and Frank Murray, Ravisloe C. C., Homewood, Ill., sec.

**"THE COMMITTEE** feels very strongly that it would be the utmost of folly to attempt to economize at the expense of the golf course. Deterioration which likely would result would cause additional expense in later years to bring it back. The golf course is the club's "bread winner."—A comment from the 1930 annual report of the Knollwood C. C. (White Plains, N. Y.) green-committee. It's even truer today than it was in 1930.