

SPIKING HELPS Turf Benefits and Economy Result from Regular Use of Modern Equipment

By C. C. WORTHINGTON

TOO little attention is paid to spiking greens. This is conceded by most of the authorities on turf culture.

Until recent years little if any treatment of this kind was recommended for the reason possibly, that no well designed spiking machine existed. But upon the appearance of the modern spiker a few years ago, many greenkeepers, anxious to try any treatment that promised to ward off brown patch and the burning, hardening effect of the summer heat, took up its test systematically.

The results of these tests differed somewhat of course, depending upon where the courses were located and upon the quality of the turf and the severity of the heat. They have been so successful however in the majority of cases, as to warrant the statement that the spiker should be looked upon as an essential part of a putting green's equipment.

As a rule the spiker should be used at least twice a week. Following each application, the green should be freely watered. As the water is quickly absorbed through the spike openings in the ground, it passes at once and below the roots, which under this treatment, grow downward away from the surface. The formation of the hard, compact root mat, found to exist on many greens is thus prevented. This rubber-like mat stifles the growth of the turf, robs it of its vigor, and renders it an easy victim to many troubles.

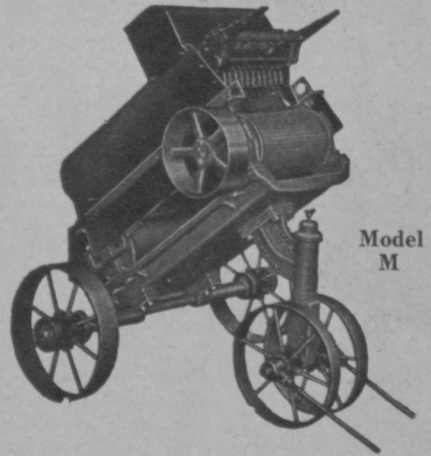
If the green is spiked, water may be thrown over it by any means so long as the quantity is sufficient to supply what the roots are known to demand. With the water thrown on in volume, time is saved and less water is needed. It seeks the roots immediately through the spiker perforations before it is wasted by running off the surface or lost by evaporation.

The substratum of the ground being thus kept properly damp, the greatly invigorated and strengthened turf resists the baking process of the sun and remains, during the heated period, in the velvety, yielding condition that in our climate may be secured in no other way.

The objection is sometimes heard against spiking, that it may cut the roots.

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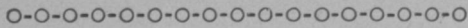


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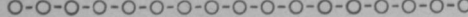
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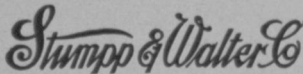
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If it does it is not harmful—it may be in fact beneficial.

As an accompaniment of spiking treatment, greens should be topdressed, seeded and fertilized frequently. Some greens will be found to require more dressing than others, depending upon how long they have remained unspiked and how long the matted roots have existed.

Any roughness produced by the action of the spikes may be smothered over by light rolling, not severe enough to do more than to lightly press down whatever little disturbance of the surface has occurred. A light roller attached to the rear of the spiker is a convenient way to carry out this smoothing operation.

OUSTED PRO WAILS

Having Put Fee Course in Black, Gets Gate

CHECKING GOLFDOM'S mail for an average month, it becomes plain that the fee courses have more problems than any other type of establishment in golf.

Not a little of it, kindly candor compels us to say, is their own fault. Golf is a business and like any other business requires men who know the business for its successful operation. The real estate men, the doctors, lawyers, butchers, bakers, merchant chiefs and farmers who started fee courses when it looked like the nation was golf crazy, are learning one important thing about fee course management and that is to hire a dependable man who knows golf to operate the plant.

It is really pathetic how the old rackets are worked on the hopeful fee course owners. Even the two-for-one ticket book, which was a sad flop when tried before, has returned and the promoters gather a sweet harvest from the unwary at the start of the season. After the two-rounnds-for-the-price-of-one gag has been worked several times—always with enough time in between to let the suckers forget—you would think that the fee course owners would recall that the gag never brought in any increased income but cost the fee course owners who participated in the scheme plenty of income.

The promoters were the boys who cashed in. They had a small printing bill, and got a half buck out of every dollar the 2-for-1 coupon books gathered from the players.