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North, South, East & West
Green Superintendents Say:
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Here's what one of Canada's most prominent turf men wrote us late in the summer of 1939:

"I have made tests with Super Mineralite on two greens, both of which are usually very susceptible to fungus attacks, and up to the present time they have been singularly free of large or small brownpatch.

"All the other greens have been treated regularly with (well known fungicide) and have been affected at different times.

"Normally, when all other greens are attacked these two are badly scarred, but this year the position seems to be reversed."

And from another Canadian—in Sept., '39:

"Early in July I treated active large brownpatch on four greens with Super Mineralite as per your instructions. The check was complete. We have had no recurrence of brownpatch since."

(Names on request)

The above results were obtained on active diseased conditions on putting greens under actual play. The material was in the hands of the turf doctor himself. And the cost of application was approximately 9c PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET OF TURF.

Here's one sure way of beating the life out of your brownpatch without beating the life out of your budget. Ask your dealer—or write us direct. 5 lbs., \$6.50; 25 lbs., \$32.50; 50 lbs., \$60.00; 100 lbs., \$110.00. Rate of application: 1 1/2 ounces per 1,000 square feet.

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Should the Number of **SAND TRAPS** **BE REDUCED?**

ONE of the hottest topics now stirring arguments in greenkeeping circles concerns revision of trapping. Fortunately, the arguments have not rushed incompletely considered action. Apparently clubs are learning not to remodel the course in obedience to the urge of each new set of officials. They're going slow and getting expert advice on each case.

GOLFDOM queried golf architects on the trapping situation and presents herewith answers early received from well-known architects. The subject is wide open, so if you have anything to say on it, GOLFDOM will be glad to pass along your contribution to the discussion.

Says Theodore Moreau of Langford and Moreau:

"The number of bunkers and traps should be reduced in many cases but there are probably as many more golf courses that should have the number of bunkers increased or re-located. To establish a sound formula for reducing the number of traps on golf courses would require an understanding of the Einstein theory.

"If a golf course has been laid out and trapped to satisfy the demands of low handicap players and these players are still in the saddle, any attempt to reduce maintenance costs by eliminating bunkers would certainly meet with resistance. If the economic pressure of such clubs is forcing a reduction in maintenance through trap elimination, the course in question should have a careful study made of its local conditions before work is started.

Trapping Often Amateurish

"In some instances, traps on golf courses, particularly the older ones, are monuments to the administrations that have gone before. The lack of rhyme or reason can often be traced to this influence. In no other field of development has there been such a free expression of amateur effort as trapping on golf courses.

"After an enthusiastic golfer has mastered the teachings of a pro on how to play the game, or, at least thinks he has, he often turns his thoughts to bunkers. At this stage of his career, it might



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well be said that he has become allergic to traps. Place this man on a committee where he is given authority to express his individuality on a golf course and he will erect monuments to his administration.

"It must be remembered that the location of traps placed by such an enthusiast is bound to be influenced by his type of game and while, in some instances, this type of individual may acquire a working knowledge of trap location and construction, his perspective is narrowed by the limitations of his own game. One rarely finds a golf course trapped under this influence satisfactory to the large majority of players. Good design requires an understanding of the wide range of players' skill.

By-Laws Demand Expert's Advice

"In discussing this subject with a group of green-chairmen, I was informed by one connected with a prominent club that the by-laws of the club are so written that any changes made on the golf course must be done under the direction of the original designer or, if he is not available, after consulting a competent course architect.

"It is possible to lay out a golf course and to use bunkers in a way that will produce a wide range of interesting golf holes for the low handicap player without

imposing undue difficulties on the majority of players capable of breaking 100.

"This condition is possible without peppering a golf course with sand traps but it is important that, where a minimum number of traps are used, each one is correctly located and so constructed as to really function.

Sand Area Gets Larger

"The trapping on many of the older courses has often grown in number by adding small traps to small traps, resulting in a series of mounds and bunker faces that prove ineffective in stopping shots that were driven into them. Efforts to make them effective often resulted in increasing the width of the sand pit as well as sweeping sand up the bunker face. In many instances, this created such large sand areas that the original cost of the sand and annual replacement has been entirely out of proportion to the need.

The bunker face, originally constructed for sod, was often too steep to retain sand, necessitating undue labor cost in coating the washed slopes after each rain. The total perimeter of these small units was much greater than one well constructed single unit. This increases the cost in edge maintenance.

"The numerous mounds of small scale

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and steep slopes are not constructed for economical mowing. Clubs confronted with this problem could make a worth while investment to correct these conditions without destroying the interest in the course. Other conditions too numerous to mention might well be corrected but only through a study of each problem."

Beware of Under-trapping—Jones

Robert Trent Jones expresses his opinion:

"I am and have been for a number of years a convert to the principle that our golf courses of the 'twenties' were over-trapped. However, a course without any traps is certainly listless. I am sure that golf would not have developed to where it is today without having interesting and strategic hazards. The warning that I want to sound right here is beware of under-trapping, particularly when other characteristics of the green design have not been molded to offset the lack of traps.

"Some of the factors that have helped make it possible to reduce the number of traps on the golf course and yet maintain a high standard in golf course design, punishing the expert golfer when he should be punished and allowing a certain amount of latitude for the duffer's common faults, are (1) The modern technique of design; (2) The improvement of power machinery to mold golf features boldly and relatively inexpensively, and (3) The development of the flexible frame and other improved features for maintenance.

"In my opinion the prime factor responsible for over-trapping the courses of the 'twenties' was the tendency to mimic the more difficult holes of courses groomed for national championships; courses such as Oakmont. These imitative courses went beyond trapping primarily for the experts, and went under the theory that a shot should be punished that was missed no matter from whose club it came. From that period the island greens completely surrounded by sand and the bottle neck type of green design in which the entrance to the green was narrowed and traps flanked both sides of the green surface were inherited. Two features of these types of greens which were usually apparent were the sharp banks on the trapped faces of the greens which had to be cut by expensive hand work, and the general flat appearance of the greens themselves and their environs as a whole.

"The traps put in during the 'twenties' have been thrown out of scale by the length of the ball and the improved manufacture of clubs, causing the traps of that

TIMELY TURF TIPS

LOCALIZED DRY SPOTS ON FAIRWAYS

With the advent of diminishing rainfall and warmer weather, localized dry spots may appear on fairways. When these spots develop on unwatered courses, they appear at the first sign of drought, and are the last to revive after fall rains start.

Even on watered fairways, localized drying may occur. Uneven watering is an obvious cause, but dry spots may appear despite perfect distribution. This happens in patches of creeping bent, due to formation of a dense mat at the surface because of high cutting. Heavily matted grass prevents penetration and absorption of applied water. Closer cutting, particularly in early spring, to remove surplus grass is the obvious answer.

On watered courses acid soil is a more common cause for localized dry spots. Acid clay particles tend to exist as individual grains. This favors compaction and discourages water absorption. In lime saturated soil, the fine clay particles gather into groups. Formation of these larger clusters speeds water absorption and retards loss from surface evaporation.

Frequently soil in dry spots is a full pH lower than in immediately adjacent damp soil. When tests disclose this condition, lime is badly needed. Its use will reduce and eventually eliminate dry spots on watered courses and simplify watering. On unwatered fairways the lime will prolong spring growth and speed recovery in fall.

• • •

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period to punish primarily the present day average golfer and the women. As a result, these traps are being and should be removed, and replaced by fairway traps that are more in keeping with the modern game.

Must Penalize Bad Shots

"Changes around the green merely to eliminate the trapping as it exists in the older courses would actually detract from the character of the course, as it would leave just flat, characterless, green surfaces and unless the holes were filled in, ugly looking lines would be left from the old traps. Furthermore, one of the fallacies in the play of these older courses was that shot value was not punished in relation to the degree of error, because a shot only slightly missed would catch a trap, whereas often a shot quite badly missed would be left with a not too difficult niblick pitch for a complete recovery. Therefore, where traps are removed, dunes with well drawn-out lines should be placed.

"This must be done adroitly and with a view to the proper punishment in mind, the purpose being to bring back the pitch and run shot to golf, to punish the missed shot more fairly in relation to the degree in which it was missed, and to cut down on

the maintenance by making it possible to cut with modern mowing equipment to the very edge of the green mechanically. The modern theory is to develop green design in such a manner that the key or master trap to the hole makes it possible to tighten the hole by the position in which the pin is placed. This also makes it possible to eliminate profuse trapping and actually adds to the character of the hole, because this changes the complexion of the playing value of the hole depending upon from which side of the fairway the second shot has to be played.

Some Traps Replaced

"In some cases where clubs have just casually eliminated trapping since that seemed to be the popular theme of the day, they have had to call in experts to place new traps because the hole or holes had proved unpopular."

A. W. Tillinghast remarks:

"During the time when I was editor of *Golf Illustrated* and in numerous newspaper interviews, I advocated trap reduction. This was particularly true of the period when I was retained by the PGA, when for more than two years I visited more than 600 golf courses in all parts of America to advise concerning practical

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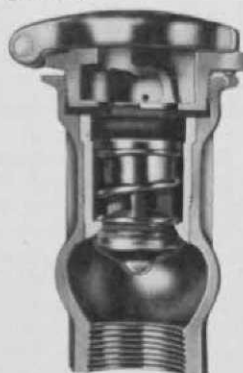


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and economical methods for the betterment of the courses, sensible upkeep and a truer appreciation of the game's pleasures for the players generally.

"I coined the term 'Duffers' Headaches' for thousands of unnecessary traps that added nothing to the testing qualities of the courses so far as the experts were concerned but did irritate and discourage the masses of ordinary players, the very element that should be encouraged if golf was to continue and increase its hold on its devotees.

"True, it took quite a bit of persuasive argument sometimes to convince a hell-bent-for-a-championship-course committee that the new idea would in no manner 'sissify' any course for champions (make it a sterner test, in fact, if properly applied) but results proved that I was gratifyingly successful in getting the theory across. Theory? It is no longer a theory, for cold facts show that no less than 7,000 utterly useless traps disappeared from American courses after my PGA tour. And more are going as the days pass.

Expense Must Be Considered

"Aside from easing duffers' pains (and it is entirely unnecessary to add to the

poignant, soul-stirring grief that follows an utterly miserable shot, by burying the unfortunate up to his neck in a sand trap) there is the matter of upkeep expense to be considered. The money wasted on those 7,000 silly traps will mean much to budgets properly applied. The greenkeepers appreciate this.

"The greenkeeper of today is an intelligent man, studious and resourceful, who is disinclined to waste any part of his maintenance budget.

GSA Suggests 72 Maximum

"I am informed that at the last meeting of the GSA it was said that a maximum limit of 72 sand traps be placed for any 18-hole course. This figures four to a hole. Certainly enough if they are properly placed and not scattered in eye-sore disarrangement all over the place. The last plans I made were for a 27-hole course in California. Each 9 holes presented approximately 25 traps, the 'master trap' (as I call it) and the green being arranged to take the place of 3 or 4 of the out-moded arrangements. The whole secret is that the contouring of the greens be receptive or unreceptive to accurately placed or misplaced previous shots.

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