

stimulating root growth and will be found a valuable addition to the above formula.

Just why a specially prepared backfill material is recommended may be explained as follows: During the hole cutting process soil from the lower strata is brought to the surface and is in most cases of rather poor quality, and it is quite essential that a portion of this medium be replaced with soil of better texture. In cutting holes on the average green three cuts are generally required, one to remove the plug and two to finish the cut to the desired depth.

As the respective cuts are made the soil may be transferred to the old cup with the cutting tool, which automatically places the lower and poorer material immediately below the plug. Enough of this old material should be removed to allow a depth equal to or a little greater than the thickness of the plug, then adding a sufficient quantity of the prepared soil to raise the plug approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ " above the surface, but before letting it in mix the added soil thoroughly with the underlying fill and firm well. This is important for if the plug is let in on loose mulchy soil, air spaces will occur and the capillary movement of the soil moisture will be retarded.

A suggestion may be made at this point regarding depth of cutting the plugs. This is more or less dependent upon local conditions, but as a general rule thickness should not exceed two inches; if shallow cuts are made, root pruning occurs which encourages the development of new roots, and consequently quicker knitting.

Tamps With Wooden Mallet

Whether or not plugs should be tamped or merely pressed into place with the foot is a matter of preference. My own practice is to use a light wooden mallet as it gives a smoother appearance to the finished job and insures the plug being set firmly in place.

At a great many golf courses cup plug scars are, to reverse an old axiom, the rule rather than the exception. At a great many of these courses the greenkeepers in charge employ the cubicle maintenance system, under which set-up the cups are changed frequently, if not daily, by members of the greens force. This type greenkeeper will want to defend that system as being efficient and practical, but if constant plug losses are prevalent, he should check upon the technique employed by his men. The greenkeeper who hasn't the

time to change his own cups should at any rate make the rounds with his employees frequently, if for no other reason than to get a glimpse of the sub-surface activity of his turf.

'Appleknocker' Game Is Challenge to Better Play

S. C. KNILANS of Sheboygan, Wis., has devised an interesting system of recording scores, called "The Old Appleknocker Game," that is proving quite popular among Sheboygan's Pine Hills' membership. Knilans devised the game a few years ago and it has held considerable member interest at his club ever since. The name of the game is taken from the assumption that an Appleknocker is one who can 'hit the old apple around.' Knilans tells about the Appleknocker system and its system of scoring:

The game gets better from year to year, because as best scores are noted, the Appleknocker goal that has been set for the player each year, is placed at a figure that will make the golfer work more than ever to reach it. The Appleknocker scoring sheet is large enough to list all club members, and has columns for ringer scores, best actual scores, handicaps for the current and preceding years, the Appleknocker goal, and finally, the Appleknocker award column.

In order to put the game into operation, someone such as the pro, handicap or sports pastime chairman, should: 1. list players alphabetically; 2. place in Appleknocker column the score each player feels he is capable of making; 3. put down players' handicaps; 4. put down 1940 handicap as it changes from 1939 figure.

After the above information has been charted, the players are pretty much on their own, inasmuch as they put in their own best scores until the Appleknocker goal is made, at which time a sticker is placed for them in the Appleknocker award column. The players who have received stickers, however, continue to list their best scores, because the Appleknocker championship goes to the player who beats his Appleknocker goal by the greatest number of points.

Knilans has copies of the game available for distribution at a moderate cost, and will be glad to send games out on approval. His address is Box 417, Sheboygan, Wis.