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## There's Plenty to Do in Late Season

By A. L. Brandon

**T**O many golfers the arrival of Labor Day signifies that the end of the golf season is practically at hand. Just how this conclusion is reached we have never been able to understand. Fall, with delightfully cool, comfortable days, provides some of the finest golfing weather of the year and Mother Nature reaches her climax in providing the golfer with a back curtain of colored splendor.

Conditions for course maintenance are also ideal. Heat waves become a matter of history. Drought and the one hundred and one maintenance problems that bedevil the greenkeeper during the summer, fade, but leaves him a wiser and more humble man.

### It's Change Time

Yet in this more or less open season for poets and artists, the greenkeeper and staff find themselves facing an active season. Work at this time often falls into many classifications other than routine maintenance, but for a matter of record can roughly be grouped into two general classifications — course alterations or changes which have been suggested by the players and committees and which will result in a better and more enjoyable round of golf. Second, changes that the greenkeeper through observation and

study, plans to put in effect. These changes are mainly correction changes, such as drainage and items which will decrease maintenance charges and increase efficiency, and add to the playing value of the course.

### Get Expert's Aid

And to keep the record clear, it is my opinion that in case of major course alterations, it is generally advisable to consult a capable architect. By calling in the architect the responsibility doesn't rest entirely upon the committee and greenkeeper. With a third party in the scene the proposed changes can be more frankly discussed and should result in better design with the club ultimately getting more dough and satisfaction to all concerned.

Obviously, some of the suggestions coming from the players and committees will have to be culled, for in the final analysis they will not stand the test for providing a better and more enjoyable round of golf. In this culling process the participants should be the green-committee, meeting with the greenkeeper. After careful consideration the green-committee should report to the board or governing officers of the club, its recommendations and estimated cost of the proposed improvements. These estimates should be made by the

One of the events that's getting a great play as a dinner-business attraction at golf clubs is mixed putting contests. Many of the women more than hold their own on the practice putting green with the men.

greenkeeper and based on the work being done by the regular maintenance staff.

Not so many years ago, a course was judged largely on the quality of its putting greens. Through research and experience, much has been learned in greens maintenance so today greens are uniformly excellent. Course standards today are judged on fairway turf in addition to greens and tee surfaces. Through the demands of the golfer, perfect lies from tee to green are essential for the well conditioned layout. With this in mind, plans for fairway fertilization should be formulated. By budgeting and planning these fertilization programs can be provided for yearly. Weed control in fairways and rough have also become essential. On the long range program this should likewise be worked out and budgeted.

#### Fall Seeding Is Best

Fall is nature's time for seeding. For some reason or another, the American public have purchased about five pounds of seed in the spring to one in the fall. Fall seeding is generally more successful and convenient. The greenkeeper in this instance should likewise figure out a policy of fall seeding. Generally such seedings should be made before September 15, this of course depending on the geographical location of the club.

Landscaping should also be considered. Today's golfer is conscious and appreciative of a well-landscaped hole and club grounds. Thought should be given to a tree and shrub nursery. Again a long range plan should be instituted for the planting and growing of this material. Material planted should be carefully selected and should fit into the scheme of things. Usually native plant materials will be most satisfactory.

Flower beds should also be scattered about the golf course. Fall is the time to plan and prepare these beds. To keep uniformity to the planting of shrubs, trees and flowers, some master plan should be created. By means of this master plan the chances of a hodge-podge landscape will be avoided and a progressive set-up can be arranged for the years to come, as finances permit.

Today, modern club activity is based and planned for the entire family. Winter

sports should also be considered as it will do much to continue interest in club activity throughout the year.

Skeet and trapshooting fit in admirably in the fall and winter schedule. Fall is the time to condition the shooting grounds; remember, neat appearing grounds are appreciated and any painting or other touching up should be done.

The success of a well maintained course depends on a good maintenance staff. Although almost every golf club has different conditions to operate under, I think they will find it wise if they will arrange their work so that at least a reasonably-sized skeleton staff can be maintained throughout the winter months.

Maintenance work, and with the specialized equipment that is being made today, requires men who are especially trained in this work of turf maintenance. To break in new men each year is not only expensive, but a great deal of efficiency is lost through the training period.

The club should also become interested in its maintenance staff as individuals, not only as employees. If this attitude is maintained one of the major problems in turf maintenance is overcome.

All in all, fall is the ideal time to plan and execute work which will result in better and more enjoyable rounds of golf for all of your players.

**Golfers Build Own Course**—Put a couple of golfers to work at a gas compressor station in east Texas, and they'll graduate from a couple of tin-can holes to a real-for-sure golf course in very little time. Experience has proved this, because that's what happened at the Latex compressor station of the United Gas Pipe Line Co. where starting via the tin-can route in 1934, the club now has 9 good grass greens, fairway and tee markers, mowing equipment, and money in the bank. The club also boasts a swimming pool, baseball diamond, and other typical club features, including club dues.

The dues don't amount to much, however, for a total payment of \$9.00 covers membership in the club for a year with full privileges for two. Membership in the club is 26, and visitors are welcome. Guest green fees are 15c. Olan Wright is the current holder of the club championship. M. V. Cousins was the first chairman of the board, serving until 1939 when he was succeeded by the present chairman, W. H. Roberts.