

25, and operate for the first month of play under winter rules.

At the beginning of the 1940 season, I made a detailed report to the city manager, describing the condition of every tee, fairway and green on the 18-hole course. Of the first 9 greens, only one had a serious amount of clover and two others did not have proper surface drainage. On the second 9 holes there were bare spots on two greens, caused by snow mold.

After the greens had been mowed, rolled and spiked in preparation for opening day, I started a campaign to get rid of the lingering traces of clover that survived the winter on the first 9 greens. For this purpose, I applied a water solution of sulphate of ammonia every three weeks, using 5 pounds to every 1,000 square feet of green surface. The continued application of the caustic solution soon caused the clover to burn up and die out. At the same time, it greatly stimulated the growth of Washington strain creeping bent.

During the spring and summer of the 1940 season weather conditions were in sharp contrast with the previous season. We had a normal amount of rain. The greens were mowed daily with the blade set at 5/16 inch. By June, there was only a negligible percentage of clover left on the greens.

No Clover on Second Nine

No clover showed up on the greens of the second 9 holes. I believe that by allowing the Washington strain creeping bent to get a good start, we avoided a similar battle with clover on the second 9. I am convinced that the trouble with clover on the first 9 was due to opening the first nine for play too early in an exceptionally dry year and cutting the grass too short.

While clover was my main headache during the first season, I also had trouble with "fairy rings" on the practice green. I first noticed that something was wrong on the practice green in July. The rings then appeared in the form of a half moon and about three inches thick. Each ring measured about three feet in diameter. When I first noticed them, there were five distinct rings, dark green in color, located around the edges of the practice green. Gradually the grass inside the rings started to fade and within a period of seven weeks, it had died out completely. I tried a lime treatment without results.

July, 1941

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I let the greens go through the winter without further treatment. In the spring, no grass appeared inside the rings, so I had to remove the diseased sod and replace it with new sections of healthy sod.

Examination of the old sod indicated that it was apparently part of that left on the site during construction of the new course. Traces of a fungous growth, similar to mushrooms, appeared in the old sod. Bare spots on two of the greens in the second 9, which had been caused by snow mold, were treated in a similar manner.

'Crab' Hasn't Shown Yet

So far there hasn't been a trace of crab grass on any of the greens of the new course. Weeds are always an indication of lack of proper plant food. Regular use of fertilizer is the most important factor in keeping crab grass and weeds out of the greens, in my opinion.

The question of the opening date is always a difficult problem for any new course. Naturally the golfers who have