

been waiting impatiently for the new course to be completed want to get playing as early as possible. Then, there is the pressing problem of finance. Green-fees rolling into the caddie house are the only answer to that question. But for the permanent benefit of the entire course, especially the greens, the opening date should not be set for too early in the season. If the opening day is postponed until the grass on the greens has a good start, then some of the headaches, like my battle with clover, can be avoided.

Let Facts Decide Opening

I believe that it is good practice to submit a detailed report on the physical condition of the entire course to the green-chairman at the beginning of each season. Then any decision made by the committee as to the opening date will be based on facts concerning the condition of the course, instead of resting entirely on questions of finance or player desire.

My practical experience as a greenkeeper dates from 1924 when I started as assistant greenkeeper at Elmira CC. From there I went in 1927 to the greenkeeper spot at the old Mark Twain municipal course in Elmira, remaining there until the new course opened in 1939.

I have found that attendance at special courses for greenkeepers is extremely helpful in my work. In 1933 I attended the short course at Penn State Agricultural School, and in 1940, the special class for greenkeepers at Massachusetts State College.

The new Mark Twain course is 6,761 yards long, with 19 greens, 83 sand traps and one water hazard. Given two more normal seasons with a good amount of rain, the course should be in peak condition and ready for tournament play.

No greenkeeper can ever relax his vigilance for a single day during the playing season. But once a new course and greens are safely through the first two seasons, any greenkeeper on a new course can at least breathe a sigh of profound relief.

It has been a valuable experience and I wouldn't have missed it for the world, but I'm glad it's over. I can agree with the old saying that "the first two years are the hardest." During that long dry first summer, there were many times when I wished that I knew some of the ancient Indian rituals used to get rain. To others who plan spring openings for their new courses, my best suggestion is that they pray ardently for rain.

Table Shows Quantity of Water in a Given Rainfall

GRASS uses from 500 to 700 tons of water per acre during a normal growing season. This amount of water is equivalent to 5 to 7 inches of rainfall.

One inch of rainfall:

Wets loam soil to a depth of 6 inches.

Is equivalent to 27,154 gallons to one acre.

Is equivalent to 2,172,320 gallons to an 80 acre course.

Is equivalent to 3,000 gallons to 5,000 square feet.

Is equivalent to the output from a sprinkler delivering 20 gallons of water a minute if it runs for 2 hours and 30 minutes over an area of 5,000 square feet.

The accompanying table showing quantity of water equivalent to depth of rainfall is one greenkeepers have found helpful.

Depth of rainfall in inches	Cu. ft. water to 1 acre	Gal. water to 1 acre	Tons water to 1 acre
1.00	3,630	27,154	113
2.00	7,260	54,308	226
3.00	10,890	81,462	339
4.00	14,520	108,616	452
5.00	18,150	135,770	565
6.00	21,780	162,924	678

Open New Courses for Employees—Second 9 of the Hercules CC, Wilmington, Del., and a new 9-hole course for the Seaford (Dela.) G&CC were opened late in June. Hercules Powder Co. owns the Hercules course which is highly popular with its employees and officials. DuPont built the Seaford course for its Nylon plant employees.

Architects for both courses was A. H. Tull of Emmet, Emmet & Tull, New York City and West Chester, Pa., Tull recently designed a second 9 for the Lawrence Park GC, Erie, Pa., which is owned largely by General Electric Co. employees.

700 Dozen Balls Stolen—Wilson Sporting Goods Co. store at Cleveland was robbed of more than 700 doz. golf balls in May. Most balls were of pro-only brands. Only golf balls were taken. If Wilson pro-only balls are being marketed by any store the Wilson organization will appreciate information to this effect in order to investigate possibility of such balls being from the stolen stock.