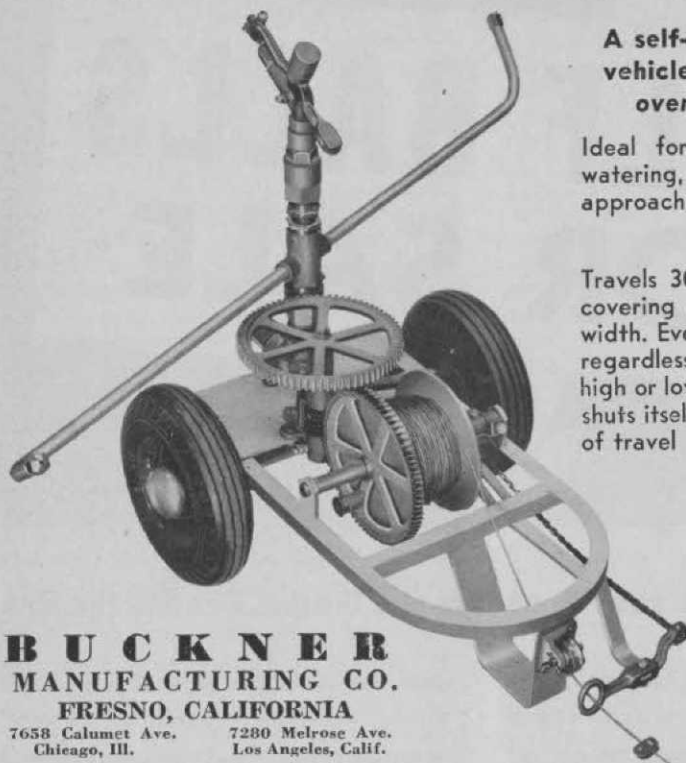


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How We're Going To Meet 1942 Maintenance Problems

By ALEX McWHINNIE
St. Charles CC, Winnipeg, Canada

While we are working on wartime schedules with economy the watchword, the work of the greenkeeper becomes more difficult. He is required to carry on with curtailed crews, cut corners, scrimp and save and make every dollar stretch as far as possible, and in the process try to keep his golf course up to the same standard of playing as heretofore. However, like the ill wind, some good may come out of it.

Our greatest saving comes from the use of topdressing. Our compost pile has been eliminated due to our rare good fortune in being able to get suitable sandy loam. We topdress our greens and tees with unscreened sandy loam soil, spreading the

soil over the green, removing the rough and rubble with Daisy rakes and discing the remaining soil in as often as time permits, then finishing by matting two ways with steel mats. One cubic yard to 5,000 square feet of turf gives us an excellent dressing.

For several years before 1941 our greens were topdressed with a compost of well rotted manure, leaf mold, and sandy loam soil, the manure and leaf mold quite in excess of the minimum amount. With this information one can better appreciate that our saving is hard to measure in terms of dollars and cents. However, one can easily understand the difference between topdressing with a compost of materials and all that goes to make it, and topdressing

with a good sandy loam soil (the most suitable for grasses) that has been plowed, disced and trucked from a distance of 27 miles to your golf course, ready for use at a cost of 71.50 per cubic yard.

Greens that have been topdressed for years with compost are more or less in need of renovating. Sandy loam soil disced into these greens is both a wonderful and an economical renovator.

By eliminating the compost pile the labor and power saved in preparing it all can be used in other ways. That "run down at the heel" appearance of your course may be averted by using the labor and power saved from composing.

The greenkeeper who has loam or sandy loam soil on or near his course is fortunate indeed. In our district of Winnipeg it is all gumbo, but with good roads and trucking it is a matter of locating the soil you want and arranging to have it delivered to your course.

It is now one year since we changed from our greens with compost to sandy loam soil. During last year our needs for fungicide treatments to control large and small brown patch were local and very light, and our 27 large greens and 40,000 square feet of practice putting green and clubhouse lawns came through this last winter in great shape. Therein lies the greatest benefit and saving, for with the elimination of the compost pile many of our turf troubles have gone with it. The health of our greens is greatly improved, the greenkeeper's troubles are reduced and believe me that is as it should be at this time.

There is no doubt this change in topdressing is our very best wartime measure.

* * *

By JOHN ANDERSON

Essex County CC, West Orange, N. J.


Business as unusual is very applicable to golf maintenance. Now and for the duration it is being brought home to us very forcibly each week and month as the season progresses.

Many of us started out in March this year (weather being ideal in this section from March 15) with some definite ideas on how we could or should operate under war conditions. These ideas are being revised weekly or fortnightly as we go along. In New Jersey and the section surrounding us the labor question has been acute from the start. We knew this and had prepared for it by making arrangements for using motor powered machines almost exclusively. The use of hand machines has



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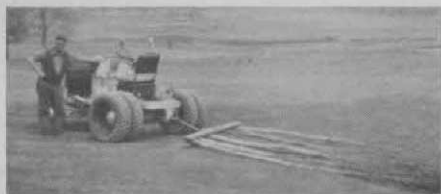
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been reduced to a minimum and the situation seemed to be well in hand, when our gasoline supply was cut 20% from last year's supply for corresponding months. That did not cripple us seriously except to force us to check on carburetors and other parts of the machines which would be likely to cause gas to be used unnecessarily, and making certain that motors were switched off at all times when standing idle. But now we have another cut.



Two views of homemade birch brush rake for sandtraps at Essex County. Above, attached to tractor and set to go; below, smoothing out a trap.

This has cut seriously into our plans and while we are working to carry on under this extra handicap plans will gradually unfold as developments occur.

This much I do know, however; club officials and members are already co-operating with their superintendents and are all set to take the best he can offer and do not want to see labor and material used on their course that otherwise might assist the war effort. The greenkeeper is doing his level best and the golfer is enjoying his or her round of golf and appreciating the fact that the country is at

war, and that we are all helping to win it.

During the last two years golf maintenance critics have advocated filling up or otherwise doing away with many unnecessary sand traps. We are in complete accord with this and have done some of this work but not enough to be felt in our endeavor to reduce maintenance costs to fit the war effort. However, a couple of weeks ago two of my workmen asked to be allowed some time to make up a contrivance to smooth the large traps on our public course. I told them to go ahead. A couple of days later I was surprised to see a well constructed birch brush rake fitted with a swivel draw bar smoothing out sand traps. It takes only one man to operate it and in two hours he can smooth out some 50 large sand traps which otherwise would take three men four hours to accomplish.

* * *

By **MIKE SANKO**
 Golden Valley GC, Minneapolis

Greenkeepers in the Northwest will keep up their courses on reduced budgets in many cases by fullest use of power equipment. This will mean fewer men and a greatly reduced payroll. The watering of fairways will be cut considerably and that will result in quite a saving. In some cases topdressing and fertilizing will be cut to a minimum. We will also try to cut greens, tees and fairways less frequently.

Here at Golden Valley we were a bit ahead of the game. Last fall many of our deep fairway sand traps were re-graded and changed into grassy hollows, all severe mounds were leveled off so that the entire area can now be cut with our rough mower. This has eliminated much hand work and will also improve the course.

I personally feel that when the season is over, power equipment will result in almost as good an upkeep job as in the past.