

# PAST YEARS' STUDY IS HELPING UPKEEP NOW

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★ AFTER I HAD served four years apprenticeship under one of the greatest greenkeepers who ever trod a golf course, Peter W. Sees, I thought I knew all there was to know about golf course construction and maintenance. But after 30 years at this game, 25 of which have been spent at Red Run, I know there's been something new to learn almost every day.

There have been many changes in these years. Up into the early twenties greenkeeping was a secretive business and a greenkeeper kept his methods very much to himself, having learned most of them the hard way by trial and error—with plenty of error.

Prior to 1920 we did not hear much from the USGA Green Section and very little from the state agricultural colleges. It was about this time that Dr. Charles Piper was speaking and visiting in the Detroit District Golf assn. meetings and in other sections of the country. He was talking facts that had been positively proved by years of field and laboratory experiments. Then John Monteith and Kenneth Welton carried on the good work and gave us in black and white the results of years of expert study and experiments in control of scourges which threatened to all but destroy many of our courses.

We learned much from their work and their lectures and demonstrations on brown patch, snow mold, weed control, insect control and the isolation and propagation of bent strains, breeding the better strains of seed grasses, improved

fertilizing methods, soil analysis and other factors of course maintenance.

At that point the state agricultural colleges began helping us greatly with their wonderful research and their practical applications of methods of turf work best suited to different sections of the country.

The schools did a tremendous job for golf and greenkeeping in bringing together the greenkeepers of various sections for the exchange of ideas that brought out the facts and developed a scientific manner of looking at the greenkeeper's problems. The colleges brought to our help facilities which gave sound scientific research to our problems and followed up points brought out in our discussions. There is no doubt of the solutions we have reached as the result of the greenkeeper-agricultural college team work having been of prime value in keeping golf courses on the map during the critical years of war.

While greenkeeping isn't officially regarded as an essential occupation, recreation is considered vital. Many a business executive would have cracked up long ago had he not been able to get on a golf course and relax. I bring this point out because I have seen it so often shown by the executives in Detroit territory who have done such a magnificent job in wartime management and production under unbelievably heavy pressure. The course superintendent who helps these men to bounce back from the load they're under is doing a valuable job. I also mention this phase of greenkeeping's service to show the

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## ROUGH BECOMES PATHWAY TO THE PANTRY

This Victory garden at Northmoor CC (Chicago dist.) where Supt. Frank Dinelli reclaimed wild shot territory for members and club use is typical of thousands of golf club vegetable gardens being farmed on an even larger scale than 1943's surprisingly extensive operations.



necessity of carrying on our research work and giving the state colleges all possible support in order that the standards which have been built up by so much hard work and grief won't be lowered.

There are many things that make the going tough in golf course maintenance now. There is the inability to replace mowing equipment, the practically complete lack of competent greensmen, and the carelessness of caddies due to the difficulty of obtaining adequate caddie training and supervision. There also is the failure of some of the golfing public to realize what wartime handicaps there are in wartime maintenance. This, of course, means that they are responsible for unnecessary work on the course and work that simply cannot be handled with the limited manpower, equipment and materials available.

One of the urgent jobs for many club presidents and green chairmen is that of some straight-from-the-shoulder talking to members about the vast amount of work and resourcefulness it takes to keep our courses up to even a fairly decent standard these days. A lot of this has to be done to the golfing public.

I sincerely hope that before long many

of our difficulties will be ironed out, otherwise many a green chairman is going to get fed up with adding a thankless job to his regular wartime work and many a greenkeeper will go looking for a five-and-a-half day a week job.

It will have to be more forcibly brought to the attention of golfers that a phenomenal job is being done in keeping courses in reasonably good condition these days and that this work requires the cooperation and should have the enthusiastic commendation of the golfers.

As we greenkeepers consider our many problems we are well aware that if it hadn't been for the short courses' help in getting the facts established and reducing the guesswork in maintenance we probably would not have nearly as much wartime golf as we now have. The average golfer doesn't realize that as he enjoys the relief he manages to get on the course these days. So all parts of the story should be impressed on him now. If this chance is missed golf maintenance will become an even tougher job during the war and courses to which we are praying millions of our men will return may be in sorry and disappointing condition for the boys when they do come back.

## Wartime Rules Recommended to Chicago Golfers

CHICAGO DISTRICT GA recommendations for 1944 are contained on a lightweight paper slip suitable for enclosing with bills to members of clubs belonging to the association. The CDGA says "adoption of these rules is primarily to add more mileage to the present critical supply of golf balls and the conservation of manpower in course maintenance. Club employees should be alerted to turn in all balls found."

The CDGA rules and the "Do's and Don'ts" printed on one side of the slip are:

Improve lie on fairway only by using clubhead in rolling ball into favorable position. This is to be done within a prescribed area of one square foot if possible.

Any member entering a trap is responsible for footprints made by him. He should see to it that the caddie takes care of same.

A divot made by a player anywhere should be replaced by the player or caddie before he leaves the spot where shot was made.

If ball in play is in poor condition, it may be changed on the green only for putting accuracy.

The following are recommendations with reference to mowing heights:

Fairways— $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

Rough—2 inches.

Greens— $\frac{1}{4}$  inch.

Tees—No recommendations given because of different varieties of grasses used in District.

### DO'S

Replace all divots.

Tee off between markers.

Repair ball hole injury resulting from pitch shots with a tee before leaving green.

Use tee peg on short holes.

Use a coin to mark your ball spot on greens—not a tee or sharp object.

Signal the next match to come through while looking for lost ball.

Smooth footprints in all sand traps and don't scramble out through the face of trap.

### DON'TS

Don't toss flag on green.

Don't toss burning cigars or cigarettes on greens or tees.

Don't practice on regular tees or to regular greens.

Don't toss refuse, pop bottles or waste paper on course.

Don't allow caddies or players to drop bags on greens.

Don't kink hose—turn off sprinkler.

Don't leave caddie carts on course. They make a wicked hazard for night man.

Don't tramp around the putting green cups.

Don't drag or twist those spikes on the greens.

Don't practice pitching from fairways.