

Proper Cutting Height Saves Money and Trouble

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★ If we were not highly mechanized it is doubtful that it would have been possible to keep the course in satisfactory playing condition with labor so difficult to obtain. Our situation at Chicago Golf in this respect probably is identical with that at almost every other first class club.

But, notwithstanding the current problems, it is consoling to recall that the course supt. always has had problems and has solved them in coming as close as possible to keeping everybody happy.

One of the problems which, in my opinion, has received valuable consideration at greenkeeper short courses and meetings is the height of cut. Among the many interesting and helpful discussions I've heard at these affairs, those on cutting have been especially practical.

Every club has among its members a minority who shoot in the seventies. They are excellent golfers but they often are critical and acting individuals who demand lightning fast putting greens and closely clipped fairways.

When the supt. of grounds is requested to cut the grass too close, he knows that this means trouble and is contrary to sound greenkeeping procedure. If he can cite outside and nationally known authorities in support of his position that the grass should be left reasonably long, he stands a rather good chance of discreetly and effectively stilling the clamor for dangerously close shaving.

Leading authorities who have spoken at short courses and meetings advocate not cutting grass closer than one inch. Most of them advise $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch cutting height. It would greatly reduce greenkeepers' troubles with turf if this expert advice could be put across to the low handicap golfers so they'd not keep insisting on an unnatural practice.

Height of cut is of paramount importance in the growing of certain grasses such as bluegrass and fescue. To mow blue grass, most popular of fairway grasses, closer than one inch is certainly inviting trouble. A sure result is a bumper crop of weeds.

Weeds can be eradicated with chemicals and the fairways reseeded at considerable cost. However, if close mowing still is done, the weed problem again, and quickly, will be present.

I am speaking from experience when I refer to the wisdom of not cutting fairways too close. After one season of mowing fairways $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches about 90% of the

knotweed we had was eliminated. The grass grew so well it smothered out the weed. This has made possible a substantial saving to the club in money we would have been compelled to spend for weed control on a large scale. That would have been inevitable had not my chairman agreed with me about the correct height of cut and defended my decision against possible criticism.

It would be hard to believe that any course had more knotweed on its fairways than we had. Today the weed is scarce and I think that by the end of this season it will have been eliminated almost entirely.

This one instance I am disposed to believe alone has justified the time and money I've spent in attending short courses and greenkeepers' meetings for the good of my club. Had it not been for the repeated and convincing scientific proof of the advisability of cutting at heights greater than the low handicap golfer usually considers satisfactory my own judgment might have been weakened and I probably would have yielded to pressure that would have been serious to the condition of our course and costly in money and member interest to our club.

Thiosan Producing Suspended Dealers Have Some

J. Hunter Gooding, jr., sales mgr., Du Pont Semsan Co. advises greenkeepers and chairmen that Thiosan is not being taken from the market but that production has been temporarily suspended because of demand for one of the Thiosan ingredients for war material. There are some stocks of Thiosan in dealers' stocks. Ample quantities of Semesan and Special Semesan are in the manufacturer's and dealers' stocks. As soon as possible Thiosan manufacturer will be renewed.

Jackman Sportswear Co., Chicago, are offering a wide variety of golf accessories for pro shop sale in their catalog recently distributed to the golf professional trade. Sports apparel for both men and women is featured in the 16 page booklet, including jackets, shirts, hats, caps, sweaters, gloves, etc. Tom Force is in charge of Jackman during Ren Smith's service in the armed forces.

GET THOSE OLD CUTS BACK IN PLAY
