

Fairway Fertilizing Programs Need to Be Accented

The average golfer plays about 40% of his strokes on the fairways, regardless of how often he thinks he's in the hazards. From the players' viewpoint it's essential that the fairway turf provide good lines for the shots. During the war at many clubs the players haven't been playing golf, which is a game of playing the ball as it lies, but have been lifting the ball around the course to preferred lies.

This procedure removes a test of skill from the game and takes from it part of the competitive fascination. The preferred lie policy has nullified considerable of the basic charm of the game, and as far as preserving turf is concerned, always was a fallacy. Teeing the ball on a particularly good piece of turf, then hacking that away, is no logical manner of promoting growth of good turf.

These points have been getting consideration of good sportsmen of all scoring classes in golf. The attention that has been directed to the unnecessary damage of wartime lie rules in creating a widespread habit of practically teeing the ball on every shot through the fairway, fortunately now has reached a stage of action. Unless the preferred lie rules are abandoned and the bad general habit of nudging a ball onto a good lie is sharply curtailed the fundamental nature of golf will gradually weaken in the U. S.

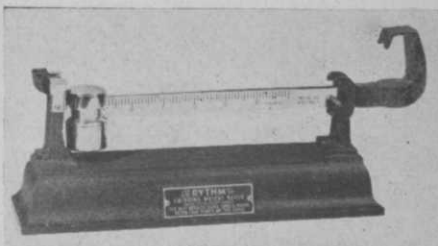
In returning golf to its proper platform of playing the ball as it lies it is certain that accent must be placed on the fairway fertilizing programs. Fairway improvement also is required for assuring pleasure in walking and getting a fair amount of true roll to his shots.

Attention that's been given to weed control also has turned the spotlight on fairway fertilization. Regardless of the effectiveness of weed eliminating chemicals the fact remains that when soil condition is favorable to growth of grass seed the grass is profuse enough to keep weeds at a minimum.

Numerous greenkeepers are of the opinion that too much emphasis has been placed on fairway watering in promoting growth of fairway turf, instead of a proper balance being maintained between fairway watering and fertilization. Post-war practice probably will be changed at many clubs to build up and retain the proper fertility.

In preparing a long-term plan for restoring a course to prewar condition, or for substantially improving it, think carefully and thoroughly about your fairway fertilizing program. It's the weak spot in maintenance programs that otherwise are excellent.—CKB.

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