

Good Tees Mean "Love at First Sight" of a Course

By **TED BOOTERBAUGH**

If you have tees that are ragged and poor, your members can't go out on the first tee and pound themselves on their chests and say, "Boy, this course surely looks to be in fine condition." If your tees are poor, they probably will say, "Why don't we get a greenkeeper around here and get a little grass on these tees?" The first impression of golfers of our golf course is the tee. If you can start them out on a good, clean tee, you are starting them off in a good frame of mind and they will probably go around and feel a little better at the end of their game of golf.

First, a word about construction. We have 2 tees to each hole and each tee averages about 2000 sq. ft., so that we have a total of approximately 4000 sq. ft. of tee area for each hole, and by having the 2 separate tees it makes a little more variety of play on the course, and you can also always have a nice clean tee for special occasions that arise occasionally. So 2 tees, I think, are very important to a private course because on the private course they really demand a lot.

The tees we have are bent grass which I think is the only thing for private courses, because members demand very close cutting on private courses, as we all know, and you can't get by with bluegrass tees which you have to cut higher than you do the bent. I might also say that my good neighbor and friend, Lester Holland, has bent tees and he has had very heavy play, and I think during the war he mentioned once that there was one year he didn't do any replacing of divots at all, and his tees recovered remarkably well.

FERTILIZATION: I usually follow the practice of fertilization in the spring of the year, with 10-6-4 at the rate of about 20 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. The remainder of the season, every 6 weeks we fertilize with organic fertilizer, about 30 pounds per 1000 sq. ft.

I like to topdress 3 times a year, spring, mid-season and fall.

WATERING: We water very heavily twice a week, usually Monday and Friday because those are the days that the play is light, and we make two-and-a-half-hour settings, 2 settings per tee. It takes one man practically all day. Each day we are watering, that is, Monday and Friday, we

use inch hose with the type of sprinkler that breaks the water up into a nice mist so that we are not watering half the rough at the same time.

CUTTING: We cut 2 times a week, Monday and Friday. Those are the off days, and that is when we get our best licks in. We have our schedule figured so that the cutting is done Monday and Friday. We cut five-sixteenths of an inch.

DISEASE AND INSECTS: We treat for dollar spot on tees only when the attack is very severe. During the war we didn't treat for dollar spot at all because of the scarcity of material, and we found that tees recovered. Of course some attacks were quite bad and it took a little while to recover, but they didn't suffer too much. Regarding insects, the only thing we had trouble with in Milwaukee was with angleworms, and we treat each spring with about 3 pounds of arsenate of lead per 1000 sq. ft., which seems to hold them down okay.

CHANGING THE TEE PLATES. We usually change them 3 times a week, and Sundays. When the greens are cut, we change just the short holes that are badly chewed up. When a change is made on a tee, we usually make a change of about 15 feet from the old setting to the new, so that they are not near to a part of the tee that is all disfigured, and then we can come back and make in-between settings, so we can use one tee for two weeks play, and they don't look too bad.

PLUGGING DIVOTS: Repairing damage we usually try to do once a week. We have a plugging strip along each tee, about 40 inches wide and about 50 ft. long, which we use for plugging, and when divots are replaced we water immediately and they take hold very readily.

WEED CONTROL: If the bent is maintained properly, you don't have to worry about weeds in tees, because the bent is progressive enough that it will hold the weeds out of it if it is kept in good condition and healthy and well-maintained. Next spring I plan to use 2, 4-D on them before the weather gets too warm and to follow that up in the fall, because we have got to check weeds.

(Continued on page 65)

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doesn't have to worry about them for a few hours, until ten o'clock or so, when he worries about a change on them. If they run 3 or 4 hours we don't worry, either. We figure on at least two-and-a-half hours.

Al Linkogel, Westwood CC, St. Louis, Mo., after his address on "Tee Maintenance on Private Courses" remarked: In establishment of Zoysia, I don't think you have to worry about crabgrass. I haven't. That was one reason I put it on Number 8 tee. It was down low in the valley and there was very little irrigation and I couldn't keep bent and bluegrass there, and that is one reason why I put Zoysia on that tee. You can never see a spear of crabgrass on Zoysia. It is thick all around it but not on the Zoysia and that is one reason I am so enthused about it.

QUESTION: If Zoysia is a slow-grower, wouldn't that be a disadvantage in putting it on a one-shotter and filling in the divots?

LINKOGEL: No, I also have it on one of our shortest holes. It is 125 yards, a par-3 hole, and they don't take very many divots out of Zoysia grass after it is once established, and with very little care you keep a pretty good tee on your short holes, and this tee of mine is not any too large.

QUESTION: I am under the impression that Zoysia produces a deep mat. Is that not objectionable to the stance of the golfer on a tee?

LINKOGEL: If you cut it too long it will produce a pretty heavy mat, but you want to cut it short because it will stand a short cutting, and you want to keep it cut down short.

At GSA convention

CLUB "HOLDS THE LINE"

Fort Wayne CC Cited by Newspaper as Island in Inflation Sea

Ft. Wayne (Ind.) CC is possibly the best publicized country club in the world. Sec.-mgr. Carl J. Suedoff sees to that. Latest of the smartly-angled stories of such general interest they make good reading in Ft. Wayne newspapers is one on the club holding to the pre-war line of initiation fees and dues.

The piece by Ray L. Scherer in the Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette reads:

"These days when a nickel beer takes a dime and a five thousand dollar house goes for nine, maybe ten, it's time to ring bells when something pops up that costs the same as it did back in 1940 before the dollar climbed on an escalator.

"There is one of those things in Fort Wayne. There's a catch in it, though—not