

## FINE SAND A CAUSE OF GREENS TROUBLE

Tropical Turf Tips from the Everglades Experiment Station, Belle Glade, Fla., says: "On most courses we have visited some of the greens must be watered lightly or they become soggy, with the result that they scald under a hot sun and are readily attacked by fungus diseases. A core of sod from such greens will usually show good root growth only in the upper 2 inches and no roots at all below 4. A really healthy green should have fine roots down to 12 inches.

"Slow absorption of water by the soil is a measure of poor soil structure, improper aeration and adverse conditions for healthy root growth. 'Over-watering is virtually impossible where adequate drainage is built into a green,' according to Fred V. Grau, Director of the USGA Green Section.

"Too often fine sand has been used in the construction and topdressing of greens. Later as organic matter decomposes in the sod, organic acids are formed which cement the fine particles of sand to form a tight layer which neither water nor roots can penetrate. Air space between the soil particles is very important for grass roots. Unless air is present in the soil in about equal proportions with water, the roots fail

to absorb nutrients, even in fertile soil, and root growth is stopped. Even on a properly constructed green the drainage can be ruined by a topdressing of marl, which forms a water-tight layer at once."

"Use coarse sand!" Timely Turf Topics for November, 1946, suggests that Builders' sand (used in cement) has been found to have the desirable characteristics for golf course construction and maintenance.

Grau says the small proportion of fine sand in Builders' sand is not objectionable but that material larger than .185" should be removed by screening.

## WET EARLY SEASON HAS COMPACTED SOILS

There is an extreme possibility that serious trouble will develop this year on many fairways throughout the country due to the heavy rainfall that has been prevalent. The superintendent has been unable to mow as frequently as has been necessary and, when mowing has been accomplished, serious soil compaction has resulted.

There is a likelihood because of this increased soil compaction that *Poa annua* will increase on these fairways due to its habit of growth and of being able to thrive on heavy soils.



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Very restricted root systems can be expected where this condition exists and every effort should be made to aerate the soils of your fairways before the hot days of summer approach. There is a possibility also that if a hot, dry season occurs in the early days of summer many of the grasses existing on these fairways will be killed or severely damaged.

Once these heavily compacted soils become dry, water penetration will almost be impossible and serious surface runoff will result. This will also encourage shallow rooting systems and thus increase the susceptibility of the grass to drought. Aeration of the turf in one form or another will loosen its compacted condition and permit better penetration and utilization of normal rainfall.

This condition also will be prevalent on restricted areas such as tees and putting greens because of the heavy concentration of foot traffic. Aeration and cultivation of these areas is essential in order to afford deeper root penetration.

Careful use of irrigation systems will be essential this summer to encourage deeper root systems.

—*Timely Turf Topics*

#### MASS. GOVERNOR VISITS SPALDING PLANT

A. G. Spalding & Bros. was honored with a special inspection of their Willimansett, Mass. plant when Gov. Robert F. Bradford, of Mass., visited the Springfield district recently.

Accompanying the Governor were Lt.

Gov. Alfred W. Coolidge and eight of the nine members of the Governor's Counsel. It was rumored that the missing member was fishing in Maine.

A golfer himself, Gov. Bradford showed great interest in the various items of sports equipment manufactured at this Spalding plant.

At the completion of the tour, Spalding vice president W. T. Brown presented the Governor with a matched set of Spalding "Registered" golf clubs and each of his party with a dozen Spalding "Dots."

#### WILSON EMPLOYEES IN FACTORY IDEA CAMPAIGN

A new employee suggestion plan entitled "It Pays to be a Schemer" soon will be presented to all Wilson Sporting Goods factories. Under the direction of Fred Bowman, VP and GM, and administered by his personnel aides Ken McCormac and Wes Johnston, the program will present a prize list including a minimum of \$5 for each suggestion accepted. This stipend can extend up to 10% of the estimated annual first year's net savings to the company derived from any idea.

There is no limit on the type of suggestions contributed and the opportunity is open to every employee in every factory. Naturally, the idea is to contribute superior production methods, but these can extend into any phase from sweeping the floor to the finest precision operation. A Suggestion Committee will be appointed to run the show in each factory and will set up a mode of operation.



Gov. Bradford of Massachusetts is shown new woods by John Morin, pres., Spalding's employees' union. Big Bill Brown, Spalding, v.p., Sen. Barry, Spalding's Frank Williamson, Jerry Douglas and Jim Long and members of the governor's staff are among those present.