

What to Plan for Course Maintenance Building

By R. L. MITCHELL

Supt., The Edison Club, Rexford, N.Y.

The building or buildings used in the maintenance of the golf course play an important part in how well or efficiently the course is kept. Many times the use of buildings totally unsuited, or even the lack of any building for some purposes, add to the other difficulties facing the greenkeeper in maintaining the course.

The first consideration, either in constructing new or remodeling old, should be what are the various uses for which it will have to provide. In general space for the following should be provided: greenkeeper's office, employees' lockerroom, repair of equipment, painting of equipment, garage for tractors, trucks, mowers and other rolling equipment, tool room for hand tools such as shovels, rakes, hose, sprinklers, etc., storage for seed, chemicals and fertilizers and both storage and mixing floor for compost and tennis court clays, if tennis courts are among the club facilities.

The office should provide ample space for the keeping and filing of various records, blueprints, reference books, etc. and for the storage of such tools and equipment as soil testing kits, levels, etc., that only the greenkeeper uses.

The employees' lockerroom should have a locker for each employee, to store clothes, boots, lunch and any special tools that each individual may use only himself. Benches, a table and shower and toilet facilities should be provided.

The repair shop should be large enough to accommodate 2 of the largest pieces of equipment plus room to work on them, in addition to the various grinders, welders, tool and parts storage. The paint shop should accommodate at least the largest piece of equipment. It should be separated from other parts of the building so that a spray gun can be used for painting without covering everything other than what is being painted. If repairs, painting, pruning, maintenance of skating rink or other work is to be efficiently carried out in the winter it is necessary that the office locker room, repairshop and paint shop be insulated and well heated.

With an adequate repair and paint shop, garage facilities for trucks, tractors, and mowers and other rolling equipment need be only storage space. However a wood

or concrete floor is a great aid in keeping the area neat and clean. Heat provided in the area occupied by truck, snowplow or other motorized equipment used in the winter is of value in starting, thawing out frozen brakes, etc. Doors should be provided on both front and rear, large enough to admit the largest tractor gang mower, as it is impossible to back a set of gang mowers out of a garage.

Protected Storage Space

The tool room needs adequate space to provide racks for all tools, such as rakes, shovels, hose, sprinklers, etc., in order that they may be kept neat and orderly. The storage room for seed and chemicals should be vermin-proof to protect the seed and locked to protect persons from poisonous chemicals. It should be large enough to store at least the maximum amount on hand at any one time.

Fertilizer storage should have a wooden floor, or other provision to keep the material from getting damp and caking. It might well be combined with compost and tennis court clay storage. The space for the fertilizer, compost and clay storage, in addition to allowing space for storing one full season's supply, should provide room enough to mix and screen these materials. A concrete floor for mixing and screening is a necessity. In addition to the above, room must be provided for storing items such as tee benches, flag poles, etc. in winter.

After deciding the various uses to which the building will be put, the next consideration will be the type of material used in building. Of course any of the various materials such as wood, stone, concrete block, brick or prefabricated buildings are suitable. If the building is to be located near or in view of the club or locker house, it probably would be best to have it of the same type of material and colors as they are from an artistic standpoint.

If you are forced to use an old building or buildings, as I am, you can only keep the various needs in mind and fit or remodel the building as near as possible to fit your needs. If an entirely new building, it should suit your needs very nearly 100 per cent. It can be one or several buildings such as, office, locker room, repair and paint shop in one, garage and tool room in another

(Continued on page 84)

BI-CAL

A Mixture consisting of
65% Calomel,
32% Corrosive Sublimate
and
3% Activating Agent

CALOMEL
•
BICHLORIDE
OF
MERCURY

METALSALTS

CORPORATION

200 WAGARAW ROAD
HAWTHORNE, N. J.

HAWthorne 7-4422
New York: PENnsylvania 6-2626



wind won't blow (as hard anyway) in the lee of the back slope to a green, or woods. Desiccation is greater on top of a slope than at the bottom if both are exposed to wind. Weather on a north slope is less changeable than on a southern exposure. All very local weather is constant in its relation to local and regional weather. (Once the relationship is established very local weather is easily forecast.) These relationships should be observed and determined by thermometer, then recorded and used. The very local weather can be changed by man to be helpful, examples are to limb up trees, remove brush, or place brush or snow fences.

Regional weather is picked up by a good barometer from 10 to 14 hours or at least several hours before it appears. Nothing can be done about it and for the most part it is helpful whether it is actually used as a help or not. If the forecast is for adverse weather conditions, the resultant cost can be lessened, and if favorable weather is forecast much advantage can be gained.

The foregoing has only touched on the subject of weather and its influence on golf course management. Remember there is weather in winter as well as summer, and it is there for the superintendent to use, free of charge. Weather is easy to blame but it may blow back or make you appear "all wet". With the shortage and high cost of labor, materials and equipment, a golf club cannot afford to miss any opportunity offered by the weather.

Maintenance Building

(Continued from page 46)

and the compost, fertilizer and other storage in still another. I would prefer to have it one building, in order to have all the various inside operations such as repairs, screening compost, etc. in one place.

If I were to build a new building, I would prefer it of wood; a long, rectangular, one story building. The sections for office, employees' lockers, repair and paint shop would be well insulated, heated, have running water, and a wooden floor, rather than concrete. The garage would have concrete floors and doors on both sides as mentioned before. The remaining storage spaces would have concrete flooring but with doors on only one side.

I have not attempted to give any actual costs or dimensions as they will vary with the locality, type of material used in building and amount of equipment, tools and materials necessary for the upkeep of your golf course, and if given would be suitable for only my particular course, not yours. Rather I have tried to give you a few things to think about before you construct a maintenance building to suit the needs of your golf course.