

dumped in piles alongside the green, and is spread from shovels with a long, sweeping, quick swing. Experienced workmen can do a green quickly, and will spread the topdressing uniformly over the surface.

Working In Topdressing

Topdressing is worked into the turf with the back of rakes or by dragging a flexible steel mat over the surface. When the green is rough from innumerable slight saucer-like depressions, the rope handle for dragging the mat should be attached to the extreme ends of the long side, so the mat does not flex and follow the contours. Then it will drag topdressing off the high spots, and deposit it in the depressions. More frequent topdressing is justified on such greens to develop a true surface. The rate should be slightly heavier also. For use on greens with true surfaces, the rope dragline should be attached to the short end of the flexible steel mat so it will follow contours when dragged across the green to mat the topdressing into the turf. After the topdressing disappears, any pebbles or coarse debris left on the surface is removed with a dandelion rake.

From 1 to 1½ yards per 5000 sq. ft. of topdressing can be used on creeping and colonial bent greens in early spring and late fall. Not more than ½ to ¾ yd. should be used at other times. More than that may smother the grass and retard its growth. Greens of velvet bent, or those with a high percentage of it should never receive more than ½ to ¾ yard to 5000 square feet at any one time. It is impossible to work more than that into the turf. Larger rates smother the velvet and retard its growth.

Greens with heavily matted turf should not get topdressing until after the surplus mat of grass has been removed. Heavy topdressing buries matted grass, but does not eliminate it. The buried grass makes the surface spongy and undergoes rapid decomposition during hot, wet weather. Whenever the green is too wet, the products of decomposition are injurious to grass and are a contributing cause of the injury usually called "scald" for want of a better name. When the grass is not too badly matted, the surplus can be taken off at one time by cross-raking and close cutting one or more times as need be.

This operation is best done in early spring, about the time growth starts. It should not be attempted in hot weather. The green should be fertilized and topdressed immediately after the mat is removed. An entire season may be required to remove the surplus grass on greens with an excessive amount of mat. Instead of using rakes, the better way is to brush or comb the turf once a week throughout the season. Brushing can be more severe in cool than in hot weather. No topdressing

should be used until the turf is tight so the topdressing will make contact with the soil.

Greens received very little topdressing during the war because of the manpower shortage. Even before that time, the tendency was to topdress less frequently. This was the case even on the vegetatively planted strains such as Washington, which was supposed to need topdressing every 3 or 4 weeks to keep the turf tight. Many greens have not been topdressed for 3 to 4 years, and some for a much longer time. Putting surfaces are still good where daily close cutting is practiced and where brushes are used to prevent mat formation. Discarding front rollers is a distinct help in that regard, and should be done wherever possible. In other cases the comb should be used on Toro mowers, and the steel brush on other makes. With a good tight turf, one topdressing in the spring and another in fall should be sufficient.

Soil structure in the greens on some courses is bad, and sand, peat or clay layers cause trouble on other greens. More frequent topdressing at the maximum rate which the turf can withstand is justifiable in these cases until a good soil structure is developed. Deep forking or drilling in the spring and fall before applying topdressing is desirable also.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Golf Balls (Range) for sale in 100 dozen lots. \$1.20 per doz. and up. Wright Golf Range, 80 Federal Street, Boston 10, Mass.

Pro or Pro-Gkpr. with 9 years' experience desires position, any location. A-1 references and credit. Married; 2 children. Address Ad 501, c/o Golfdom.

Experienced, successful Professional—will consider change for 1948. 40 years old; present position over eight years. Available for eastern interview in July; western in May. Veteran. Address Ad 502, c/o Golfdom.

Greenkeeper—36, wishes to change jobs. 15 years a greenkeeper; some construction experience. J. R. Walton, 611 Morning St., Worthington, Ohio. Phone Columbus Fr 2-6856.

Pro Manager—16 years' experience. Available immediately. Excellent credit and references. Address Ad 503, c/o Golfdom.

Wanted to Lease—an 18 hole golf course. Write stating terms and location to "Scotty", Ad 504, c/o Golfdom.

Expert Club Repair Service. Clubs refinished, rebuilt. Quick service on all types of repair work. Write for price list. E. L. Wilson, Twin Oaks, Route 1, Box 31, Batavia, Illinois.

Reprocessed Driving Range Balls @ \$3.25 per dozen. Address National Specialties, 5110 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Wanted to Lease—with option to purchase, 18 hole golf course now operating. Prefer year-round operation. Excellent financial and credit standing. 15 years' experience. Address Ad 505, c/o Golfdom.

For Sale: Range Balls. Top grade, rewashed. S. R. Gladstone, 6 Mapes Terrace, Newark, New Jersey.

WANTED: Any quantity slightly cut golf balls. \$1 per dozen—no cut \$1.75 per dozen—Cash will be sent promptly and we pay express charges. Arrow Distributors, 2318 Pitkin Ave., Brooklyn 7, N. Y.