



KNICKERS AT PGA NATIONAL

Howard Scoggins, who came back from the ETO to go into golf playing equipment and apparel business, is urging pros to give golfers the "new look" by bringing knickers back into popularity. Howard lines up knicker-clad gentlemen of the PGA ensemble at the pros' Dunedin National course. L to R: Johnny Spence, Charles Cross, Albert Polagyi, Howard Scoggins, Robert Dale and Frank Sproggell.

LEVELING FAIRWAYS

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irrigation, and by the use of fertilizer. Turf coverage was obtained within a few weeks.

Nothing further was done during the war, or afterwards, until the early fall of 1947. By that time many of the fairways were very bumpy, but the leveled experimental area was still smooth and in excellent condition for play. Leveling operations were resumed and are to be continued until all the peat areas have been reworked.

Early spring is a satisfactory time but early fall is the most convenient time to do the work because play falls off then. It can be done in early spring but golfers are more resentful then because they are eager to start play after the long period of inactivity due to winter. Fall operations should start right after Labor Day so turf coverage will be obtained before winter stops growth. Half the fairway, in a lengthwise direction, can be done one year and the other half the next year. This gives players some turf for play each year.

One of the accompanying pictures shows the surface and the turf on the experimental area more than six years after discing and leveling. Another shows the bumpy and uneven surface on an original peat fairway. The others show the farm disc in operation and the discd area before leveling with drag or spike-tooth harrow.

Suggests Warm-up Nets At First Tees

John M. Brennan in his Off the Fairway column in Long Island City (NY) Star & Journal quotes Spencer Murphy, pro at Glen Oaks GC, and Emil Spivak, Charlie Margrett and other members in advocating nets near the first tees of clubs that haven't practice fairways for "warming-up" players before starting on rounds. The pro and his members told of Willie Hoppe in attaining his talent, practicing eight hours a day, and of golf's star pros and amateurs practicing plenty. But the high handicap player who needs to shake out the kinks comes out to the club, finds his partners impatiently awaiting him and starts off hopelessly awkward and cold.

Brennan's column continues:

"Spencer Murphy, the able pro at Glen Oaks who recently suggested a practice fairway for every golf club to enable players to "warm up" as in other games before embarking on a match, suggested that clubs lacking suitable space for a practice fairway could use several driving nets, preferably near the first tee. The members waiting to tee off could avail themselves of a chance to unlimber in the nets. There the members of the futile foursome could shape themselves into something more resembling Ben Hogan with a few preliminary flourishes as they await the call from the starter.

"Margrett likes the idea of providing nets and declared that the high-handicap players would greatly benefit from such innovations at the other clubs. The appeal of the nets would be tremendous. The salutary effects would be few, to say the least. Instead of starting his trek over 18 holes cold, as customarily, our harassed friend would, by a few minutes with the ball in the net, smooth out muscles that had become moldy during the week of physical inactivity and inculcate more confidence in a timorous mind. He would, in truth, be on the ball.

"The cost of installing these nets would be infinitesimal compared to the expedition of traffic on a busy weekend. Having warmed its several swings, each foursome would play better golf from the beginning and with keener anticipation and far more enjoyment. They'd move along more rapidly. They'd slice and hook with less exaggeration. Soon they would be paring strokes from their scores and handicaps—getting from the 100 class to the 90 and even 80 category.

"Exploring the potentials of these driving nets further, it might not be a poor idea if the pro or his assistant were present to correct any alarming symptoms that might have developed over a week of inactivity. The interminable interlude from Sunday

to Saturday can develop a lot of wrinkles in a player's swing. It is amazing what a little vagrancy will do to even a well-organized golf swing."

SOUTHERN FAIRWAYS

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ficial in clay soils than in sandy soils. The beneficial effects, if any, of lime are not always apparent to the eye, but lime often increases drought resistance. Here, again, the best method of determining the need for lime, unless the P.H. value is unusually low, is by test strip applications. In general, if the P.H. is below 5.8 in sandy soils or below 6.2 in clay soils, the chances are lime will be beneficial.

Bermuda Mowing Needs

Fortunately, Bermuda grass will thrive better under continuous close mowing than most grasses—and it must be mowed closely and frequently, particularly during periods of heavy growth, to prevent the development of deep nap and spongy condition. Good Bermuda fairways in lush growth will need to be mowed twice a week, with the mowing unit set practically as low as it will adjust. During periods of drought the height of cut should be raised.

Crab grass is probably the worst weed on most southern fairways. The best control of course, where possible, is the establishment, through fertilization and good management, of a thick enough Bermuda turf early in the spring to crowd out the crab grass seedlings. Failing this, or if crab grass is already established, the best control under most conditions seems to be the use of sodium arsenite. This is applied at the rate of 4 to 6 ounces per 1,000 sq. ft. as a spray; or, in slightly heavier applications as a dust. The soil should always be thoroughly moist to a depth of 3 to 4 inches before application of sodium arsenite. Two or three applications are usually necessary for complete eradication. This treatment should be followed by fertilizer to stimulate quick recovery of the Bermuda grass.

Milarsenite gives equally good results and is recommended to be used at the rate of 500 lbs. per acre for each application.

Sand spur, Dallas grass and several other grass-like weeds are also controlled with sodium arsenite.

2, 4-D has been as much a life-saver in the south as in the north, eliminating to a great degree some of our worst broad-leaved fairway weeds, such as dandelion, buckthorn, lippia, pig weed, pennywort and under some conditions dichondra, or dollar weed. Some injury to Bermuda and other native grasses has occurred with mid-summer applications of 2, 4-D, particularly in the lower south and we believe

it is safer to apply 2, 4-D in the cooler months of mid-spring or early fall.

Bermuda grass, like most grasses, requires proper aeration to thrive and form a deep, drought resistant root system. Any cotton farmer can tell you that the more Bermuda is cultivated, the faster it grows and spreads. Southern greenkeepers have generally followed the practice of thoroughly renovating and cultivating their fairways in early spring, using a straight disc harrow or rotary hoe cultivator. However, these tools must be used with care and when the soil conditions are just right or playing conditions may be bad for a period of several weeks after the renovation. The new West Point aerifier should prove to be a far better implement for this purpose since it accomplishes the desired aeration and cultivation without materially disturbing good playing conditions. Wherever it has been used so far, gratifying results have been reported. This machine should certainly prove invaluable in Bermuda fairway management, particularly on the hard, red clay soils so prevalent in the mid-South and the very fine grained sandy soils of the Coast. Of course when poor aeration is due to poor drainage, then tiling, ditching, incorporation of coarser materials, or change of grade is the only satisfactory solution.

A great majority of southern courses are without adequate facilities for fairway watering—yet, when good management and adequate fertilization is practiced good Bermuda fairway turf can and is being maintained without artificial watering. However, fairway watering is certainly beneficial during long periods of drought anywhere, and on some extremely sandy courses along the Coastal Plain and in Florida, artificial watering at times is practically a necessity. However, a good fairway watering system is not always an unmixed blessing and must be used judiciously, for over-watering will often cause the predominance of coarser, less desirable grasses such as carpet grass and St. Augustine grass. Over-watering may also result in a too springy, soft, shallow-rooted and weedy turf. In cases where greens superintendents may have to choose between water and adequate amounts of fertilizers because of their budgets, the wise choice in most cases would be in favor of the fertilizer.

Pest and Disease Problems

Fortunately, Bermuda grass is not subject to many diseases. Leaf spot is the worst one and this usually attacks seriously only in the latter part of the growing season and results only in discoloration and arrested growth and, under good fairway management, very seldom permanently damages the turf to any extent. Several