



McLaren makes sure aerifier is properly adjusted as preparations are made to aerify all greens.

Hydraulic Lift Simplifies Operation of Aerifier

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The aerifier has developed into as important a piece of maintenance equipment as we have on hand at the Oakwood Club. The time is not too far off when we may well look back and puzzle over how we were able to get along without it. There is little of the course that receives yearly maintenance that has not been covered by the aerifier. It has been found effective on not only fairways and greens but tees as well and in each instance we have been pleasantly surprised by the results obtained when we have put it to uses other than that for which it was generally planned.

The aerifier has been ideal for perforating a green before sprigging in Arlington bent stolons. Lime and fertilizer were applied to the green before sprigging in the stolons and later topdressed. In the past it has been difficult to cultivate, and seed a tee and keep it in play. The aerifier makes it possible to aerify the tee, seed it, and keep it in play without having all of the seed tramped out because the seed which falls in the aerifier holes has

a chance to become established and will withstand the traffic.

Working on small areas such as the tees and some of the greens presented a problem when using two pieces of equipment. In order to avoid too much tracking with heavy equipment and an excessive amount of turning we have cut off the drawbar and the V-shaped part of the aerifier frame and by adding some pieces of angle iron have attached it directly to the hydraulic lift of the tractor. This has made the tractor and the aerifier one unit, has simplified the operation considerably and has helped to overcome the difficulties previously encountered.

The pictures at the left do not show all of the details of construction which make it possible to attach the aerifier to the hydraulic lift but the following will give you an idea of what we did to make this possible. After cutting off the drawbar and the front part of the frame a piece of angle iron was attached to each side of the back of the aerifier and one support was placed in the center front. Two strips of steel connect the front support to the support with the angles at the back. In addition there are two angle irons fastened to the aerifier frame on either side of the front support which are attached to the lower arms of the tractor completing the lift attachment which makes one unit of the tractor and the aerifier.

The hydraulic lift makes it possible to start aerifying at any given point or to stop aerifying at the edge of the tee or green. Depth of aerification is easily adjustable by screwing the reel up or down when the aerifier is off the ground. In cases of excessive compaction where additional weight is needed sandbags can be placed across the back of the frame to give as much weight as is needed. We have increased the utility value and simplified the operation of the aerifier by making this direct attachment to the tractor and as a result it has developed into one of our more important pieces of course maintenance equipment.

Advantage and ease of operation of hydraulic lift is illustrated in the scenes below which show aerifier at work and machine lifted at edge of green. Starting and stopping at any given point avoids complication of turning with spoons still in the ground.

