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OTSPT 400 N. Michigan Ave.

Green Section Suggests "Best Playing Conditions"

Green Section of the USGA sets forth "standards of maintenance suggested for best playing conditions." The Green Section's observations:

Better turf for better golf is the goal of all pest control programs (weeds, diseases, insects, and small animals), but the development of the most desirable types of turf for golf depends also upon skill in management. The characteristics of turf affecting the ball in play are highly important. Close cutting, maximum density, and firmness with resiliency are 3 terms most applicable to turf of tournament quality on all but the roughs. These guides to maintenance are suggested:

TURF ON TEES should be firm to give confidence in the stance and be resilient to permit ready insertion of the peg tee. Turf should be cut sufficiently close to allow the ball to stand clear of uncut grass (1/2 to 3/4 inch). Large flattened tees permit cutting with power units (fairway mowers) and frequent rotation of markers. Creeping or spreading grasses largely are selfhealing. Generous fertilization, improved

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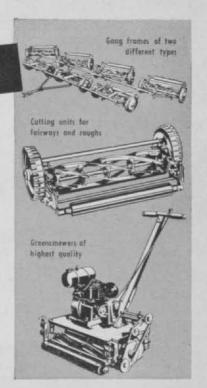
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soil texture, and minimum irrigation consistent with good turf are guides to better turf on teeing grounds.

TURF ON FAIRWAYS should be firm to provide a "short roll" for the ball, resilient to facilitate walking, and of maximum density to hold the ball up so that it does not sink down into the grass. Long blades of grass which partially hide the ball destroy the player's confidence and tend to affect the shot. Thin, open turf requires closer cutting than dense, firm turf, to produce the desired lie, which is provided by choice of adapted species, generous balanced feeding, minimum irrigation, and mechanical treatments to promote deep penetration of moisture, nutrients and roots, and to avoid "fluffiness," "spongi-ness," and "matting." Top-flight golfers have stated their preference for the playing qualities exemplified by well-kept (1) Bermuda turf, (2) fescue turf, and (3) bentgrass turf. The worst enemy of good shots on the fairway is deep, soft, lush, overwatered turf. A small divot usually indicates better playing conditions than a large divot.

PUTTING SURFACES should be firm to avoid footprinting and should be re-



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silient so that a properly-played shot will hold, but should be sufficiently solid so that a poorly-played shot will roll over. The surface should be smooth and true as a billiard table. Density of the turf should be so great that individual grass blades are crowded to a true vertical position. "Graininess," "sponge" or "mat" destroy accuracy and the fun in golf. Governing factors include: choice of grass, soil texture, drainage and aeration, fertility level, and watering practices.

Alternate Teaching Routine with Playing Lessons

By HUGH M. GORDON
Professional, Roanoke (Va.) Country Club

"I stood a spell on one foot fust, And then a spell on t'other And on which one I felt the wust, I couldn't ha' told you nuther."

That was me at the end of a long day of teaching golf continued without a break through the whole season.

Stoop, replace the ball and tee; pivot,

