

Learn the Hard Way to Make Greenkeeper's Work Easier

We Learned from War-Time Maintenance Conditions

BY ROBERT S. GREENFIELD
Wilshire CC, Los Angeles, Calif.

The lack of help during the war years was an education that has been paying dividends ever since. For example: early morning irrigation of the greens has paid off in a third less fungus attacks, lower water bills, and better conditioned turf. The regular section men watering the greens know they are responsible for this important job and, of course, can see what they are doing, which wasn't the case with the night watering crew.

The new equipment since the war has been of great help in getting the work done well, and economically. I have been greatly impressed with the new power mowers, and the ease in which they can be taken down for repairs. One wonders why this streamlining had to wait for a war.

We at Wilshire have our share of weeds; mostly plantains and dandelions. The use of 2, 4-D has been very successful, and most of our fairways are practically clear of weeds. We are also working on a promising preparation for crabgrass.

The most important lesson I've learned, due to war-time labor shortages, is the tendency to question our maintenance practices. One that seems to deserve serious consideration is whether we have gone too far with routine top-dressing of the greens without really knowing if the turf needed this help. The greens at Wilshire have had no regular top-dressings such as prepared compost since 1941, yet our greens have a better than average rating in this section.

When one considers that our greens have been regularly top-dressed two and three times a year for 20 years, isn't it reasonable to ask "Why not give the grass a chance to digest all that good soil and compost that has been built up through the years?"

We find the roots are down deeper as

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Reduce Work to Improve Course Maintenance

BY WILLIAM STEWART
Hillcrest CC, Los Angeles, Calif.

One of the most obvious things about efficiency at a golf club hasn't caught up with the greenkeeper yet. The course is being played by successful businessmen who have learned how to reduce the time and labor required to handle their jobs properly. If they hadn't learned that they wouldn't be able to get out on the course.

Yet the greenkeeper continues to have long hours and is available day and night for emergencies that arise in a manufacturing plant that is dependent on the unpredictable performances of nature. Costs of labor and of everything used in course maintenance have risen. So has the golfers' demands in fine turf standards.

The only answer the greenkeeper seems to know in meeting the new conditions is to work harder and longer himself and to put to use, as far as his budget and other factors will permit, the advances science has contributed to turf growing. He hasn't had time to study how to save time.

He's beginning to get into that phase of his work and right at the start he discovers that revising the architecture of many golf courses is not only a time-saver for the greenkeepers but a money-saver for the club and assurance of greater enjoyment to its members.

Traps that catch the shots of duffers already adequately penalized by inability to hit the ball fairly far and straight account for a lot of wasted time in course operations. Many greenkeepers would be surprised at how much supervisory time they are compelled to give to the maintenance of such traps.

Labor, Greenkeeper Problem

Often when there is work requiring the greenkeeper's expert attention he has to take time away from it to make certain that inadequate tees on short holes are patched or otherwise repaired, properly.

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Park Executives Hold Annual Conference

The Midwest Institute of Park Executives will hold their eighth annual Educational Conference at the park district administration building, 621 Garfield St., Oak Park, Ill. on each Friday evening at 8 o'clock from March 4th to April 1st.

The program includes the following subjects:

March 4 — "Lawn Construction and Maintenance."

March 11 — "Planting Technique of Trees and Shrubs, including Maintenance."

March 18 — "Maintenance of Park Athletic Facilities."

March 25 — "Practical Planning Standards for Park and Recreation Areas."

April 1 — "Proper Care of Park Equipment."

Speakers who are authorities in their respective fields are being selected for each subject. The conference is open to all park, cemetery, golf course men, nurserymen, and greenkeepers who are interested in all or any of the subjects.

LEARN THE HARD WAY

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they reach for what they need, instead of feeding on the surface applications as they used to do. We give particular attention to the healing of ball marks on the greens, and the careful use of water so there is no chance for the players to track up the greens. Our putting surfaces are true and uniform, giving satisfaction to those who pay the bills, and we all feel pretty good about it.

REDUCE WORK

(Continued from page 48)

One to whom golf course work is theory might say that the greenkeeper should have men trained and responsible for this work so it would be done as routine without the superintendent checking up on it. But such a critic doesn't know the class of labor a superintendent often gets at what the club is willing to pay. The superintendent is lucky to have a few reliable old-timers on his force. If he hasn't, the superintendent will have to

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be everywhere at once or risk neglect or injury of the grass.

Rough is coming back as an interesting and fundamental feature of first class architecture. Tree planting and care and the removal of leaves and fallen branches also are becoming more important factors in play at good private clubs. Those additional planning and supervisory details of maintenance increase the demands on the superintendent's time just when he should have more time available for investigating and applying new developments in grass strains, fertilizing and weed-proofing practice to provide his members with the closest possible approach to protection in turf.

In fighting to save time and money not only the elimination of some traps but redesigning contours of other bunkers for machine maintenance is necessary. That's a job for the architectural specialist rather than the greenkeeper and by now the architect either is aware of the requirements of machine maintenance or he never will be.

At most of the better courses which were built some years ago there are serious faults in the drainage system. So at these

courses where the superintendent should be devoting most of his specialized knowledge to the complex problems of turf culture he has to give considerable time to being a ditch-diggers' boss. Heaven only knows how much work and time have been lost by greenkeepers looking for sections of the drainage and watering systems because the original maps, if any, were lost before the present superintendent came to the club.

We all talk about elevating the status of the greenkeeper so he'll be recognized for the load of responsibility he carries in maintaining an expensive and complicated plant but we don't give enough attention to considering that the successful members of our clubs have made good in their own businesses by getting their work organized so they escape unnecessary details and can apply themselves to the type of problems and decisions that call for an executive's superior qualifications.

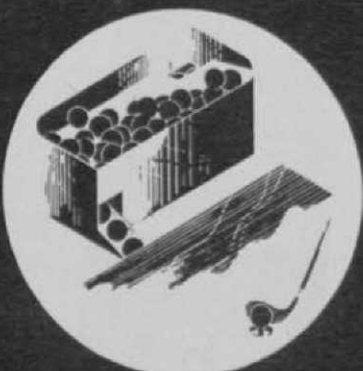
Every greenkeeping superintendent who is at a good club realizes many times that he is swamped by detail thus compelled to sidetrack some considerable improvement he wants to make for the good of his club. His problem is to minim-

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ize the tasks that require his feet, face and hands and get for himself and his club more time for using his brains.

EXHIBITS and DEMONSTRATIONS

(Continued from page 35)

large capacity baskets powered by 4 cycle gasoline motors. Rotary brushes in front of the unit gather debris while the main brush draws it into a large catcher. This unique construction makes this more than a lawn sweeper. It can be used inside as well as outside, on paved and unpaved curbed areas and is ideal for around the clubhouse use.

THE SKINNER IRRIGATION CO. — Exhibit will feature the new No. 63 snap valve, a double valve which permits the watering unit to be taken out of the ground from above ground level for cleaning of the valve seat. By so doing the secondary valve closes leaving the complete system under pressure at all times permitting fairway watering to continue during the cleaning operation. In addition a complete line of snap valves and fairway, green and tee sprinklers will be on display. Special attention is called to the

Spray-Lo sprinkler, an ideal sprinkler for tees because it throws a very low angle stream, practically unaffected by the wind and uses a low volume of water on pressures as low as five pounds.

MALLINCKRODT CHEMICAL WORKS—Data sheets, pamphlets and informational literature along with a special measuring glass will be handed out at the exhibit which will show Calo Clor, Calogreen, Auragreen and the various other Mercurials used as turf fungicides. The data sheets carry an explanation of Brown Patch control and the most effective remedies, lists detailed methods of dry and wet application with special sections on snow mold and earth worm eradication.

DR. LAWSON BROUGHT GOLF

(Continued from page 42)

do the job? There was no money in the treasury to pay a professional, or even for a person as a manager. Not wanting to see his work wasted, he consented to continue management of the golf club without salary and to be green-chairman.

But the completion of the layout did not bring an end to his difficulties. The up-



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