

Superintendents Report Heavy Work Schedule for Fall

By **HERB GRAFFIS**

Two factors account for prospect of far more than the normal amount of work on golf courses this late summer and fall.

One is that in many sections the weather gave courses hell. Blistering heat, drought, humidity, cloudbursts, wet springs and long periods of hot summer winds day and night damaged courses that usually are in superb condition. There was a complete variety of adverse weather to make superintendents and green-chairmen say "amen" to the reverent reflection of a veteran greenkeeper who said "it's a tough business when the members expect you to out-guess God."

The other factor is the foresight of club officials and course superintendents in protecting against possibility of a general business recession being reflected in curtailment of course budgets. When business booms recede and club revenue naturally diminishes, economy waves hit maintenance budgets. Grass doesn't know how business is. It must be kept in good condition to attract and satisfy players, regardless of variations in club income.

The business slump of 1929-33 and the wartime period when the minimum of care could be given to golf course turf caused later abnormally high requirements of repair and reconditioning work. A lot of this needed work never has been done because of high labor and material costs following the war.

Greenkeepers know this and want to get courses in shape to withstand the threat of another period of extravagant "economy."

But the threat of neglected work isn't appreciated enough by club officials for the simple reason that very few of them stay on their unpaid onerous jobs long enough to have the same sort of solid

foundation for keen business judgment they have in their commercial or professional duties.

Fall Work Outlined

From representative course superintendents GOLFDOM has received outlines of fall plans. Considering the long hours and troubles of superintendents' work this troublesome summer we got a lot more responses to our inquiries than we expected. That may be an indication that superintendents are organizing their work so they have time for thinking, planning and appraising their jobs instead of sweating and worrying on routine and emergencies.

A heavy fall program is planned for Interlachen at Minneapolis by Erich Pahl. Interlachen's standard of turf long has been rated exceptionally high but Pahl, one of the country's star greenkeepers, had seen indications that the fine old course needed plenty of modernizing to maintain its rating. He planned to resod four greens and had his nursery cut down to putting green length. High heat and humidity — the worst in years in the Twin Cities — had such a bad effect on the nursery sod Pahl abandoned his greens sodding program.

He is going to alter the Interlachen watering system, extending some lines and moving others to the south so fairways can be kept properly watered against the prevailing south wind. Pahl also plans rebuilding several tees to level them and change grades for easier maintenance.

Water system revision will be prominent on the course work programs of many clubs this fall. The severe drought in several districts subjected old equipment and systems to heavy service that revealed serious defects.

Since the earlier systems were installed there have been many improvements made

in design and equipment of the systems which assure better distribution of water and greater economy in operation. With pipe and other equipment being available again at prices clubs can afford general overhauling of watering systems is coming in for over-due attention.

Fairways to be Renovated

The almost miraculous performance of 2, 4-D in weed elimination has put fall fertilizing programs in the spotlight. Many smaller clubs found after 2, 4-D's elimination of weeds they didn't have any too much fairway turf left. Seeding and fertilizing to develop good turf so it would keep weeds crowded out has become a "must" at hundreds of courses this fall.

At Interlachen Pahl has good fairways and is giving them 5-10-5 fertilizer at the rate of 400 lbs. an acre this fall as logical maintenance. He's also replacing a few dead trees and planting trees in bare spots where golf architecture and landscaping recommend such planting.

Pahl says he's better off than a lot of clubs for equipment. He is enthusiastic about the Model T Rotoette for cultivating flower gardens and loosening hard sand traps. He says that this fall he'll probably take the sod off a green or two, give the soil a good roto-tilling and replace the sod. He'll thoroughly spike and topdress his other greens.

Orville W. Young, superintendent at Moraine CC, Dayton, O., has areas on his splendidly maintained course that don't suit him or the members and he's going to correct them this fall. In 1934 a fairway watering system was installed through the center of Moraine fairways. A bent mixture was sown in seeding over the pipe trenches. Bent has taken over most of the fairways.

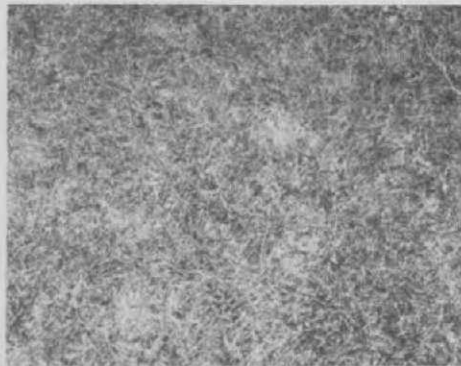
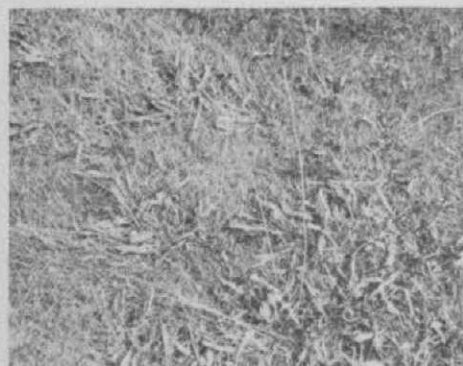
On the outer edges, however, bluegrass and fescue remain. These grasses can't stand the close mowing ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) of the bent fairways so Young is going to put Highland bent on these edges in September. Bent fairways and tees in Ohio took a beating during the first two hot humid weeks of July. Young got through in good shape but like many other top men in turf management lost some turf.

Bent Fairways Studied

Reports from different points point to the necessity of changes in bent strains and maintenance practices before greenkeepers get to be nearly unanimous in wanting bent fairways wherever that grass will grow. Cutting, disease, watering and fertilizing problems of bent fairways mean changes from the bluegrass and fescue procedure. Bent areas in fairway turf today have spread so a large part of numerous fairways is bent of a type that is satisfactory for players' footing and not altogether satisfactory for lies and divots. The objections of uncertain footing and huge divots also apply to bent tees of strains that have been satisfactory on the greens.

Heavy play this season has given tees so much of a beating that there'll probably be more tee enlarging and remodeling this fall than in any other year. Private courses, as well as daily fee and public courses, have found this year that unless they changed tee plates twice a day on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays their short hole tees were damaged badly enough to require major repair jobs. In many cases lack of nursery sod and manpower prevented prompt and proper attention to tee repair.

In some cases tees of the customary rectangular design and slightly elevated



Closeup showing near 100% weed kill after 2, 4-D application at Moraine CC, Dayton, Ohio. (L) Broad leaf weeds in rough before being sprayed in late June. (R) One month after application of 2, 4-D.

construction are to be displaced by remodeled tees on fairway level where drainage will be O.K.

Drainage Work Extensive

An extensive amount of drainage system enlargement, repair and modernization is scheduled for this fall. Ralph DeMase, supt. of the Hampshire CC, Mamaroneck, N.Y., is one of the many who has planned tee alteration and drainage system improvement before snowfall.

Obvious inadequacies of drainage systems which kept courses out of play following spring rains and summer cloudbursts by no means account for the considerable drainage work on fall programs. The educational campaigning of Noer and Grau at the turf short courses and the highly valuable address of G. O. Mott of Purdue at the National Greenkeeping Supts. Assn. conference last February directed attention to faulty drainage as the cause of considerable costly turf trouble.

Clearer understanding of the requirements of golf course drainage in relation to soil conditioning and maintenance of good turf has led to planning considerable revision of drainage systems this fall. Surface and subsurface drainage both are to be corrected at many clubs. Easing in labor market is reflected in much of this work. With small trenching machines available for fast, neat and economical work, price of the underground work is in line.

Correction of surface drainage in numerous instances is coordinated with course architectural changes. Architects report a record amount of remodeling work. Quite a volume of this work is at smaller clubs where they have discovered that architectural fees are not so stiff they are beyond the reach of the 9 hole clubs.

Smaller Clubs Improving

Demands of the players in smaller cities and towns and increased volume of play account for a great deal of fall work at such plants as the Fargo (N.D.) CC where Arthur J. Jensen is supt. This fall three of the greens are to be rebuilt. The 10th and 17th were close together in the original layout. They're being joined to make one very large green with two holes, as is done at St. Andrews, Scotland.

The Fargo program also calls for enlargement and resurfacing six other greens as part of a long range plan. Back tees are being built to make the course tougher for exhibitions and tournaments.

Enlargement of 9-hole courses is set as fall work in several places, among them at Contra Costa GC, Concord, Calif., where W. Tebaldi is supt. Native grass has

provided the fairways for the first 9. This fall Tebaldi has the task of seeding the first 9 without halting play and building the second 9.

Fairway renovation is on the docket at many clubs. At the Battle Creek (Mich.) CC where Harold Peck succeeded his father, the late Andrew Peck, as supt., fairways are to be fertilized for the first time in many years and the fairways are to be rather completely overhauled. Peck has scheduled a lot of work on greens and fairways for his Aerifier this fall and will build some additional short tees for women and high handicap players.



Spraying rough in late June with 2, 4-D at Moraine. Supt. Orville Young uses 1 lb. of 2, 4-D to 75 gals. of water per acre at 15 lbs. pressure.

At the larger clubs course management faces fall as the busiest time of the year. The club officials and players think that the spring is the time when the superintendent and his force are under peak pressure but as a matter of fact the major jobs are completed by that time and the superintendent then figures he can settle down to his tough schedule of routine — barring when nature doesn't act up.

Gordon Brinkworth, supt. at the Minnikahda Club, Minneapolis, has a fall work program that shows how keeping this fine plant in excellent condition is a management operation that is heaviest out of the spring and summer growing season.

Brinkworth's schedule, typical of that at larger clubs, includes:

Excavating and construction drain sumps for new irrigation system; Construction of new No. 9 tee; Possible dismantling of one old tennis court to make room for No. 1 tee enlargement; Lining out 500 saplings in new tree nursery; Rehabilitation of all turf nurseries; Possible regrading a new trap and skeet range; Erecting 1,000 ft. of fence on steel and concrete posts; stockpiling cinders for non-skid

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with the emphasis on nitrogen, was applied every 30 days.

"In a hot, dry winter which was ruinous to ryegrass, Highland bent thrived, and lasted well into the summer. Some is present in the greens now. Although no additional Bermuda was planted, a thick turf was formed, completely covering each green, by early summer, largely because of the regular spiking plus the ample nitrogen nutrition. Greens mowing has been at 15/64 inch all summer.

"The fairways, originally with about 50 percent weed cover, were double treated with the Fairway-Green Aerifier, and then treated with a mixture of 2, 4-D, PMAS, and minor elements. As the weeds died, the soil aeration plus the topdressing provided by the Aerifier, plus the fertilizer supplied by disintegrating weeds allowed the Bermuda to form a tight, luxuriant turf. We now have the most luxuriant fairways in Florida. No regular fertilizer has been added.

"About the time we had achieved the best playing conditions in Florida, all our club funds were burglarized. The manager then quit. We discovered debts of which we had been unaware. All directors except one agreed that the club must fold at once.

"Thus it became necessary for me to jump actively into clubhouse affairs to save my beautiful research set-up.

"Sixteen ladies agreed to serve in pairs, daily, to operate the clubhouse. All money found its way into the cash register, and the ladies turned in from \$200 to \$250 weekly, net profit, to the club treasury for the first four weeks. This without any supplies in the pro-shop except golf balls.

"In the meantime, I whipped up interest by an anonymous golf column in our weekly town paper.

"Finally, when favorable community interest was generated by the determined and successful activities of the club ladies; the pulchritudinous and persistent women were induced to canvass the community systematically for desirable members. This activity continues to swell the revitalized treasury.

"But the ladies are tiring of the monotony and routine of daily service at the club, and the need of an inspired pro-manager is becoming urgent."

equip the Minikahda shop for repair and construction work.

South Plans Big Program

Usual fall work of sowing rye plus other seasonal routine in the south is to be increased by more fertilizing than has been done in previous years in the south. Availability of pipe, tile and labor has crystallized plans of southern clubs for putting irrigation and drainage systems into good modern condition.

Influence of the southeastern and Texas and Oklahoma turf conferences and University of California at Los Angeles turf experimental work is a big factor in fall programs in the south. Course alteration and new construction is scheduled about at a normal rate since the war's end. Southern turf standards generally have raised to a marked degree in recent years.

It's still anybody's guess what play this winter will be at southern resort courses but already it's certain that the resort courses will not hold back on any expense within reason for getting each layout in condition to make a competitive bid for whatever play does come south next winter.

Expensive need of modern machinery and additional quantities of materials and supplies has been spotlighted by this season's unusually heavy demands on the greenkeepers' crews and equipment, the constant drain on operating supplies and the lengthy schedule of new and improvement work for fall attention.

As was expected, when clubs found themselves in fine cash positions after the war ended and general business continued good, there was considerable rehabilitation of clubhouses and new clubhouse building. Course maintenance equipment primary needs of equipment and supplies were cared for but no club went wild on those expenditures.

Now bar and restaurant business has tightened up at many clubs while play is heavier than ever before. The spotlight has shifted to spending wisely on the course to keep the members or pay-as-you-play customers coming. The fall course work schedules and purchasing programs impressively reveal that club officials are aware that the better the condition of the course, the better the whole establishment's chances of safely riding the hollow of the business wave.

SUPTS. REPORT HEAVY WORK

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treatment of driveways in winter; Fall treatment of all greens and tees; trimming and pruning of trees; collection of leaves. Brinkworth is buying a welding unit to

CIUCI, PRO SELLING STAR

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in the arrangement of articles, especially those on counters in the middle of the shop. Never permit your shop to get monotonous and look for eye appeal at