

larity of golf, the future of the golf equipment industry, the future of the golf profession hinges on whether or not we can teach the novice to play golf.

Now for the No. 3 factor in golf instruction.

"JUDGMENT." (Webster's — mental faculty of deciding by the comparison of facts and ideas.) Never over-prescribe for the pupil. Sometimes it is better to suggest counteractive treatment rather than a cure although this will at sometimes not seem the honest thing to do. Know your pupil, judge his capabilities and never burden him with more change than he can handle with regard to his time and money. Whenever a pupil has money and time enough to follow through with a program of instruction set up by the pro and the pupil is willing to make the sacrifice, then and then only should the pro prescribe radical change in the pupil's style. If the pupil is limited by time, apply first aid only and leave major surgery for those who can spend some time in the hospital with the Doc.

Thus three important factors in golf instruction are: plain language, sound logic to back up points, and shrewd judgment. AND! The number one point of the golf swing as stated above: Start the downswing with the mass of the lower body. Impress on the pupil that he must not start the downswing with the arms or the hands. At a range where we have to get results quick that's what we tell them and it works.

## **STRESS FERTILIZING, DRAINAGE, FIRST YEAR OF A COURSE**

**By DENNIS LAVENDER**

*Pro-Greenkeeper, U.S. Military Academy Golf Club,  
West Point, N. Y.*

There are two factors of major importance facing the greenkeeper in the maintenance of new turf the first season. Overlooking either of these two factors will mean certain failure to make expected progress in the new course condition.

First of these two factors, and by far the most important, is heavy fairway fertilization.

As a rule the soil on newly constructed courses is at an extremely low level of fertility. The plant food for a new crop of turf is simply not there, and must be added.

The turf will start out thin and open and will stay that way throughout the season if not fed heavily.

If the season happens to be a dry one and there is no irrigation, the young turf will suffer far more than an older and more established one and at the end of the growing season will be more open and

thinner than at the beginning of the season. Blame for a skinny turf condition the first season can be laid entirely to drought. Heavily fed turf will be able to withstand drought and will be growing fast, thickening up and closing in all throughout the growing season.

By heavy fertilization the first season we mean something equivalent to this: Application of 200 pounds of Cal-Nitro per acre as soon as the frost is out of the ground in the spring. This application followed by 800 pounds of Milorganite the first part of May. The first part of Sept., 1800 pounds of Milorganite per acre.

The second of the two factors while not having such quick reaction as the fairway feeding, in the long run is of equal importance. And this factor is green drainage, sub-surface.

The entire green maintenance program must be governed by the manner in which the new greens drain. If the greens drain well and dry out quickly after heavy rains there are no problems and present standard practices of putting green maintenance procedure will produce very satisfactory results.

However if the greens do not drain well and stay wet too long after rains the maintenance practices will have to vary considerably from those of well-drained greens. For instance: Every attempt must be made to keep this type of green very much on the dry side. This means not using a sprinkler. Avoid the danger of getting the greens too wet. This means early morning hand syringing simply to wash off dew. This will dry the greens sooner than poling them.

This also will mean later morning mowing so that the mowers are traveling on a dryer surface with far better and cleaner cutting and far less compaction.

With these expensive precautions a hot wet summer may probably wreck this type of green and this situation should be fully explained to the greens committee so that the only answer, that of tile or perforated pipe sub-drainage, be installed as soon as possible.

It would be well not to make the serious mistake of thinking in terms of surface cultivation (aerification, addition of porous material, etc.) as the answer or even part of the answer to this problem of sub-drainage. No amount of surface improvement in the way of soil texture, aerification and the like will change that basic fault of the sub-surface water not moving out of the green freely.

If the greenkeeper in the first year of the new course attends to these matters of heavy fertilization and greens drainage in a sound manner, the golf course will surely be on the road to success for these are the fundamentals.

*(NGSA convention paper)*