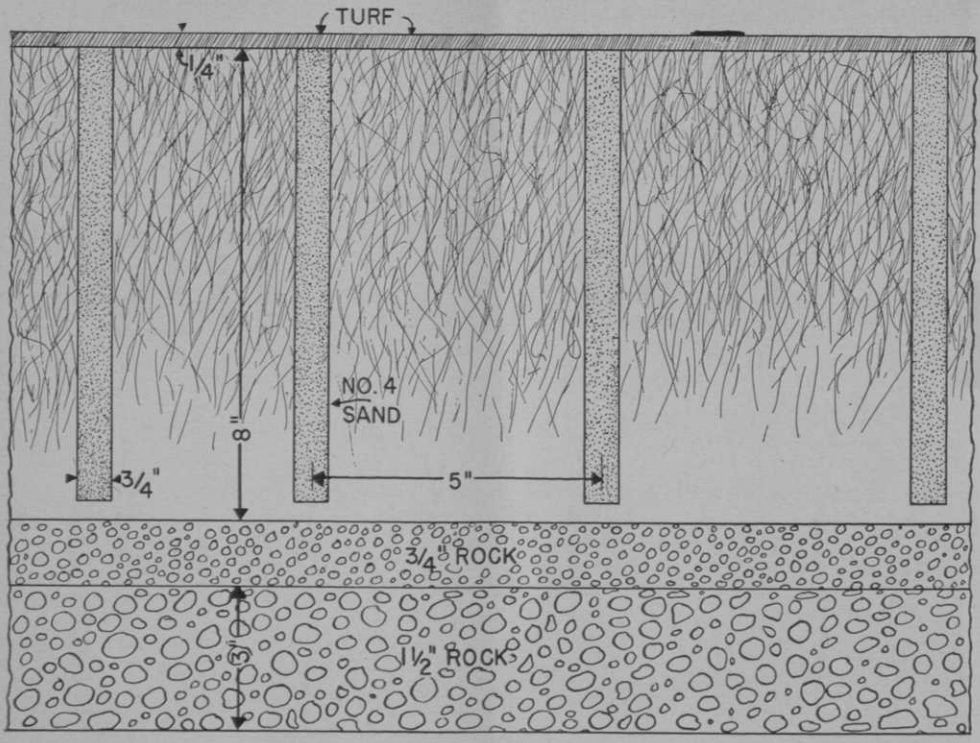

Hall's Rebuilt Greens Beat Kansas Heat

Art Hall, owner-mgr., Victory Hills GC, Bethel, Kansas, who has had experience with the damage high temperatures can suddenly cause greens through scald, Algae and the like has hit on a method of green construction which he says requires less water, less fertilizer, less fungicide, and gives him less trouble, in short he says greens give him no trouble.

Art has rebuilt three greens using the same pattern. He takes the turf off in 11½" blocks so they may be laid back in position in the manner of laying a tile floor. The blocks of turf are cut and stacked out of the way at the side of the green. Following removal of all turf an ordinary farm disk is used to disk all the soil suitable to be replaced. Soil is then moved out to side of the green.

Using an instrument Hall proceeds to stake out the base for the new green, making the contour such as to let water drain off green in at least two directions. Stakes are set extending 4" above the base. When base is completely staked out a 3" layer of crushed rock (1" to 1½" dia.) is put down and covered with an inch of ¾" binder. This is rolled or tamped until it is thoroughly settled then a 12" screed (similar to those used in concrete floors) is set on the rock base using care to keep the contour of the green intact.

At this point soil of the proper structure is put on the rock base. Hall places considerable emphasis on the right soil structure saying some localities call for one mixture while another calls for an entirely different mixture. A safe mixture in any locality is the basic 50-25-25. For the greens on his Victory Hills GC he uses a mixture of 20% well-rotted compost, 20% soil, 20% peat moss and 40% No. 4 sharp sand which he runs through a mixer and puts on the green. After the screeds have been filled and smoothed off the green is rolled until thoroughly compact. The green is then worked with hand rakes until the contour is perfectly smooth. When the soil is finally raked down the blocks of turf are replaced and rolled with a hand roller in all directions. After the rolling is done the sprinklers are set for a thorough watering.

Later several light top-dressings of the same soil structure as used in the greens are put on to get the desired smooth, finished green. After the green has been allowed to settle for about a year it is drilled with ¾" drills on 5" centers and top-dressed with No. 4 sand, filling the holes and removing all the surplus sand from the green with a sweeper. This method of rebuilding a green, Hall claims, gives him a green on which he can set a sprinkler all day or night with a temperature of 100 degrees without fear of damage from scald, Algae or other hot weather troubles.