

Study Shows Effect of Height of Cut on Roll of Golf Ball

In the August 1949 issue of GOLFDOM. Robert Trent Jones reported a test on the flight and roll of drives of The National Open. The average roll was 28.3 yards for his conditions.

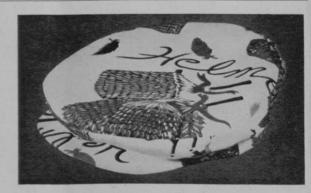
With a uniform turf, soil, slope and soil moisture conditions of the experimental fairway turf plots at Michigan State College it was possible to measure the effect of three different heights of cut on the roll of golf balls. Olie Clark, formerly professional at the Country Club of Lansing, Michigan, made straight pitch and roll shots so that a flight of 30 feet was secured before roll began. The uniformity of the resulting rolls indicated that for each height of cut there was a rather specific resistance to ball roll.

Roll of Golf Ball at Different Heights of Cut

Height of	Average roll in feet	
cutting	Fescue	Bluegrass
½ inch	68	69
1 inch	45	47
1½ inch	28	29

The 11/2 inch cut turf appeared to wrap around the ball and reduced the roll very definitely, while the low-cut turf provided

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little cushion for the ball or resistance to its forward motion. Although there is considerable difference in these rolling distances it is felt that the height of cutting would be unimportant on fairways as the bounce of a properly driven ball would reduce this comparative holding effect. When the better ground cover and the higher support of the ball on bluegrass and fescue turf are considered for the cuts above one-half inch, the higher cuts are favored over the one-half inch.

Ferguson Takes Year's Leave from USGA Green Section

Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Agronomist in Charge of Research for the United States Golf Association Green Section, has taken a year's leave of absence beginning February 19, 1951, to assume his duties as Chief of Grounds Maintenance and Erosion Control Section of the Military Air Transport Service, with headquarters at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Ferguson's duties will be to visit MATS bases and to inspect agronomic and horticultural features, including golf courses; to study problems and make recommendations and also to pass on final plans. One of his first assignments will be to visit and inspect the base in Bermuda.



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