

plug was firmed in and spread at the top by heel pressure of the planter.

### Who Did It

A total of 55 men participated in the planting project. Included were golf course superintendents, some of whom traveled over a hundred miles round trip to take part. Some superintendents brought as many as three of their labor force with them. Many of the firms which cover the Mid-Atlantic area for golf course supplies and equipment turned out and took home sore hands, tired muscles, and sunburn. One green chairman, fresh from a hospital, was able to give moral support and encouragement to the weary.

A total of 275 man hours were consumed in the actual planting. 28,000 Meyer Zoysia seedlings were planted along with 4,800 two inch plugs of Meyer Zoysia, Common Zoysia and both species with Merion Bluegrass. These plug plantings were replicated three times along the fairway. The average cost per acre at current rates of pay for labor would approximate \$100.

The last mechanical operation was to roll the fairway with a standard three gang fairway roller. The last mental operations were the satisfaction of having

completed a very important task in the interest of golf and to the credit of the Golf Course Superintendents of the Mid-Atlantic Area. The departing wish or prayer was for rain. Some of the boys must have had a private line and good connections with the Man up there because the rains came the next evening.

### First Season Observations

[It is important to stress the fact that, the total value of this project cannot be determined during the first year nor during any one year. The aggregate of all observations and the final determination of facts pertinent to the progress of this project may not come for several years. However, when it does come, there will have been a very interesting living story of what Meyer Zoysia seedlings and plugs will do under actual playing conditions and actual maintenance of fairway turf.] All that can be given at this time is a progress report of the first year's observations.

The fact should be mentioned that conditions of soil at the time of planting were near ideal and that precipitation immediately after and during the summer were optimum. The whole summer season was extremely favorable to Zoysia and Ber-

## Teaching Player to Know Course Problems, Biggest Job

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I wonder if ever a morning dawned on any golf course in America or elsewhere when the first thoughts of the man in charge were not applied to what was "most important". As many are called, but few are chosen, so it is with the problems of golf course maintenance. What is most important today may be of minor consequence tomorrow; there are never enough hands to hold time.

As I look at the business of golf course maintenance thru somewhat wearied eyes of experience, I wonder if possibly the greatest and most important problem of all is one of education. Not education of the men who supervise maintenance (some of our weariness is attributable to education) but education of the golfer.

The enthusiastic yet patient golf scholar devotes time and energy as well as good hard cash to learning how to hit a golf ball. He rightfully expects dividends on his educational investment. He guards his personal implements with jealous care and his stomach does somersaults when his own hook carries his ball away into the great unknown. Yet he has no qualms about being bitterly disagreeable if a patch of turf succumbs to hostile environment, leaving the bare area that no one loves. His divots freckle the landscape, but he sees no reason why the dollar spot isn't controlled.

Golf course maintenance presents many more technical problems than our golfers realize, and if they can be enlightened on this score, understanding and co-operation will be increased. It seems to me that we have overlooked the possibilities along these lines, and that action in this direction will do much to ease the pressures on the golf plant managers.

I think it was Franklin who said something about an investment in knowledge paying the most interest. Certainly an understanding of the basic problems of golf course management on the part of those who pay the bills would be beneficial to all. To bring about that understanding looks to me like a very important, if not most important problem.