

Maintenance Routine Outlined to Educate New Workers

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WITH adding another 9 last year to our original 18-hole course, and the re-modelling of our 18 this year, I've had plenty of problems in labor management, as any superintendent will realize — probably because he has been among the many who've had this sort of a heavy schedule.

This necessity of keeping maintenance well handled while construction work is demanding a lot of time and attention has accounted for the development of a training program for course laborers. The large turnover of manpower and the uncertain quality of the type of workers a golf course may get has made the establishment of a training program the idea that has worked out very well for me.

In our training program we prepare mimeographed sheets of routine operations in course maintenance. Each man when he comes on the job is given this material, told to study it and always keep it on hand for answering the questions that arise during his probationary period.

The idea has been so helpful to the workers as well as to me that I believe other superintendents will find it deserves much wider application. There always is the possibility that we as superintendents may find fault with the work of a man who actually doesn't realize or understand what he is supposed to do.

The preparation of such a sheet may disclose some details that will remind the superintendent of more, and better informed attention, that should be paid to some work on his course.

My routine training instruction follows:
Routine Operations of Maintenance Which Generally Determine the Standard of Playing Facilities

Greens Work:

1. Poling, sweeping, mowing, putting surface, mowing collars and approaches, mowing outer banks, changing cup holes, watering, spike rolling, aerifying, fungicide treatment, top dressing, fertilizing, weeding, patching, repairing ball marks, insecticide

application, compost, and top dressing preparation.

Tee Work:

1. Mowing, moving markers, servicing ball washers, cleaning litter, sprinkling, top dressing, seeding divots, fertilizing and weeding.

Fairway Work:

1. Mowing, sprinkling, patching divots, repairing holes, picking up paper, cans, trash, etc.

Rough Work:

1. Mowing, cleaning under brush, picking up paper, trash, cans, etc.

Traps and Mounds:

1. Raking, weeding, trimming, and clean-up work.

Be courteous and cooperative. Know and practice golf course etiquette at all times.

Maintenance Instructions

Greens:

1. Removing dew and moisture from grass on putting surface.
 - a. Remove with a chain drag, as provided.
2. Mowing greens.
 - a. Mow on schedule.
 - b. Mow greens different directions (6 or 8).
 - c. Always mow in straight lines, except two rounds around the outside putting surface.
 - d. Make all turns of machine on shoulder of green; never on putting surface.
3. Placing cups.
 - a. Selection of spot is the most important.
 - b. Never set any closer than 8 feet from edge of green.
 - c. Replace plug in old cup holes very carefully, keep very smooth and level.
 - d. Keep cup setter sharp and make clean cut.
4. Repair ball marks.
 - a. Raise mark with tool provided.
 - b. Be careful, do not injure grass.

- c. Raise evenly and press with foot for smoothness.
 5. Mowing shoulders, approaches and trap collars.
 - a. Mow regularly.
 - b. Be careful with mower, do not scalp or skin grass.
 6. Repair divots.
 - a. Fill with soil if grass divots haven't enough roots to live.
 - b. Seed when necessary.
 7. Eliminate all weeds and foreign grass from green.
 - a. Pull or cut out with knife.
 - b. Repair spot left from removal of foreign matter.
 8. Keep area well groomed.
 - a. Keep clean of all weeds, Johnson grass, grass clippings, and anything else, such as paper, bottles, match books, etc.
 9. Sprinkling.
 - a. Supplementary sprinkling as needed for good grass growth. Make a follow-up check of night sprinkling.
 10. Report any condition which calls for greenskeeper's attention.
 - a. Fungus diseases, brown patch, dollar spot, copper spot or what seems to be a moldy condition.
 - b. All evidence of worms and grubs.
 - c. Any condition that requires help in fulfilling.
 11. Applying fungicides and insecticides as directed.
 - a. Always under close supervision of superintendent.
 12. Control of ants and gophers.
 - a. Use poison on ants with proper procedure.
 - b. Trap gophers, using spring traps provided.
 13. Patching spots on greens as directed.
 - a. Make every effort to eliminate all bare spots.
 14. Keep shoulders, approaches, and trap collars in good repair.
 - a. Fill and grass over all holes and low spots.
 - b. Level off all high spots that tend to scalp or where the grass is skinned off through mowing.
 15. Keep hose coiled up and out of immediate playing area.
 16. Keep all automotive equipment off green shoulders and approaches.
3. Keep sand pulled toward edges. Do not leave steep edges.
 4. Rake smooth and level lengthwise.
 5. Report when additional sand is needed.
- Tees:**
1. Move tee-markers daily.
 - a. Keep tee-markers in good repair.
 2. Repair divots.
 3. Police and keep clear of all paper, rubbish, etc.
 4. Report and ask for replacement of unsightly or damaged benches.
 5. Service ball washers.
 - a. Keep ball washers clean, filled with fresh water, and replace towels daily.
 6. Fertilize when needed.
 7. Seeding.
- Fairways and Roughs:**
1. Mowing.
 - a. All fairways and up to green shoulders.
 - b. All roughs, including cleaning of underbrush around trees, shrubs and fences.
 2. Check and follow-up night sprinkling and irrigation. Supplementary day sprinkling when needed.
 3. Check for holes, ruts and rough spots.
 - a. Fill, level and seed.
 - b. Repair divots.
 4. Keep fairways and roughs clean. (Papers, cans, trash, etc.)
 5. All tools and equipment are to be given special care and properly stored.
 6. Keep automotive equipment off green shoulders and approaches.
 7. Avoid driving equipment across wet or soft areas.
 8. Inspect regularly out-of-bounds and yardage distance markers and keep in good repair.
 9. Keep all fences repaired and clear of grass and weeds.
 10. Clean grass and weeds from rough areas and around trees and shrubs.
- Sprinkling and Irrigation:**
1. Sprinkling.
 - a. Sprinkling greens, tees, fairways.
 - b. Sprinkle on regular schedule, as directed by superintendent. Check daily for time set.
 - c. Check area for too much water or too little and report to superintendent.
 - d. A follow-up check on the results obtained.
 - e. Keep all automotive equipment off greens, shoulders and approaches.
 - f. Avoid driving equipment across wet or soft areas.

Traps:

1. Keep grass and weeds out.
2. Keep sand loose; don't allow to cake or harden.

2. Irrigation (flood).

a. As assigned by superintendent.

Assist in All the Following Duties as Directed by Superintendent:

1. Mixing top dressing.
2. Hauling top dressing.
3. Repairing pipe lines.
4. Cleaning irrigation and sprinkler outlets.
5. Repairing sprinklers.
6. Repairing flags and flagpoles.
7. Fertilizing.
8. Control of weeds.
9. Keep all sprinkler valves level, smooth, and grassed around.

Columnist Tells What Supt. Wants Golfers to Know

ST. JOSEPH, MO., sports columnist Rosen acquainted golfers with problems of a golf course superintendent that infrequently are considered when tournaments are planned and conducted.

In the column "Roaring with Rosen" was printed:

"Clarence Radke, hard-working greens superintendent at the Country Club, has written us about the general set-up of golf tournaments from the standpoint of the maintenance crew.

"Too many players never think of the preparations for tournament play," says Radke. "To string the city match play tournament over a month upsets the maintenance schedule completely."

"As superintendent of maintenance at the Country Club, my complaint to the city golf association and the committees scheduling tournaments is that they never consult with the men responsible for the playing conditions of the course.

"When do players expect the maintenance crew to prepare a course for play? In a recent tournament here at the Country Club, some players were on the course at 5:30 a.m. No tournament should ever start before 9:00 a.m.

"It takes at least four hours to prepare a course for play. No tournament should be started on Monday, as there should be one day for feeding, aerifying and overhauling the course from the damage of Mr. Average Golfer.

"We realize without the average golfers there would be no need for golf courses. But certainly we need their co-operation. By realizing the tremendous effort and hard work that goes toward making the game enjoyable, the players can co-operate

by replacing turf and repairing ball marks on the greens.

"We in the maintenance department can overlook all of our troubles because we know someone is getting a lot of pleasure from our work. But it is very discouraging to see turf destroyed through negligence.

"The greatest enemy to golf courses is not insects, diseases or other natural causes. It is the players because of their unwillingness to co-operate in the little things that help keep their courses in playable condition and not understanding the problems of maintenance."

"So, fellow hackers and the more experienced artists of the links, take heed, Mr. Radke has given us food for thought. Let's consume that food properly."

Supt. Lauds USGA Juniors for Course Care

BOB PRICE, supt., Southern Hills CC, Tulsa, Okla., says lads in the USGA National Junior championship were more aware of their responsibilities toward course condition than any other championship players he's seen or heard about.

The kids repaired divots, ball marks on greens, didn't climb up steep banks of traps, and didn't scatter debris around. Price says Southern Hills will welcome those boys back any time. Price also remarks that if members of clubs all over the country were as considerate of course condition as the USGA boys' junior championship contestants, course maintenance would be a lot easier, better and cost less money.

Stanley Davies Dies

GOLF lost one of its most lovable, respected and loyal servants in the passing of Stanley B. Davies in mid-September. For 40 years Stanley served as professional at the Omaha Field Club but his sound judgment, his foresight and untiring energy had no boundaries in helping chart golf's great destiny in the United States. As a youth of 19 he left England for Omaha. He had borrowed his passage money which he repair after his first year as a club maker. Stanley was just as quick to repay the debt of gratitude he felt for the opportunities America had given him. He took out his first papers the day he became 21; he was at the recruiting station the day after America declared war in 1917. He suffered a stroke in 1947 but played golf during convalescence and credited the game with restoring his health.