

# Experts Exchange IDEAS For Maintenance Progress

Sectional organizations of Superintendents and regional offices of the USGA Green Section conduct immensely valuable exchanges of practical information on golf course management.

Some ideas, representative of those appearing in sectional bulletins, are presented here. This is the sort of help that superintendents, green section directors and other turf experts give each other in improving the condition of golf courses without a corresponding increase in the cost of maintenance.

## Greens Base Drainage

Frank Murray, who has been building courses in the Mid-Atlantic area since 1949, says:

It long has been taken for granted that a green base should be contoured exactly the same as the desired finished surface. In the last year or so we have been accentuating the drainage areas of the base of

the new greens so when they are finished the prepared top dressing in these swales might be as much as 24 inches deep and extend well off the edges. This, we have found, insures faster run-off of surface and sub-surface water.

At least one contour of a new tee should blend into existing terrain. Soil for tees should be prepared with the same care as soil for greens and should be mixed off the site.

—Mid-Atlantic Assn. of  
Golf Course Supts.

## Sees Drought-Resistant Grass

Turfgrass management in the future will be centered around those grasses which can give a full measure of satisfaction with the least water. True, grass needs water to survive but some grasses need much less water than others. Breeding programs will include desert grasses to bring the genes of drought tolerance into play. Dry grass seldom is diseased, and we have often heard

## GOLFERS LIKE THE NEW



You'll like it too because:

- made of cast aluminum, vinyl-coated, inside and out.
- rugged, built to last, easy to take apart and clean.
- completely closed when not in use.
- rubber-backed nylon bristle brush is encased in vinyl-coated steel.
- overflow pipe prevents damage from freezing.

**MODEST COST—LONG LIFE!**

**PROGRESS FOUNDRIES, INC.**

*Aluminum—Brass—Bronze Castings*

1457 Marshall Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn.

Phone MI 6-2875

**PAR  
AIDE**

**GOLF  
BALL  
WASHER**

Brush warranted 2 years

**EASY TO INSTALL**  
Just insert into 2-inch pipe; lock into place with tamper-proof set screws.

O. J. Noer say, "Only fresh moist bread gets moldy, never dry stale bread."

—Fred Grau, Central Plains Turfgrass Foundation

### Merion Collars Improvement

At this time of the year (July) it becomes a scramble to "hold" the poa annua, and this applies especially around greens on the approaches and "collars." It is a well known fact that the continuous turning of mowers just off the edge of the green bruises the grass, which in a great number of cases is almost straight poa annua. Just as soon as we get some hot, humid weather after about the 10th of July in the Chicago area, anyway, the poa starts to wilt and right away becomes a headache, for it seems when it starts to go no matter what we do, it thins out and looks bad.

Several superintendents in the Chicago district have resodded the collars of greens with Merion bluegrass and results, in our humble opinion, have been spectacular. The Merion has a deep green color and even during drought periods, still retains its color when ordinary Kentucky bluegrass has turned brown. This dark green color sets off the lighter green of the bent on the green and gives a very pleasing effect, but even more important to the superintendent, it is very tough and does not easily bruise with traffic and the turning of mowers. Many times this collar of the green becomes the neglected area on the course due to insufficient watering because perhaps the sprinkler doesn't reach far enough.

In our experience Merion, closely clipped, has thrived and seems to be an ideal answer to one of our maintenance jobs — watering approaches and collars of greens — which is one of our important jobs during July and August.

We measured the amount of sod needed to go around a medium sized green, and only a narrow strip at that, and it took 100 sq. yds. of sod. So if you are interested, make your nursery big enough to service several greens.

—Midwest Assn.  
of Golf Course Supts.

### Traffic Increases Wet Wilt Ruin

A condition of wet wilt exists where the soil is saturated with water, yet the grass is dying from lack of moisture.

Continued rain last July kept greens in Greater Cincinnati saturated for over five days. This condition continued thru the

### Service Club Tourney



Plans for a Kern county all Service Club golf tournament to be held Mar. 8-9 were recently completed in Bakersfield, Calif. Shown (l to r) are the men who handled preliminary arrangements for the meet: Bob Johnson, chmn; Vern Wickham, National Golf Foundation Los Angeles representative; Herbert J. Evans, Kern county director of parks and recreation; and Herman W. Riece, county recreation supt.

weekend of July 9 with most golf courses crowded with heavy play. The following Monday was a clear hot day. Greens, although still saturated with water, were starting to wilt badly, especially around previous cup areas and too often traveled routes leading off the green. This was "wet wilt."

The soil in our greens was saturated or deprived of oxygen for a period of about six days. We might ask why does grass need oxygen. Plants carry on a process of respiration similar to that of animals. If an animal is deprived of oxygen, death is certain within a few minutes. Some plants, including grass, can survive for a short time (2 or 3 days) without atmospheric oxygen.

Reduction of available oxygen reduces the rate of respiration of the roots. When the roots stop breathing they cease to function properly. There is a drastic reduction in the rate of absorption of water by the roots. So we had wet greens that were wilting.

This condition exists in particular where players have walked on saturated greens. In fact many individual footprints from previous days can be detected. Apparently even a saturated soil contains some oxygen, but where the golfer has tramped, he has helped squeeze the very last bubble of air out of the soil.

—Don Likes, Supt., Hyde Park G&CC,  
Greater Cincinnati Greenkeepers Assn.