

Would Use Same Methods for Care of Collars, Greens

By C. G. WILSON*

Possibly a Chicago supt. had the most logical solution for improving collars. He accomplished turf improvement by reducing the size of greens.

Few are in position to follow this procedure, yet many might wonder why it worked. The answer was simplified management. By reducing greens in size, the collar and putting grass became exactly the same. Of equal importance, soil texture and structure were alike for both greens and aprons.

These facts are worthy of consideration in any rebuilding program. Of necessity, collar maintenance must closely approach that given to the putting green proper. This is especially true in relation to irrigation practices. Soils and grasses differ in their moisture requirements. When the soil and the grass on aprons and greens are similar, management becomes relatively simple.

The trend toward higher sand content in all mixtures may work well on greens. If the "collars of clay" are forgotten, the grass on one or the other will suffer. A sprinkler can't distinguish the difference. If the green receives the right amount of water the collar will be either too wet or too dry.

Identical Maintenance Methods

The best collars are maintained exactly like the greens. Disease and insect control methods are practiced, weed killers are used and fertility levels are high. In many instances, clippings are removed to reduce disease, and where play is heavy, frequent aerifying or spiking is done to relieve compaction.

In hot weather when the collar grass is shallow rooted, special care is taken to avoid mechanical damage. Wide sweeping turns with putting green mowers protect collars as well as greens. Some supts. mow collars in early morning when the chance of wilt is reduced. Others syringe the

grass immediately if mowing is done during mid-day. In the Detroit area one course saved its damaged collars by switching from the fairway tractor and gang to a lighter triplex.

Sodding or plugging is the most fool-proof way to improve deteriorated collars. Improved strains or better adapted species should be considered. Creeping bents are best under low cutting. Zoysias and winter-hardy Bermudas are being tested in the crabgrass belt. Merion bluegrass has been tried with limited success. In several instances bentgrass or poa annua has taken over in two or three years. Bill Stuppel at Exmoor CC, Highland Park, Ill., has "horseshoe collars" of Merion around several greens. The open end leads to the approach. Bill feels that excess moisture there would be bad for Merion. As he waters collars by hand during the summer, chances for success are greater.

Bents Take Over

Power sod cutters should simplify the introduction of better grasses. Where lack of nursery area is a limiting factor, some favor introducing weed free Kentucky bluegrass from the rough. It is mowed to the desired height and overseeded with a mixture of creeping and colonial bentgrasses. As the Kentucky bluegrass gradually vanishes, the bents take over. The major advantage is elimination of annual bluegrass competition. The weedy collar sod is replaced in the rough. In one or two seasons it will revert to Kentucky bluegrass as a result of high cutting, limited moisture and no compaction. Sodding may seem costly — at least initially. Results often justify this method.

Overseeding aprons is commonplace, yet often disappointing. If results have been poor at your club, newer techniques might prove of value. Whatever the method used, a good seedbed is imperative. Thorough aerifying and spiking is essential. Seed must make intimate contact with the soil or results will be poor.

There is a general feeling that successful overseedings depend on seedling emergence before weeds germinate. Thus, one can get the jump on fall annual bluegrass germination by seeding in early August. At this time bent will germinate even though temperatures may be too high on poa annua. Pre-germination may be useful to keep one step ahead of crabgrass during a cold wet spring. Seed mixed with two to three times its volume of fine grade vermiculite is kept moist for three

*—Wilson, agronomist with Milwaukee Sewerage Commission, recently presented this material at Midwest GCSA meeting.

Second Phase in Hacienda Improvement Program



The second phase in the long range remodeling program at Hacienda GC, La Habra, Calif. Cost of the present project will be around \$200,000. Size of the clubhouse is being increased while a new 15,000 sq. ft. pro shop will be connected to the main building by a covered breezeway. The approach to the clubhouse (above) has a wide sweep of stone steps, glass walls and door. Other features seen in the picture are wood plank walls and acoustical ceiling. Hacienda has recently completed a \$75,000 pool. The club was established shortly after World War I.

to five days at a constant temperature of 70 deg. F. This initiates the germination process so seedling emergence in the field is rapid. In either instance moisture is critical. Light frequent irrigations are required until the grass is established.

Seedbed Sterilization

Seedbed sterilization may have a place especially with some of the newer weed killers. Vapam shows considerable promise. It kills all existing vegetation and can be applied with a sprinkling can. It is necessary to wait two to three weeks after treatment before reseeding.

Surface compaction from mowers and traffic is an ever present problem while the seedlings are becoming established. Orville Young, while at Moraine CC, Dayton, O., favored liberal top-dressing with ground corncobs to protect young seedlings. Andy Lentine of Tumble Brook CC, West Hartford, Conn., kept mowers off his hurricane damaged collars until the seed was established. His method was circular mowing on the greens. It eliminated any danger of friction bruise caused by putting green mowers turning on the collars. Both methods worked well.

Tell Them You Saw the Ad
in GOLFDOM

All Star Golf Show to Make TV Debut in October

Golf followers will get the opportunity to see the country's top pros on TV this fall when "All Star Golf," produced by Peter DeMet of Chicago, appears Saturdays from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, beginning Oct. 12. The show will run for 26 weeks. The time slot is nationally simultaneous, the 4:00 spot applying to each time zone.

Competing in the 18-hole matches will be such golfers as Cary Middlecoff, Sam Snead, Julius Boros, Ed Oliver, Mike Souchak, Gene Sarazen, Fred Hawkins, Jack Burke, Jr., Ed Furgol, Jimmy Demaret, Gene Littler, Dutch Harrison, Arnold Palmer and Lloyd Mangrum. Jim Britt, Cleveland sportscaster, is the narrator.

Prize money totaling more than \$80,000 will be awarded during the series. Play is head-to-head with the match winners, determined by low scores, receiving \$2,000 and the loser, \$1,000. Winners also will continue in the TV tournament. DeMet offers \$500 for each eagle and \$10,000 for a hole-in-one.

Miller Brewing Company of Milwaukee has contracted to sponsor the first half of "All Star Golf." Second half sponsorship of the show, which will be filmed this summer, probably on Midwestern courses, hasn't been announced.