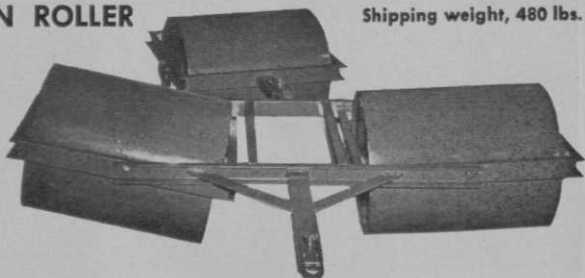


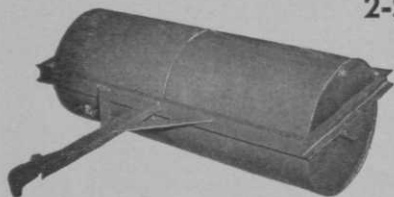
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Describes Methods of Making Large Scale Bermudagrass Planting

By WADE STITH*

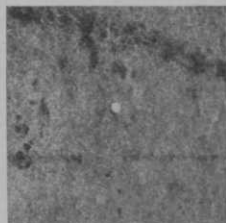
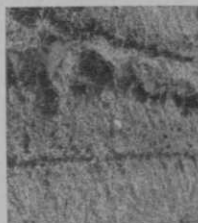
Sales Mgr., Lynde & Rowsey Nurseries, Muskogee, Okla.

More and more clubs are turning to specialized Bermuda grasses which, ultimately, will tend to hold down maintenance costs. Since it is necessary, botanically speaking, in reproduction of these grasses for planting to be done vegetatively, rather than by seed, methods of this reproduction have aroused a great deal of interest. There are three ways in which turf grasses may be planted vegetatively: by plugging, sodding and row sprigging.

Here's an explanation of the methods:

Plugging is expensive because material and labor cost in handling it is expensive. Coverage is slow and by the time the plugs establish turf, weeds and undesirable grass have crept in in large quantities. On the other hand, plugging offers some advantages, such as when weather

is adverse and irrigation facilities restricted. Plugs get along quite well without a great deal of initial care. If plugging is contemplated it should be kept in mind that some strains, planted in this fashion, develop undesirable crowns. The crowns



Improper sprigging equipment will cause deep corrugation (left) in large scale planting. Turf looks like this (right) where proper machine is used.

will be scalped when mowed and very unsightly turf will result. Only thorough aerifying will bring it back.

Spot sodding offers the quickest way to establishing permanent turf. Risk of losing the planting is less with this method than with plugging or sprigging. Sodding is desirable for specialized applications, such as for terracing, rebuilding tees

(Please turn to Page 82)

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and aprons. But its disadvantage is that it is expensive, both from a material and labor standpoint.

Row sprigging is the most desirable of large plantings. If a sprigging machine is used, the amount of planting material required is comparatively small and labor costs, incidentally, kept down. Fertilizer can be applied directly on rows with a machine. There is little or no corrugation if the proper type machine is used.

Until recently, there was no completely satisfactory way of mechanically planting turf. In the past the area planted was either torn up or deeply corrugated where a machine was used (photo at left).

Today it is possible with proper equipment to plant a fairway one afternoon and have it ready for play the next day with little evidence that a planting had taken place (photo at right). A complete and proper maintenance followup program hastens establishment of new grass.

Heavy crabgrass can retard Bermuda in wet years and for this reason, an effective eradication program is desirable. Heavy nitrogen fertilization plus frequent close mowing is recommended for fast coverage.

*Wade Stith's article has been condensed from a speech he made at a recent Okla. conference.

Findlay S. Douglas, Ex-USGA President, Dies in March

Findlay S. Douglas, onetime pres. of the USGA and recent winner of the Bob Jones trophy, died in New York, Mar. 29. He was 84 years old.

Mr. Douglas won his first tournament at 13 at St. Andrews in Scotland. He came to the United States in 1897 at the age of 22 and the next year won the National Amateur, defeating Walter J. Travis, 8 and 6, in the final.

Mr. Douglas retired from business in 1942, but remained active in USGA affairs until his death. He was given the Jones award on Jan. 31 in recognition of his many years of service to the game.

IGA Matches in New Golf Films

Sixth International and Canada Cup International pro matches, played at Mexico City last fall, and the first World Amateur team matches, played at St. Andrews, Scotland, last fall, are subjects of new 16 mm. color and sound films which can be rented for \$20 per film from National Educational Films, 165 W. 46th st., New York 36. The International pro film runs 26 minutes; the World Amateur, 14.